



Sacramento Area Magicians

September 2008

Magic Flash

Newsletter of the Society of American Magicians Assembly 72

Monthly Meetings

Assembly 72 of the Society of American Magicians meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 P.M. (business meeting) and 7:00 P.M. for magic. We meet at the Ronald McDonald House, 2555 49th Street in Sacramento (behind the UCD Medical Center.)

Prospective members are encouraged to visit us anytime!

**10th Annual
Community
Show
Sat. Sept. 20
7:00 PM**

2008 Assembly Officers

President

David Wright 916-944-8454
wright.davida@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President

Dale Lorzo 916-481-2596
dalelorzo@aol.com

Secretary

Viktor Berry 916-362-8355
viktor2@mac.com

Treasurer

Allen Greenberg 916-483-4345
allen.h.greenberg@wellsfargo.com

Board Member at Large

Richard Hill 707-678-8807
rrhill@ucdavis.edu

**Please visit our web site at
www.magic1.org/sam72**



Wright writes ...

Celebrities Who Perform Magic

By David Wright, President

Magic is a popular hobby, even among celebrities from other professions. There are many famous people who share our interest in magic. See if you can recognize some of these famous names: Charles Dickens Prince Charles, Johnny Carson, Woody Allen, Dick Cavett, Jackie Gleason, Dick Van Dyke, Cary Grant, Buster Keaton, Milton Berle, Jimmy Stewart, Orson Welles, Steve Martin, Jerry Lucas, Arsenio Hall, Harold Lloyd, Muhammad Ali, John Denver, George W. Bush, Jerry Lewis, Andy Griffith, Barbara Stanwyck, Tyrone Power, Boris Karloff, Fred Astaire, Edmond O'Brien, Robert Lansing, Gallagher, and Mickey Mouse

Our club hosted a magic lecture by Levent, a magician from New York, on Wednesday, September 10, at the Mission Oaks Community Center. This lecture was well received by everyone who attended the event. The following topics were covered in this lecture: Levent's Fundamental Rules of Stage Magic, Roy Benson and the Billiard Balls, Charlie Miller's Rope Trick, The Long Pour Salt Trick, Levent's Invisible Deck, Card Manipulation, and Levent's Original Miser's Dream Routine.

Our **10th Anniversary Share the Magic Community Show** will be held on Saturday, September 20th at Mission Oaks Community Center. This gala event will have the following performers: **Kevin Warren, John Iacano, Mary Mowder, Leroy Goodenough, Genny the Genie, Tom Allen, and Dale Lorzo.** **David Wright** is the Master of Ceremony for this event. Several other members of the magic community will help in a variety of ways to make this show a success. Thanks to all of you who volunteered your time and talent. Please come out and enjoy this fun event!

Our August meeting performance theme was Silk/Handkerchief Magic. The club voted at the end of the performance for the best performer and a **Murphy's Magic Supplies** gift certificate was awarded to our Vice-President, **Dale Lorzo.**

Our September meeting performance theme is **Card Routines.** This topic should prove to be fun for everyone. I look forward to seeing what the performers will do. In addition, our next meeting workshop theme is **Rope Routine Clinic.** So, bring your cards and ropes to the next club meeting and be prepared to share the magic!

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2008 Magic Calendar

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Performance Theme</i>	<i>Workshop Theme</i>
Sept. 20	Annual SAM / IBM Community Show	
Sept. 24	Card Routines (2 - 3 tricks)	Rope Routine Clinic
Oct. 22	Houdini Night (or magic from long ago)	Holiday Magic Clinic
Nov. 26	No Meeting Scheduled this Month	<i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i>
<i>To Be Announced</i>	Annual Ronald McDonald House Open House and Toy Drive	
Dec. 3 (1st Wed.)	Holiday Magic	Social Mixer
Dec. 10	<i>(IBM Meeting)</i>	Open Magic
Dec. TBD	Annual SAM / IBM Holiday Party	

Wright writes ... *Continued from page one*

We also need to consider who will serve as officers of SAM 72 in 2009.

If you are interested in running for any club position, please let one of the current officers know. We especially need someone to volunteer to be the Secretary next year as Viktor Berry has asked to step down after eight years of service.

See you Wednesday!

David Blaine: Dive of Death

Wednesday, September 24th on ABC

During his first network television special since the 2002 Vertigo, David Blaine will be seen live, hanging upside down above Wollman Rink in New York City's Central Park.

A rig, 44 feet tall and 44 feet square, will allow Blaine to move anywhere, even being lowered face to face with spectators walking around below. He will be attached to the wire by specially designed electromagnetic boots and will hang upside down except for occasionally being brought horizontal to resume blood flow.

The 60-hour stunt leading up to the special begins on Monday, September 22. Throughout the two-hour program, pre-recorded segments of Blaine performing street magic will be shown in similar fashion to his previous ABC specials. During filming, he traveled throughout the US performing on streets across the country.

At the conclusion of the special, reports have it that Blaine will execute a 44-foot leap to the ground below.

Book Reviews **By Wayne Kawamoto**

Theatrical Magic

By John Pyka

John Pyka not only knows magic, he knows theater. His book, *Theatrical Magic* will make you think about the magic that you perform and inspire you to add meaning to it. I got a lot out of reading this book.

Where's the Meaning?

According to Pyka, unfortunately, too many magicians have shows that are nothing but a string of special effects, that has no meaning or relevance. This is one of the reasons why lay people often regard magic as a meaningless diversion (usually for children). And many magicians have only reinforced this notion.

Pyka defines "Theatrical Magic" as magic that is character and story driven and accomplishes several goals: 1) tells a story, 2) establishes or showcases a character, 3) solves a problem, 4) makes a statement, or 5) instructs and educates. His goal is to teach magicians to take magic that is often presented as a puzzle and turn it into theater and meaningful entertainment.

Throughout, Pyka discusses his character, Big Daddy Cool, and how he was developed, how he works in a show and how the effects support his character. Pyka also talks about his musical, *Swingin' At The Roxy*, which featured songs, dance and magic and toured, nearly making it off-Broadway.

Not Routine

The book describes some excellent routines. Some, like the 21st Century Silks, were actually performed in his shows and allow Pyka to show how the trick was used with song and dance to develop a character and his relationship with two other characters.

Other routines are strictly in the design phase but show Pyka's thought processes and how he would present an illusion or effect. I particularly liked his take on the "Origami" illusion. In Pyka's hands, the stunning illusion becomes a story where the shrinking of the box and the swords serve as integral plot devices. These routines are only thoughts and ideas, but it's a pleasure to get into Pyka's mind.

Pyka also offers exercises on how to think about character and your presentation of magic. Most of the routines apply to stage shows and illusions, but there are some close-up discussions.

In "Theatrical Magic," John Pyka offers considerable food for thought that can help improve your magic. This book, along with Ken Weber's "Maximum Entertainment" (which Pyka recommends), should be required reading for all magicians.

Wayne N. Kawamoto <http://magic.about.com>

MSRP – \$45.

Maximum Entertainment By Ken Weber

Far more important than the slickest new card move or latest stage effect is our ability as magicians to entertain. For this, **Ken Weber's** *Maximum Entertainment* offers solid advice for improving one's show and is must reading for anyone who performs magic.

Good Entertainment

If you haven't heard of him, Weber has had a successful career as a full-time magic entertainer, having appeared at some 500 colleges and universities and for hundreds of corporations and resorts. With his two theater degrees, Weber knows what he is talking about from both theoretical and practical standpoints.

To begin, Weber asks what constitutes good entertainment and makes the regrettably true statement, "most magic sucks" (considering all of the magic performed by pros, semi-pros and amateurs and hobbyists). From here, Weber works as a virtual stage director to offer advice on improving and honing one's performance skills and stage presence.

More Extraordinary Moments

Weber defines magic as working at three levels: puzzle, trick and extraordinary moment, and strives to help create more extraordinary moments. He offers examples of work by David Copperfield, David Blaine and Kreskin, which most magicians will be familiar with. He also provides

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Maximum Entertainment *(continued)*

examples of well known magicians and throughout, critiques with a no-holds barred, but constructive eye.

He distills and presents his "Six Pillars of Entertainment Success" that offer goals to improve one's act. In the second half of the book, Weber discusses scripting and rehearsal, the selection of material, appearance, use of voice, language skills, humor, sound, lighting, show preparation, stage positioning and more. There is seemingly no aspect that he doesn't cover.

Required Reading

The book is an easy initial read but one that you will open and study again and again. Ken Weber's Maximum Entertainment is a book that all magicians, regardless of style and venue, can use. In fact, in an ideal world, it would be required reading by all who want to perform magic. Now, if you can please excuse me, I have a lot of work to do on my act.

It's Magic comes to Modesto!

An all new line-up of the world's top professional magicians takes the stage in this annual live magical spectacle produced by Milt Larson (founder of Hollywood's famous Magic Castle) that has delighted magic enthusiasts of all ages for more than five decades. This year we've moved the show to the smaller, more intimate Foster Family Theater at the Gallo Center for the Arts to let everyone see the show close up, and added two more performances to accommodate the crowds (last year's show sold out).

Chuck Jones & Co., Les Arnold & Dazzle, Tom Ogden, Chris Hart, Eric Buss, Dan Birch

<http://www.itsmagic.org/>

<http://www.galloarts.org>

"The liveliest lineup of magic acts this side of Las Vegas. It's a must for magic buffs of all ages!" (Los Angeles Times)



Assembly 72 Treasurer Allen Greenberg congratulates Vice-President Dale Lorzo for winning the \$50 Gift Certificate from Murphy's Magic Supplies during the August meeting.