



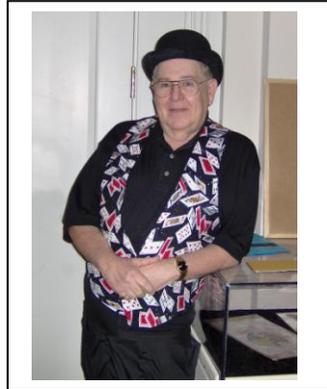
Your 2014 Officers

- Jason Michaels,
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- Dr. Gary Flegal,
Vice President
- Stephen Bargatze,
Sergeant at Arms
- Kevin King,
Treasurer
- Jason Moseley,
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- Jeff Bjorklund,
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Remembering Jim Ford



I met Jim Ford about 100 years ago (feels like that anyway) when I first visited a Ring 37 meeting. He was the first person to get up, walk over, and greet me. He then proceeded to introduce me around and asked what I planned to perform that night. I told him I hadn't brought much, I was just visiting. That's when I got the lecture and learned the first rule of magic club for Jim Ford – always bring something to show. There's no other reason to join a magic club or come to a meeting. Doesn't matter what it is or how good you are at doing it, don't bother to show up if you're not going to perform something. A magic club is where you need to make your mistakes and feel safe in doing so. It's where you can get feedback on what you're trying, ideas for ways to improve it, and tips on what not to do from folks who have already made those mistakes. That was what a magic club was to Jim Ford and every gathering of magicians

anywhere in the world would be better off if they adopted that simple philosophy. After that I always tried to make sure I had something to show, no matter how silly or small, at every meeting I attended (either as a member or a guest). And that still holds true today. The other thing Jim was adamant about, which I wholeheartedly agree with, was that you didn't "perform" magic, you "entertained an audience with" magic. If they weren't entertained and having fun it didn't matter how well you did your slights or moves. You weren't getting invited back. And that was the biggest compliment a lay person could give you – they loved you enough to pay you to come back.

A typical conversation with Jim went something like "Man, I hate card tricks. I can't stand them." (as he borrows a deck) "Here Alan, shuffle these. I tell you the worst things in the world is a card trick." (takes the deck back and fans them) "Alan, pick a card. I swear as soon as I see a magician with a deck, I turn 'n run. Alan, put that card back in and shuffle the deck for me. I tell you what, if all you can do is card

tricks you are not a real magician. Alan, look at the third card from the bottom. Is that your card?" (it was) "Yes sir, I hate cards trick".

For a man who hated them, Jim was pretty good with a deck of cards. But nothing could compare to Abner. I remember the first time I saw that act. It was so clean and well thought out. It was a perfect extension of Jim's own personality and a textbook example of how to create a character from within.

Meetings are not quite going to be the same at Ring 252 without Jim sitting in the front row wanting to know who's next to perform during Open Time, encouraging everybody to get up and show something. Or seeing him at Winter Carnival and having him lean in real close to whisper, "Did I tell you the one about..." (Jim always had a joke to share). But his devotion to the art we all love is a legacy that will be around for as long as people gather in middle Tennessee to share magic and merriment. So come on, who's got something to show?

-Alan Fisher

Bargatze's Musings – Our New Year's Resolutions



“In the past year there has been advice from working pros on how to find new material, how to handle magicians coming to your show, and how to open and close an act...”

Ok, I will admit, last month's article was not as funny as I thought it would be when I sent it to Jason. Jason said it just looked like I didn't have the time to write an article. Maybe he was right, but if I did take the time it would have looked something like this.

The New Year is a time to reflect, look at your life, and make changes in the form of resolutions. So why not take the time to look at Ring 37. The past year Ring 37 has made a lot of changes, one being this newsletter. I, for one, feel it has really been full of not only fun articles but helpful ones too (tricks are taught every month...bet you didn't know that.) And I am not just saying that because I have an article in it. OK, you got me; I am saying that because I have an article in it.

In the past year there has been advice from working pros on how to find new material, how to handle magicians coming to your show, and how to open and close an act, just to name a few topics. I also know that if anyone has an idea about something they have passion for they can submit an article to Jason and he will put it in print for you to share with the club. He doesn't like it, but he will fix your grammar and spelling mistakes too.

We've had the spotlight articles, which has been one of the best things about the newsletter. We spend so much time with each other sharing magic that is great seeing just how everyone interviewed got their start and why they love it so much. Not only did we get to read about the magician, we got to see them perform at the next meeting, They weren't just doing the topic of the month, they were sharing what they really love and enjoy performing. We had some great times. Other than Kevin everybody was great.

The Newsletter also solves one of the biggest problems we have had in the past and that is keeping all the member's informed about what is going on. There is a section that talks about all the upcoming meetings, shows, and lectures plus what has rarely been talked about...conventions other than the Winter Carnival.

I do know that one of the **problems is people need to read the newsletter**. I have not really heard one word from a member saying that he or she reads it, enjoys it, or otherwise, in fact that is why I put Kevin King's name in this article, just

to see if reads it like he says he does. If he does, I know I will hear from him this time.

Greg Slate has done a great job posting the newsletter in a format that is not only easy to read but easy to get to. There are 12 listed on our website now, so go there and start reading if you haven't done so yet. Enough about the newsletter, like I said no one is reading these things anyway.

The Christmas Banquet went great this year. Forget the fact that the food did not show up, Tom and Vickie didn't panic...well maybe they did, but they stood up to the crisis and got the job done. They jumped in and made sure that the banquet went well. I personally had my one and only Christmas show that night so I was unable to attend, but I heard a fun time was had by all.

Congrats to Mike for winning the trick of the night, it has been great seeing his progress this year.

I believe for the New Year, we need to step back and take a look at why we attend Ring 37...

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Upcoming Meetings, Shows, Lectures and Conventions

Nashville Magic Club, February Meeting – February 27th, 2014 at 7 p.m. at Andrew Price Methodist Church at 2846 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN.

Winter Carnival of Magic, March 6-8, 2014

The area's premier magic convention is only a few short months away. Performers announced so far include Pop Haydn, Paul Gertner, Dana Daniels, Levent, and our very own Jason Michaels and Stephen Bargatze.

For more information check out - www.wintercarnivalofmagic.com

Joshua Jay Lecture, April 1, 2014

Joshua Jay is going on tour! He has been an extremely busy guy, launching

a critically acclaimed one-man show, appearing on TV, writing books, and winning the SAM Close-up Magician of the Year.

This is a fantastic and RARE opportunity to see one of magic's brightest stars in person, and spend time learning the magic that has earned him a sterling reputation and international acclaim. He is, truly, one of THE best lecturers in the business.

Do you have a show or event coming up you would like to promote?

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



February's Meeting's Theme is...Swap and Sell

Bring your old "treasures" and gently used magic stuff to trade, sell, swap, switch out, exchange, or just make your best deal with someone else – you know the old saying – "One man's junk is another man's treasure." Come find some treasure of your own. BY THE WAY – before we start the swapping and trading, we are having a "Dealers Show." Each person who is selling their stuff is asked (expected) to get up and demonstrate or talk about one of the items they are marketing. Build some excitement and make this a fun event!

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



It's party time in Knoxville! Your magic brothers in Ring 58 are in the homestretch heading into the Winter Carnival of Magic – and this is our 40th! This convention has been a constant source of pride for the Ring since 1975, and it is amazing how the membership comes together to do all the tasks required to make sure it is an awesome convention. Last night I just added David Williamson to the line-up to lecture and to be a part of the Friday night show with Steven Bargatze, Levent, Dana Daniels and Trent James. In fact, I told David, "I really don't need you to do a 'set' – I'd rather you and Bargatze just have some fun and make it unforgettable." I could hear him smile over the phone as his wheels started spinning with creativity as he replied, "Can do!" This will be worth the cost of registration itself! And Nashville friends, you need to get to the convention early on Thursday because the opening activity is at 2:00 PM on Thursday and it is "The Mentor" show with your own Jason Michaels and Steven Bargatze!

I really hope that a lot of you will be joining us in Pigeon Forge on March 6, 7, and 8 for the Winter Carnival, but in case that weekend is inconvenient there is still lots of magic going on in the area. I just heard from Keith Fields who is an English magician living in Michigan currently, that

he is starting his show at the Gatlinburg needle on March 16. I called and talked with Keith, and he is doing just a few nights during the week and sharing the theater with Bill Gladwell. So if you are in Gatlinburg, there is a good show for you to see. Although I haven't spoken with Terry Evanswood, I know he is also returning to Wonderworks.

In a totally unrelated and purely selfish matter, the 13th of February is my 50th birthday. I am having too much fun to be growing this old. In fact if you are at the Winter Carnival, I am having a GIANT cake on Thursday night to cap off my celebration of the event. And my present to myself has been designing a deck for the back of my house that includes a gondola from the Sky Ride at Opryland. It is incredible...bordering on magical in its own way! If you are in the area, give me a call and stop by for a while. It's a little piece of Nashville in my backyard in Maryville, Tennessee. Hope to see you all at the Winter Carnival!



BAMBOOZLERS – DICE CUP CATCH

By Diamond Jim Tyler

BET: Wager that one cannot hold a pair of dice on the side of a glass or dice cup and toss both inside.

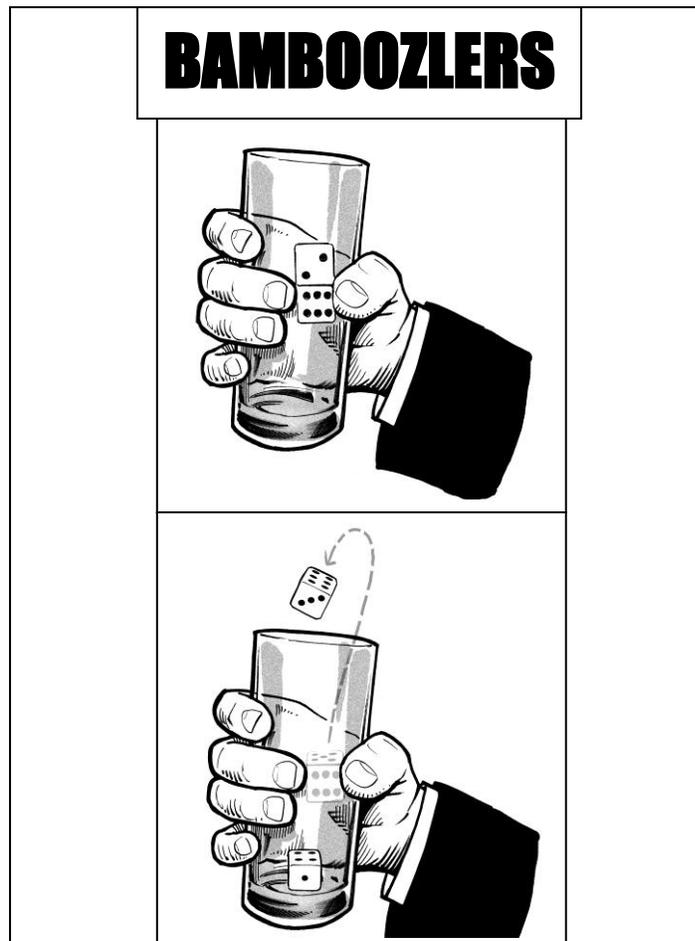
Ask someone to hold a dice cup or a non-tapered glass with their right hand. They should also pinch a die, between their middle finger and thumb, with the same hand so that it rests against the outside of the glass. Ask them to use their left hand to balance another die on top of the first (Fig. 1). The challenge is to toss both dice into the cup or glass one at a time without the use of their other hand. The pair of dice must be in the glass simultaneously to win.

When attempting this they'll learn that tossing the first die into the cup is pretty easy. However when they try tossing the second die inside it is much more difficult. Mainly because the first die wants to fly out of the glass when trying to toss the second one inside. Of course one should be careful if using a real glass over a non-carpeted floor.

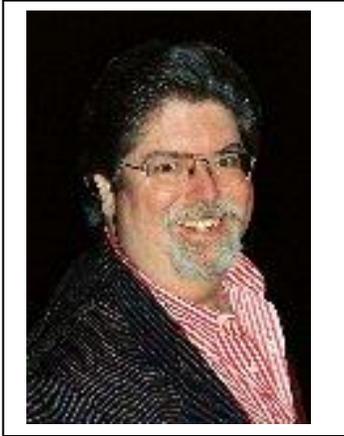
SECRET: Toss and catch the uppermost die in the cup. To catch the remaining die inside simply release the die and drop your right hand holding the cup toward the floor briskly about eight inches. Then it's a simple matter to move the downward moving cup under the falling die to catch it inside (Fig. 2). The downward momentum allows the die already inside the cup to stay inside. Give this bit 100% and you'll be doing it in no time. *You should always give 100% unless you are donating blood.*

Bamboozlers- The Book of Bankable Bar Betchas, Brain Bogglers, Belly Busters & Bewitchery: Volume Three by Diamond Jim Tyler is out.

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 exclusively at www.diamond-jim.com/originals for \$19.95.



Down in the 'Boro - by Alan Fisher



With Tom Vorjohan reporting on news from East Tennessee and the rest of this newsletter superbly monitoring the magic happenings in and around Music City, your illustrious leader (or at least he was your leader in 2013 – don't know how your election went) Jason Michaels has agreed to donate this space to Ring 252 so we can let you know what's going on down in Murfreesboro. For more details than what's included here, sign up for our monthly newsletter on our website: www.IBMring252.com. The more we all know about what's going on practically in our back yards, the more magical experiences we get to share with each other.

I'm sure Tom's column is all about how wonderful Winter Carnival is going to be next month and how you shouldn't miss it. Well, he's right. Ring 252 always has a big contingency in attendance and this year will be no different. Let's see who has more members there – 37 or 252. Get set . . . Ready . . . Book your reservation! While you're at it,

don't forget to make plans to be at the combo IBM/SAM convention in July in St. Louis.

That's enough about things hours and hours away. Just minutes down the road in the 'boro we've got lots planned for 2014. By the time you get this newsletter we'll have already hosted our first lecture of the year. Marc Salem stopped by at the end of January. We know those who made the drive will agree it was well worth the trip. Keep Flag Day, Saturday, June 14th open for 252's annual Ring Picnic / Swap 'n Sell. Things kick off at 4:30 PM at the Florence Church of Christ (6732 Old Nashville Highway). The Ring provides the burgers and hot dogs while everybody else bring assorted dishes, drinks, snacks, and so on. Plus there'll be lots of magic for sale. And we've set the dates for our annual spring & fall public shows. "*The Razzle Dazzle Magic Show XXIII*" will be Friday & Saturday, May 2nd & 3rd while "*The Fall Festival of MAGIC 2014*" will be Friday & Saturday, October 3rd & 4th. Both will held at The Center for the Arts (110 West College St) starting at our traditional time of 7:02 PM. A little sooner will be our March meeting on Tuesday, 3/4 where our "theme" will be Tax Time Money Magic. Let's see how creative you can be in coming up with a routine mixing magic with the IRS. Or just show us

your favorite effect that involves money. We also have a Teach-A-Trick segment by 252's Vice President Jimbo Hooten.

Now how on earth are you supposed to keep track of all these happenings? Easy. First off you visit Ring 252 at one of our regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at the North Boulevard Church of Christ (1112 N. Rutherford Blvd). There we'll present you with a copy of our 2014 Calendar of Magic. It lists every Ring meeting and what we've got planned each month as well as directions to where we have lectures & shows. Plus it's a full 12 month calendar where we list most of the major magic conventions & happens around the world (and, of course, our Ring's shows).

I'm out of space and out of breath. More next month. But don't wait until then. Get out and be a part of the magic community that's all around you. We hope to see you in the 'boro soon. Remember, the magic red carpet is always rolled out for you at I. B. M. Ring 252!

Bargatze's Musings – Continued from page 2

in the first place. Not only is the club here to elevate and advance the art of magic, it is supposed to elevate and advance OUR magic. We enjoy sitting down and hanging with other people who love what we love, but we want to become better magicians too.

Unlike when I started magic, the club is not the only place we can go to see good magic performed and taught. The internet has brought many people into magic that might not ever walk through the doors of a magic club. However, we know that the Internet is not enough to become a great, or even good performer. The magic club should play a big part in a magician's growth too.

The number one complaint any club has is "I did not feel welcomed." Another complaint is "I did not feel like part of the group." Let me say now that the number one resolution of Ring 37 is not to have a "group". We need to all reach out to any and all members and non-members that attend our club.

I think one of the best things that happened this year was the election of Jason Michaels as President. I know he is a friend of mine, but I can see that our club has grown with his leadership. The thing about Jason is his enthusiasm. It is contagious. We have seen it in presidents in the past. James Hargraves had it, and the club grew during his times. Jerry Fraley had it too. I am not going to name all the good and bad presidents Ring 37 has had in the last thirty years, but I do want to say that the times when we had poor leadership correspond with the times our Ring has lost members. We are growing for the first time in a long time and I am sure it has a lot to do with the leadership of this club. Jason doesn't deserve all the credit though, the officers do too.

It is my opinion that this year we need a by-law changed that will allow a person to be re-elected as often as the club wants or needs that person to serve. In the past the club was very small and the rule was made by our Ring to only allow a person two years in office. I feel it is way over time to drop this from our by-laws. I know that the Louisville magic club had the same president for over 25 years and it grew to one of the largest in the US. They found some guys who were willing to do the work and did it right and they kept them. When the club finally did want to make the

change they did by voting in a new president. That is how the system is supposed to work.

Wow! Where did that come from? I really did not want to go there when I started this article but there you go.

We need to remember that magic does not need to be competitive. It should be collaborative. When I first joined Ring 37 in 1975 the guys who were the real workers were Jim Ford, Gary Hayes, Steve Kilgore, and Tommy Hart. These guys were the leaders in the club and not only did they get up and perform every meeting, they were more than willing to help me and others with what we were doing. Believe me when I say it was not easy. Specific moves were kept away from you until they felt you were more than ready to learn them and you had to prove you were willing to do the work. Often they would not share something new with you until you had mastered the things they shared with you the last time.

I feel that in our club today information is so much easier to get your hands on. I have seen guys teach sleights to others that took me years before someone would have shared with me. Good for Ring 37.

I see lots of guys helping anyone who wants to learn (and sometimes offering advice to people who might not have asked, as well.) This year let's work on how we offer tips and advice. I know we have guys in the club that have different opinions on just what a person needs or doesn't need. We can disagree without being disagreeable. We can criticize without being demeaning.

As a club, we need to find ways to recognize magicians within the club. This can be done with certificates of appreciation, special plaques, and awards. Another way to recognize members is to award them a spot on a local Ring community show. (Wow! Now that hurts!)

We are all too willing to help others, but would we be willing to put the people that need the help into one of our club's public shows? This is something that our Ring is guilty of. We often feel that we need to put the best magic that we can out there and the guy or gal that has been working on something new might not...

This article is continued on the next page.

Bargatze's Musings – Continued from page 7

be ready. That way of thinking needs to be looked at. I am sorry to say that I have been one of the guys who said that I thought someone might not be ready. It is so easy to forget the times Ring 37 gave me a chance to perform when I was not ready. There were plenty of those times. We have been guilty of using the same people over and over.

Last but not least the internal magic club politics should be avoided. We all know that magicians have strong egos. The strife that occurs when strong personalities collide can tear a Ring apart. We saw this with our own Ring 37. The fact is that if all was right with the world of magic in Nashville, we could easily get 35 to 40 guys to attend each meeting and/or lecture. Already this year we had a former member of our club, and a fine magician, write an email telling why they would never attend a Ring 37 meeting. Unfortunately they had all their facts wrong and if they had just read the newsletter in December I am sure they would not have written the email.

I want to say that Ring 37 is not what it used to be. I know as a member that I am not who I used to be. I feel that Ring 37 needs someone to stand up for it every now and then. We would love to welcome back any and all past members who have left our club. Even if those past members decide never to rejoin our club I want them to know that they are welcome to attend any of our functions. Ring 37 could be the best club in the south if our former members would rejoin. We

have really worked on our relationships with Ring 252 and they have responded. They are having lectures and not charging our members extra to attend. I think it should be that way for all IBM members. Thanks to you Ring 252 Ring 37 will follow your lead.

One final thing, this newsletter, that I have spent way too much time on this month, would love to give other clubs space to promote events that are on their calendar.

I would love to see a night where other clubs would attend one of our meetings. It would be awesome if we could do some sort of club show swap. We could offer to put a show on for one of the other clubs and then that club could do the same us. Perhaps we could get some of our new members to perform.

This article was written with in article in mind from Dal Sanders, the president of the SAM, that was published in MUM. You should read that article too. He listed some changes and problems clubs are having and I took his statements and related them to Ring 37. I am not in any way saying that I am Ring 37, I am just a member who has to write an article once a month to get Jason Michaels off my Butt.

P.S. Jason, why do we not have a place in our newsletter that would allow a person to respond to what we are writing? A letter to the editor so to speak. Now that is a great idea Bargatze.

Remembering Jim Ford - Continued

Jim Ford was one of my dearest friends. I have known Jim since I was about 13. I would ride to magic meetings and magic conventions with Jim and I used to call him every day. In some ways Jim was the dad I never had and I was the son he always wanted. We had a great relationship.

I spent many days in Jim's workshop building magic. In fact, I helped him build workshop. There was never a magic trick that Jim would not tell me how it worked. That information created a wealth of information for me and I learned a lot from Jim. I got married in Jim's house and he was my best man. We did tons of shows together over the years including the FOP camp for underprivileged children. I was only 15 years old and was in the first set of magicians to do those shows with Jim. We did them for 42 years.

Jim and I did the "Parade of Pennies" together for 10 years plus a lot of other charities over the years. We

always laughed and had so much fun together. Even though Jim was over 20 years my senior there was never an age gap between us. We were friends to the end.

I was honored to preside over Jim's funeral and at his request present the Broken Wand Ceremony. Jim's brother Ron told me after the service that it was the best funeral he had ever attended and Jim would have been proud.

About a year before Jim passed away he gave me some of his best magic tricks and a photograph of him doing his Hillbilly Magic Act, "The Amazin' Abner" which I have on display in a show case in my home. These are now my treasures. I will never forget Jim Ford. It was truly an honor for me to handle Jim's funeral but it was also the hardest thing I've ever had to do. I know Jim would have appreciated it. He was a very kind man and he really should be credited with keeping magic alive in Nashville.

-Steve Kilgore

The Kidz Korner – By Magic Wayne



After performing hundreds of kids shows, from birthday parties to schools, I've learned that some tricks play better than others. When we put together a show specifically designed for children, we have to make sure they will understand what is happening and enjoy watching. We can be the best sleight of hand artist with billiard balls or cards, but if the kids don't really grasp or understand what they are seeing, then we've wasted our time. For example, most young audiences don't understand many card tricks, book tests (or most mentalism effects), or even cut and restored rope routines. We, as Magicians, know what we just did was amazing, but some of the kids just don't get it.

So I wanted to share with you one absolute guaranteed way of getting your audience's attention...**BALLOONS!!!!** Don't believe me? Just go to your favorite Magic Store Website, click on "Kids Magic" and you will see just how many different routines and tricks that use balloons.

Balloons are colorful, exciting and have a certain "air" (pun intended) about them. They literally fascinate kids. Why do you think some of us get hired just to do balloon twisting? Most people have seen Dogs, Cats, Giraffe's, Dolphins and swords before, but when these figures are made out of latex and air, kids love them. A lot of adults enjoy them too.

I'm not suggesting that everyone go out and learn balloon twisting. In my show I perform a popular trick that involves twisting a balloon into a dog that pops and is magically restored in a paper bag. I learned this routine from a Jeff Hobson video. The gags that come with it and the end routine is so good it gets some of the best reactions in my show. I normally use this towards the end of my show because it's so strong that it is a great closing act. It's also a great way to kick off my show because it brings out so much of my personality and sets the tone for the rest of the show.

There are so many routines and tricks out there that use balloons. A few of them include "Forgetful Freddie", "Aerostatic Card", prediction tricks, needle through a balloon...and the list goes on forever.

Another part of the intrigue of using balloons is the possibility that the balloon will pop. This adds to the overall excitement of the routine. The kids know the balloon might pop, so they sit in anticipation of just that happening.

Balloons are also a great way to add color to your show. Unless you have a specific need for a clear balloon, such as the needle through the balloon, add some color to your show.

Now comes the warning. Whenever I do school shows or birthday parties I ask if there is the danger of any latex allergies. Out of all the show I've performed I can only remember two occasions when this was a problem.

So there you have it. If you use balloons in your kids show already, then great for you. But if you're putting together a kids show for the first time, or looking for a way to add something that will hold the attention of the kids, my recommendation is find a way to use balloons. I don't think you'll be disappointed.