

July 2014

Nashville Magic Club, IBM Ring 37 NEWSLETTER



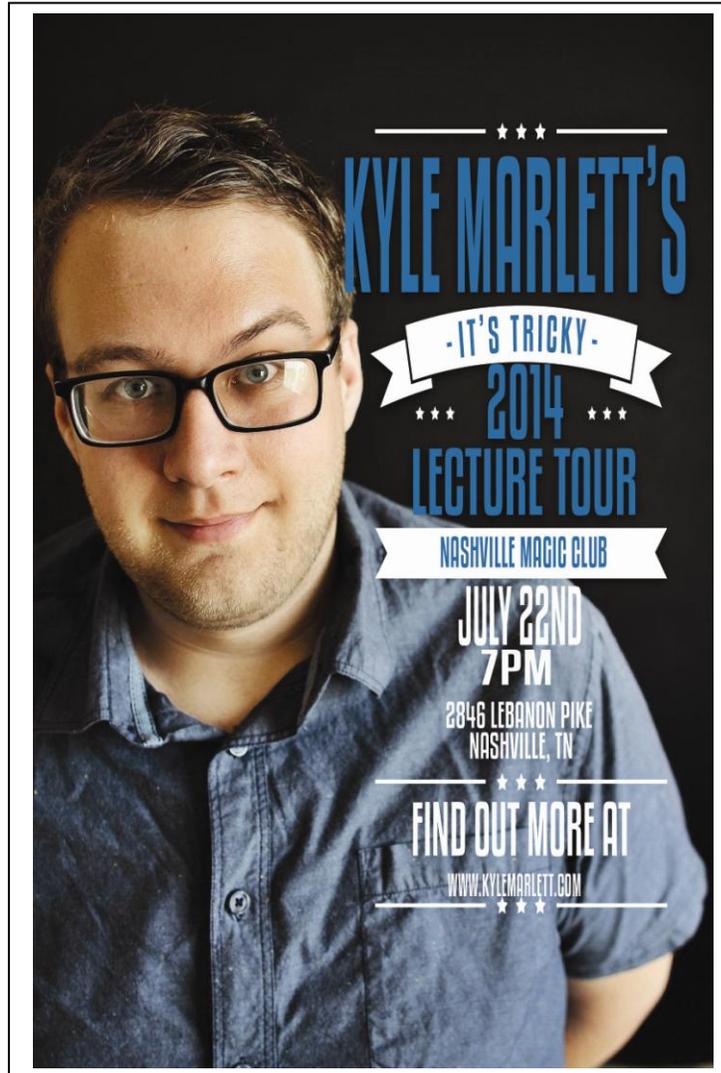
Kyle Marlett's "It's Tricky" Lecture July 22nd!

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About a month ago the lecture committee was approached about having a young man named Kyle Marlett lecture for our club. After reviewing his credentials the committee decided to extend an official invitation to him.

Interestingly enough, I was in Las Vegas (where he currently lives) about two weeks ago. I

reached out to Kyle and we got together one day for lunch.

Kyle impressed me. He has a fresh way of looking at magic (that many of the younger magicians out there also have). He also has some serious credentials which include his own comedy magic show on the

Las Vegas strip for several years, several appearances on The Tonight Show, numerous products which have been released through Penguin Magic, and he has been a magic consultant to David Blaine.

Kyle's lecture is Tuesday, July 22nd at Andrew Price UMC and should be fun!

Bargatze's Musings – Magic and the Internet



“Ha! Ha! Ha! You think you’re tough? I will show you pain! Not only that, but I will put you in rehab with a bunch of old ladies that will run circles around you.”

Today is a bad day. I was originally supposed to be working at the combined IBM/SAM convention. I was hired to emcee the FFFF section and do a mini-lecture on my new trick that Shawn Farquhar and Palmer Magic is releasing at the convention. That session just ended when I sat down to write this. You see if you have double knee replacement surgery your doctors can say no to you. For some strange reason though I can’t say no to Jason when he told me this article was due.

What makes this day a bad one was not being where I wanted to be. My brain told me I could do it, that I would be ready, but my body said ‘Ha! Ha! Ha! You think you’re tough? I will show you pain! Not only that, but I will put you in rehab with a bunch of old ladies that will run circles around you.’ I am at 5 weeks post surgery as of this writing and I have not yet been allowed to leave my house other than to attend rehab. Currently I’m using a walker to get around. They did start me with a cane my last session, but didn’t clear me to use it. Oh well, I’m using it at home. They don’t have to know everything.

The other thing that makes it a bad day is the time on stage in front of people that I’m missing. I had to cancel two shows

last week. It bums me out even if I kind of knew it when I booked them. IBM/SAM was different though. It was my goal to be there and I believed I could do it (even if I had to use a wheel chair - thanks Steve Causey.) My doctors told me to cancel all my July shows which my manager is doing today. That is 5 more times in front of people that are now gone.

This will be the longest time in my life I have gone without performing. When I had the golf accident, which was a compound fracture in my leg, I did a show 10 days afterward. I was in a wheelchair, but I did it. I did school shows sitting on a stool. So I guess you can see why I was so sure I would be working today.

This is uncharted waters for me, going this long without a show. I hear Jason’s voice in my head every day... ‘Stephen you must write a script down.’ I wish I would have written something down. It is not a surprise to anyone who reads my articles that I am not a good writer. I do have some of my shows on DVD, so I guess I could always watch them over and over to see where the

jokes go. It really isn’t performing the tricks that worries me, it’s the little things, the things that make the show seem like it has never happened before but really happen every show.

To be honest, I feel that practice is one thing the magic club is for. So I apologize if I practice my old material in the next couple of meetings to get back on track. My hat is off to the guys who do only a few shows and do them well. I know Jason will say to rehearse, but even he knows to do comedy you need an audience. No matter what you think is funny it’s really not up to you. The audience will tell you if it is funny. To make things even more challenging the audience has to be a group of people that you aren’t connected to. Performing for friends just isn’t good enough for me. It’s a great starting point, but isn’t the end.

Well, since I’m thinking about my new trick "I Hate Card Tricks", I just wanted to let everyone know that our fearless leader, Jason Michaels, also has released his latest trick, the "Cootie Catcher". You can get it through him or Murphy’s Magic.

Upcoming Meetings, Shows, Lectures and Conventions

Street Theatre presents The Magic of Gary Flegal – July 5th at 8 pm at Street Theatre, 1933 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN. www.streettheatrecompany.org for more information.

Kyle Marlett Lecture for Nashville Magic Club – July 22nd at 7 p.m. at Andrew Price UMC at 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

Kyle will lecture on impromptu magic, some gimmicked effects, and arts and crafts magic. Some of Kyle's products include Flip Cup, Shot Put, and the 702 Project which were all released to the magic community through Penguin Magic.

Nashville Magic Club, July Meeting – July 24th, 2014 at 7 p.m. at Andrew

Price United Methodist Church at 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

"Magic Wayne" will be featured In Concert and Scott Cantrell will be our mini-lecture and will discuss how to make money with magic.

Wayne Houchin lecture "Strange Ideas" for Middle TN Magic Club – Thursday, July 31 at 7:02 pm at Florence Church of Christ, 6732 Old Nashville Highway, Murfreesboro, TN

Wayne will lecture on magic with glass bottles, dollar bills, a helium balloon, and more!

Contact one of the club's officers with your show information and we will include it in this section.



July's Meeting's Theme is...Linking Ring Night

Bring your set of Linking Rings and show us your favorite moves and routines. OR show us something that you have learned from the Linking Ring Magazine.

Help Us Reach More Magic Enthusiasts

If you are receiving this newsletter, you qualify as a magic enthusiast. I know I certainly am.

I want this newsletter to get out to as many people who enjoy the art and craft of magic as possible.

We need your help! Make sure we have your correct email address, mailing address, etc. Right now, the newsletter is strictly electronic, but who knows, maybe one day we'll even send out a hard copy newsletter as well.

You can also help the cause by forwarding these newsletters to anyone you know that might be interested in magic. That's right, anyone!

We all have to get started somehow. It's my hope that these little newsletters may help spark the interest, then fan the flame of this great art that we enjoy sharing with each other.

Don't hesitate! Forward this newsletter to some of your friends, then make

sure you invite them out to the next club meeting.

We want to make as many new friends as possible and spread the fun!

-JM

Classified Ads Tricks for Sale

Hospitality Trick (as performed by Lance Burton)

Rabbit Ringer Deluxe

Blades Through Arm

Twisting Arm Illusion

Abbott's Sword Basket

Kaboom Box

Flying Carpet Illusion

For more information about these magic tricks for sale, contact Wayne Clemons at magicwayne40@gmail.com.

From the East by Tom Vorjohan



For those of you who have not experienced magic outside of the Nashville area, you are missing something extraordinary. I am in Nashville as I write this, and I leave in the morning -- Monday morning -- to head up to St. Louis for the "combined convention" of the I.B.M. and SAM. It is an exciting time in magic for multiple reasons.

First, it's like watching the ketchup in the bottle with anticipation. Many of my Facebook friends are posting about their travels from all corners of the world. Some are flying while some are driving, but they are making the journey as much fun as the destination. Magicians are creative, and we will do whatever it takes to include something of interest on our travels. I was just talking with a friend of mine from Cincinnati who came to the Winter Carnival this past year, and then he went to the magic shop in Gatlinburg while he was in town. He was disappointed and he looked at me like I should have warned him that it was a tourist's magic shop more than a magician's shop. But we love to explore, and I don't think a warning from me would have stopped him. So it is fun to see what magicians are doing as they converge on the metropolis of St. Louis.

More importantly, this is the first year in the two organization's histories that we have had two top-quality entertainers and award-winning magicians coming into the office of President for both organizations.

Yes, there has been Houdini, Karrell Fox, Bev Bergeron, and others, but these two that are about to take office are equally awesome performers and they are heading toward this momentous occasion with their arms linked together. The July Linking Ring and M-U-M both have Shawn Farquhar and Kenrick "Ice" McDonald on the covers. Again, that's another first. I can't think of many magicians that are as respected in magic and are as humble and kind individuals as these two people. It should be an exciting time over the next twelve months.

Speaking of firsts, Ice also becomes the first black president of the S.A.M. That is a great step for magic...an avocation and profession that has historically not included many black magicians. This has great potential for magic everywhere. What an exciting time.

Let me change the subject back to eastern Tennessee for a moment. If your travels take you toward the Knoxville area this summer, send me a text or give me a call ([865-254-9254](tel:865-254-9254)). I just talked to Terry Evanswood yesterday, and his shows are doing great at Wonder Works. Stephen Knowles is part of a new afternoon show at the Comedy Barn that includes some magic. Bill Gladwell continues at the Space Needle and Keith Fields is back in town to work there as well doing his show, "A Brit of Magic." There is magic all over these two towns! Would love to hear from you if you want some ideas during your visit.

BAMBOOZLERS – DIE HARD

By Diamond Jim Tyler

BET: Wager that someone cannot balance a pair of dice, side by side, atop a single die.

Someone can actually watch you do this and witness the pair of dice atop the single die, but yet if they try it, one or both dice will typically fall off.

SECRET: Secretly moisten your fingertip with water or saliva and stick the dice together. For the best results I have found it is best to wet the 2, 4 or 6 side of a die because each of these numbers has no middle spot or pip. Once I've secretly moistened the 2, 4 or 6 side of the die I'll place it next to the 2, 4 or 6 side of another die temporarily bonding them together. Now it is a simple matter to balance them both atop the single die.

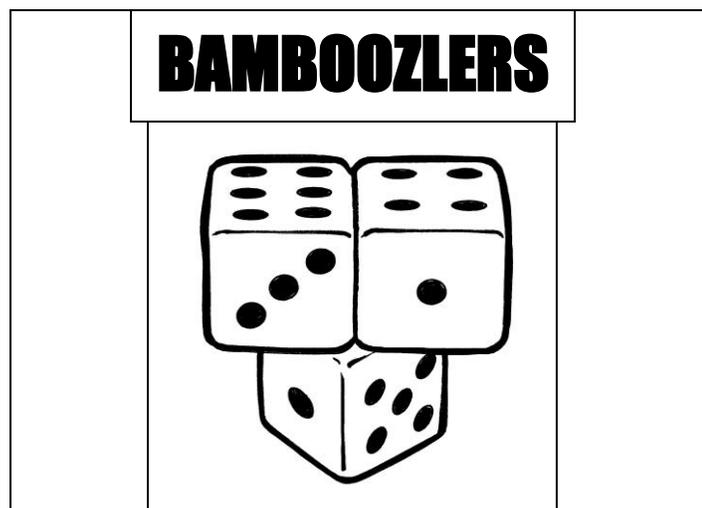
What's clever is that one can disassemble your example and not be able to reconstruct it; that is, if you used a small amount of moisture. As soon as they pull the dice apart the moisture evaporates.

SCRIPT: *“Cards are sometimes called the Devil’s playthings, but dice are said to be just as evil. Did you know that if you roll a pair of dice one million times that each number will come up 16.666 percent of the time? Also, when playing craps that the number seven, thought to be lucky, also comes up 16.666 percent of the time.”*

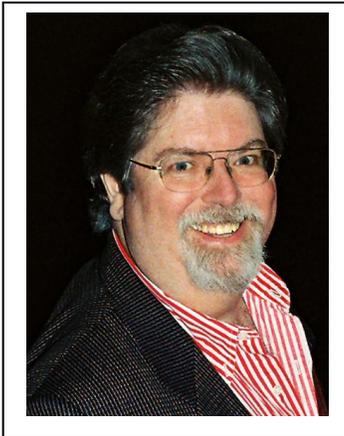
The “Number of the Beast” carries on into infinity in both cases, just like the Roman emperor Claudius’ descent into Hades for being a gambler who was cursed to shake a bottomless dice cup for eternity. Now if you round off the number after the decimal point it is 667 which is actually ‘The Neighbor of the Beast’.”

Bamboozlers- The Book of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters & Bewitchery: Volume Three by Diamond Jim Tyler is available directly from Diamond Jim Tyler’s website – <http://diamond-jim.com>

Expect the same classy style pocket-sized book. It contains 75 effects with over 100 illustrations and is bound in green faux leather, with silver gilt edges, silver foiled stamping and has a ribbon marker. The foreword of the book is by Mac King. The book is sold for \$19.95.



Down in the 'Boro - by Alan Fisher



Normally a July column, which has to be submitted by June 15th, is written on or after June 15th depending on how lazy you are. But today is May 23rd and last night was your Ring's May meeting. I bring this up because, for those who were not there, my fellow 252er David Williams and I had the honor of doing a "Guest In Concert" performance for you fine folks. It was a one act play I wrote about and featuring magic that I called "***A Totally Made-Up True Story***". I wanted to get my thoughts down on paper about the show while they were still fresh and share some of them with you.

It was a theatrical play in which my character tells a version of the story of my journey in magic (all the events were true but embellished somewhat). David's parts were the 'flashback' sequences during that story. He brought to life all the memories my character was talking about. The one comment I kept getting afterwards was, "Wow, you put a lot of work into that." We did and it was worth it because it was important.

Our two rings have never had

better relations and we wanted to keep fostering that spirit of brotherhood (the big "B" in our organization's name, remember?). And it really was an honor to be permitted the 'stage time' at another club's meeting. Plus I was thrilled to be working with my buddy, David Williams. I also wanted to challenge myself to grow as an artist by not only writing the play but by performing in it.

I took 3 routines from my repertoire (a card routine about poker, a performance art piece using Newton's Nightmare, and a one handed coin matrix – the first two are original but the matrix is Shoot Ogawa's) and 3 routines from David's repertoire (2 segments of card manipulation, a silk & ball bit, and part of a rope routine) and weaved a story around them using my real life experiences in magic. I'm proud to say the end result was well received if not a little nerve racking for the performers.

David kept saying he had the easy part because I had all the lines (his 4 segments were done to music), but I think learning his manipulations took him longer than me learning my script. In putting that script together I had to decide what the milestones were, if you will, in my journey that would lend themselves to a story arc I was creating about a young boy who wanted to do dramatic, classic-styled magic but found he was much better at getting laughs. I included some of the actual comments and attitudes I encountered along the way as well as some of the feelings of exclusion

that popped up from time to time. Those real memories are what drive me to this day to always try and make everyone feel as welcomed to join me in whatever I'm doing as I hope I am welcome to join them. Plus it gave both David and I a chance to show off some of our favorite magic routines. If you saw the show and have any comments, other than "what in the world were you thinking?" we'd love to hear from you. Drop me a line at Secretary@IBMring252.com and I'll share them with David.

By the time you read this the big IBM/SAM combo convention in St. Louis may already be over. I'll give you a recap of it from my viewpoint in August's column. We hope to see you in the 'boro for any of our meetings (first Tuesday of each month – details on our web site at www.IBMring252.com), shows (our *Fall Festival of MAGIC 2014* is October 3rd & 4th), or events (we're hosting a lecture by Wayne Houchin on July 31st). We love visitors. Remember, the magic red carpet is always rolled out for you at I. B. M. Ring 252!

The President's Corner - Risk



Magic Wayne took a brand new job a few weeks ago and has been very busy since. That means that this month I'm taking his spot with The President's Corner column.

It's been a few months since I've shared any thoughts with you and I'm excited to get to chat with you for a few minutes. I've been thinking hard about what I could write on and I even made a list of things. Well, I finally narrowed it down to one thing...taking risks.

Are you currently taking risks when you perform? Mentalists tend to be willing to take more risks than magicians. After all, a lot of them subscribe to the theory that failing at a trick actually lends credibility to what they do. They believe that if they put something that might fail in their performance set, then it does fail, the audience is more likely to believe that what they are doing is extremely difficult or is "real". That seems pretty risky to me.

When I was studying acting in school my professors consistently pushed us to take risks with our character choices and on stage. Simply put, an actor who was taking a risk was far more interesting to watch than an actor who was playing it safe.

As I think about this, I am reminded of my friend Brian Bradley (who is an incredibly talented comic with a ton of

improv training.) When you watch Brian perform, no two shows are alike. His performances are like watching an incredible dance between him and the audience. He interacts with his audience more than any comic that I've ever seen outside of the world of magic. He then weaves his conversations with them into later parts of the show. One day I found myself watching him, wondering when he was going to go into his comedy set, just to realize that he had been in his set for quite a while. Brian's performances are a blast to watch because he embraces taking risks on stage.

Our very own Stephen Bargatze takes risks onstage and I think everyone would agree that he is fun to watch. Another of my friends (and fellow club member) Scott Cantrell takes risks when he works. In fact, some of my most fun shows have been when Scott and I were performing together and decided to jazz off of each other and see what would happen. The same is true when I have worked with Bargatze.

So, what exactly does it mean to take risks?

As all of you know, I am a firm believer in having a script because it gives you direction and guarantees you have something to say when your audience just isn't into your show as much as they should be. For me though, taking a risk means being willing to respond to things that happen in the moment. It means being willing to get away from what I had planned to say when that perfect joke hits me that I know will bring the house down. It means being willing to try something new out. It means not being afraid of my (and your) own creative genius. It means being willing to fail.

Think about it for a minute. What happens if you fail at a trick? The last time I checked, absolutely nothing happens. The world doesn't end. Your audience doesn't boo. It's not that big of a deal. In fact, I've had tricks go wrong and the audience simply didn't believe that the trick had gone wrong. They thought I was setting them up for something else later.

So, the next time you hop up on stage or you pull out a deck of cards to 'wow' someone, think about taking a risk. Life is far more interesting for those of us that do.