



Sacramento Area Magicians

July 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!*

**Annual  
SAM 72 / IBM 192  
Stand-Up  
Competition  
August 13**

## 2008 Assembly Officers

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**Please visit our web site at  
[www.magic1.org/sam72](http://www.magic1.org/sam72)**



**Wright writes ...**

## Winning Strategies, Magic Making

**By David Wright, President**

Our Annual SAM/IBM Barbecue and Magic Action was held on June 22 in Carmichael Park. Approximately 50 people turned out for this 2 for 1 event. Our BBQ chef was Dick LaVergne. Our auction accountant was Allen Greenberg. All in attendance had a great time, great meal, and bought and sold lots of goodies. Thanks to everyone who helped organize this event. Please let us know if you liked having these two events on the same day, which was not a normal meeting night.

Viktor Berry, Rick Hill, Terry Robinson and I had the pleasure of attending the 2008 PCAM Convention in Monterey, July 10 - 13. The convention was held at the Portola Hotel & Spa right next to Fisherman's Wharf. Two gala shows were held at the beautiful Golden State Theatre. The stars of the show were Tony Clark, Reed McClintock, Danny Cole, Andrew Goldenhersh, Ice McDonald, Shawn Farquhar, David Ginn, and Dean Hankey. Only 202 people attended this convention, affording everyone the chance to meet the stars and socialize. It was a very fun time for all. I came back charged up about magic and ready to try to take my art to a whole new level.

Cabaret Magic is the performance theme for our July meeting. Come prepared to show off your favorite club act or stand-up effect. Otherwise bring us anything that you think will be entertaining for the club. Your performance could win you the Best Performer Award as it did for Gary Berard last month.

Our 2008 Annual Stand-up Competition is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13. It will be held at the Mission Oaks Community Center. **We have extended the deadline for competitors to enter this event to July 31.** Please see rules in the June newsletter if interested. Only four people have signed up so far, so the chances are good that you could win first place – but only if you choose to compete! Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy this event. Winners are invited to also perform at the Annual Mission Oaks Community Show on September 20.

Our July meeting workshop theme is **Winning Strategies for Competitions.** This is a perfect theme for those that are thinking of entering the Stand-up Competition in August. Everyone who has attended or participated in a competition has opinions on what makes a winning act. Lets put our heads together and summarize our winning strategies. Bring books, notes or whatever you may have to assist with this exciting topic. Maybe we can influence the outcome of next months event.

# 2008 Magic Calendar

## Society of American Magicians • Assembly 72

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Performance Theme</b>	<b>Workshop Theme</b>
<b>July 23</b>	<b>Cabaret Magic</b>	<b>Winning Strategies for Competitions</b>
Aug. 13	<i>Annual SAM / IBM Stand-up Competition</i>	
Aug. 27	Silk/Handkerchief Magic	Social Mixer
<b>Sept. 20</b>	<i>Annual SAM / IBM Community Show</i>	
Sept. 24	Card Routines (2 - 3 tricks)	Rope Routine Clinic
Oct. 22	Houdini Night (or magic from long ago)	Holiday Magic Clinic
Nov. 26	<b><i>No Meeting Scheduled this Month – Happy Thanksgiving!</i></b>	
<i>To Be Announced</i>	<i>Annual Ronald McDonald House Open House and Toy Drive</i>	
Dec. 3 (1st Wed.)	Holiday Magic	Social Mixer
Dec. 10	(IBM Meeting)	Open Magic
Dec. TBD	<b><i>Annual SAM / IBM Holiday Party</i></b>	

Please pass this flier on to your friends and associates.

**The Society of American Magicians Assembly 72,  
The International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 192, and  
The Magician's Circle of Elk Grove**

present



**SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 - 7:30 PM**

**MISSION OAKS RECREATION & PARKS SENIOR CENTER  
4701 GIBBONS DRIVE, CARMICHAEL**

Admission: \$10 for all club members; \$20 for non-members

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Levent's incredibly unique and brilliant combination of comedy and sleight of hand, a culmination of over 30 years of experience, has made him a much sought-after entertainer, and earned him great respect from his fellow peers.

Levent started out at a young age performing in New York City. At age 17 he was awarded 1st prize for Stage Magic at the International Brotherhood of Magicians' National Convention. This led to a 2-year engagement at Resorts International Casino Hotel in Atlantic City where he was twice nominated "Best Act in a Production Show". Levent has since been performing to packed audiences at various venues throughout the world.

In 2005, he had the honor to perform at the Magic Circle Centenary Celebrations in London. In 2006 Levent was invited to perform at the "Society of American Magicians 97th Annual Salute to Magic" at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center in New York. And in 2007 he performed at the World Magic Seminar in Nagoya, Japan.

He is a regular contributor to the "Vaudeville Times" Magazine, and has penned articles for various other publications, including "MAGIC" magazine. Levent is the co-author of "Roy Benson by Starlight" published by The Miracle Factory. Levent's biography appears in the recently published book "Vaudeville Old & New - An Encyclopedia of Variety Performers in America".

**For more information about this lecture, call: David Wright at (916) 944-8454,  
Leroy Goodenough at (530) 295-3477, or Phil Stillman at (916) 685-4709**

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Book Review

# ***Scripting Magic, by Pete McCabe***

About.com rating: ★★★★★

By Wayne Kawamoto, About.com

<http://magic.about.com/>

Scripting works well in theater, television and movie production, so why not in magic? Pete McCabe drives this home in his excellent *Scripting Magic*, a thorough and thoughtful 450-page book that offers scripts for well known effects by skilled magicians and insightful interviews and essays.

With *Scripting Magic*, McCabe has created a must-read book that will inspire you and help script and burnish your magic routines.

## **It's in the Script**

McCabe says it best on the book's second page. "The goal of this book is to help you script your magic better, so what you say during your tricks makes the trick more effective." In presenting scripts, McCabe follows traditional screenplay scripting format for TV dramas, which he feels applies best to magic. He defines scripting magic as "deciding how you're going to present a trick before you perform it."

A good part of the book is dedicated to showcasing scripts by McCabe and other well known magicians for popular effects. The book includes scripts for *Coins Across*, *Torn and Restored Card*, *Gypsy Thread*, *Triumph*, *Self-Cutting Banana*, *Gemini Twins*, *Hot Rod*, *Svengali Deck*, *Chop Cup*, *Koorwinder Kar*, *\$100 Bill Switch*, *Out of this World*, *Ace Assembly* and more. Many of the effects have multiple scripts so you can compare the approach of two or more magicians.

## **To Use or Not To Use?**

The scripts not only serve excellent presentations, they can be sources for themes and provide inspiration for your own scripts for the same or different effects. There are some well known scripts such as Eugene Burger's *Cosmic Thread*. Although it's published here, no-one would probably want to present *Gypsy Thread* as Burger does. And should magicians simply perform the scripts as they're presented here?

Here's how McCabe answers this question. "So if you want to perform one of the scripts in this book, I think that's great. It's a terrific way to really appreciate the

power of scripting. And it will give you excellent practice at performing a script, which is an essential skill that many magicians don't get much chance to practice."

"After you have some experience performing other people's scripts, you'll probably want to adapt the script for yourself... Although creating original presentations from scratch is the highest level of magic, adapting scripts is the most efficient way to improve." Supporting this, McCabe offers notes with many of the effects to help you adapt specific scripts for your use.

## **Who's Who**

Some of the contributors include Michael Ammar, Jon Armstrong, Rafael Benatar, Michael Close, Bob Farmer, Paul Green, Guy Hollingworth, Kenton Knepper, Jonathan Levit, John Lovick, Max Maven, Eric Mead, Gary Ouellet, David Regal, Jim Steinmeyer, Jamy Ian Swiss and more.

The book features informative interviews with Eugene Burger, John Lovick, Jonathan Levit, Jon Armstrong, Max Maven, Teller, Rafael Benatar and Michael Close, and essays by McCabe and Jamy Ian Swiss. Indeed, McCabe has compiled scripts and advice from some of our era's most talented magicians.

## **Stronger Magic**

I found the scripts to be thought provoking and inspiring and the interviews informative and compelling. In this book, McCabe succeeds at demonstrating how scripts will improve one's magic and offers a foundation that will allow magicians to apply this powerful tool to their effects.

In all, "Scripting Magic" is a milestone book that will make your magic stronger and more entertaining. It's required reading and study for anyone serious about entertaining with magic. — Wayne N. Kawamoto  
MSRP: \$39.95

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<http://magic.about.com/mpboards.htm>

(You don't have to register to visit our forum, simply click on the link for "Guest Access.")



David Wright, Rick Hill, Viktor Berry and Terry Robinson just returned home from the annual convention of the Pacific Coast Association of Magicians. It was held in Monterey July 10 through July 13 at the Portola Hotel and Spa at Fisherman's Wharf. Photo by Elton and Ann Kelly

## Stop the Press!

**There is still time to enter the August 13  
SAM/IBM Stand-Up Competition!**

Entries will now be accepted through July 31<sup>st</sup>. The entry form and rules were in the June issue of the Magic Flash which can be downloaded at the Assembly 72 web site – <http://www.magic1.org/sam72>

