

The Boston Mini-Wizard

The Official Publication Of The John Calvert, Boston Area Assembly No. 29 Of The Society of Young Magicians

Vol 9 • No 4

April 1998

The Next Event Of S.Y.M. #29

Will Be On
Friday, April 17th, 1998
at

**Hank Lee's
Magic Factory**
127 South Street - Boston
617-482-8749
6:30 PM - 9:30PM

This Month:

**Peter Sklar Seminar:
"How To Raise
A Wonderful Kid"**
PARENTS:
Important Details Inside



Oscar Magic Winners!

by David Oliver

And the winner for **BEST SHOW** is.... "Magic & More"! What a great show! "Magic & More" has been getting rave reviews from everyone who was there.

For **BEST VISUAL EFFECTS**, the winners are... The Onstage Performers. They made this one of the smoothest running S.Y.M. shows ever.

For **BEST TECH SUPPORT**, the winners are... The Backstage Crew, who made everything work like clockwork.

For **BEST TICKET SALES**, the winner is.. The Pilgrim Church Youth Group, because, financially, we did better at this show, than at the last 3 shows put together!

It was a tie for **BEST EMCEE**. Nils and Joe both did outstanding jobs. Nils showed us how brave he was by wearing a paper hat tear in public. There was only one minor "fill" spot, and Joe handled it well, by running aimlessly around the audience.

Alex Green, Max Roseglass and Dane Grigas were in a three-way tie for **MOST CONSISTANT PERFORMANCES**, as they opened the show, with their well-rehearsed, time-tested, we've-seen'em-before acts.

President Chris Britt resurrected his detective act to win for **BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE PERFORMANCE** (remember the maracha's?)

For **BEST SOUND**, Joe Grassia won hands down. You would've thought we were in his home town the way the audience cheered his entrance! (his act wasn't half bad, either!)

For **BEST COSTUMES IN A MUSICAL**, David & David (Hubelbank & Kahn) gave the audience something to talk about during intermission. (In case they weren't already talking about their performance of Metamorphosis)

Speaking of intermission, special awards for **BEST SUPPORTING PERFORMANCES**, went to our close-up magicians, for keeping the audience entertained and amazed while they absorbed the first half of the show..

There was only one award this year for **BEST PERFORMER IN A VARIETY SPOT**. That award went to Nils Marthinsen for not dropping anything!

Not only did they win for **BEST CHOREOGRAPHY**, but, Josh Cohen, Max Nover & Mike Ullman also won for **BEST SHORT SUBJECTS**.

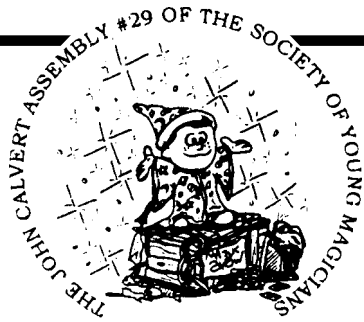
Paul "I'm-goin'-to-Australia" Denaro, took home the trophy for **BEST SPECIAL EFFECTS**, for his rendition of the classic "Invisible" Deck.

As expected, the unexpected winner of the **BEST ACTOR IN A COMEDY** went to Noah Kistler for his portrayal of *Magic Noah* in "Good Watch Hunting".

All in all, "Magic & More" was really a tremendous hit. So much so, that the people of Dover can't wait for the sequel!

Thank you all for a great job!

I'll see you at the meeting!



BOSTON

Christopher Britt
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Noah Kistler
Vice President

David Condon
Secretary

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Julie Babayan
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Nils Marthinsen
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Mark Roseman
Debra Glassman
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The Flamangs
The Condons
The Frickes
The Greens
BMW Family of Publishers

S.Y.M. NEWS

More Sad News

As this BMW was going to press, we learned that long-time director of Minuteman Vo-tech's Summer Camp, **Beverly Lydiard** has passed away unexpectedly of food poisoning. She was responsible for having David Oliver teach at the camp for the past 12 years. She will be missed.

CHOSEN ONES

The following people do need to have a trick or routine ready to perform at the meeting:

Erin Rosen
David Condon
Josh Greenstein

2nd Anniversary

The **Magicians & Spirits** Show at the Green St. Grill in Cambridge is celebrating it's 2nd anniversary (who said it wouldn't last?) with a special show on Tuesday, April 7th. Same time: 9:00pm. Same place: Cambridge. Same rules: Parents & adults ONLY.

SYM Library

The S.Y.M. Library is still available for use for current members of #29. Call Julie before the meeting if you want her to bring a book to loan you.

PERFORMERS NEWS

Paul Denaro is having a benefit performance to raise money for his trip to Australia this coming summer. The show is booked, the hall is rented & the date is Saturday, April 25th, 1998. Call Paul @ 781-938-5810 for the other details.

Good luck, Paul!

BMW NEEDS U

The BMW is always looking for submissions to print. Tricks, routines, stories and reviews of magic are always welcome! It's YOUR newsletter. CONTRIBUTE!

Show Videos

If you were one of the more than 3,000 families that videotaped the Magic & More show in Dover, David Oliver would love to have a copy of the tape to add to the video library of S.Y.M. 29. The more tapes he gets, the better. Word has it, that he will try to edit the best parts of each tape together to form one finished tape that may be copied later for members collections. (Videos don't have to include the actual FLYING IN of the shadow box....{Mark?!} But, it would be nice to see!)

Boogie-Woogie Britt

by President Christopher Britt



Congratulations to everyone who participated in the S.Y.M. Show in Dover! Looking back, it was very good, even better than we expected it to be.

The acts were polished and the crowd was great, really great. The shadow box soaring down from the flyspace was AWESOME! That came as a surprise to me when I arrived, and I think it's a keeper.

A special thank you goes out to Joe Grassia for getting us the show, not to mention the best audience I've seen at a S.Y.M. Show!

Also, a thank you goes out to the Marthinsen's who also contributed by letting us use their home for the cast party after the show.

Last month, I wrote about modifying a trick to fit your needs.

One way of doing this is to simply create your own tricks. You might ask yourself how do I do that? Well, there are many different things I do to stimulate ideas, sometimes without even realizing it. My ways may not work for you, because I don't believe there is one set way of thinking. I think in many different directions, and I get distracted very easily from anything I am doing at the moment when I get a new idea.

I love it when ideas just pop into my head, it is a great feeling. I get very excited and start pacing around in circles, sometimes around the dinner table. Then, when I have that idea, I start exploring other ideas. I may find out five minutes later that the idea is not as good as I thought it was earlier. That may be a let down at the moment, but I don't care because there will be other ideas to come. I like the creative process just as much and sometimes more than performing magic.

When I have an idea, I usually like to tell it to someone else whose input I respect, so we can throw ideas around. My brother Doug, and Carman Dewees are two people I talk with to generate ideas. That second person can pose questions as to how the trick might work, or may even come up with an additional idea I wish I came up with.

One thing Doug and I did over the summer was we got lots of junk out of drawers and we each had to create a trick in five minutes with the stuff we had in front of us. That was more of a structured creative activity, one that I didn't like much.

Another way to get ideas is to play around with household objects and toys. For the past five days I have been playing around with an orange and a drinking straw.

It reminds me of those old Tropicana™ T.V. commercials, and I have thought up some cool ideas with it.

Other ways of creating, two of which I personally don't like very much, are having a time constraint and denying yourself from using a particular magical object. For instance, this summer at the S.A.M. convention I promised myself that I would give up the use of a deck of cards... forever.

Well, it seemed like a good idea at the time, and I thought, after all there are so many other things to use in close-up without using cards, right? It didn't last very long, but now I think I still can do other magic as well as cards.

The last thing I have to say is not to be afraid to fail. I have fallen on my face so many times that you could crack an egg on my forehead and the yolk wouldn't slide off. If you know me well enough, you'll agree. That's okay though, because everyone makes mistakes, and all I can do is laugh and learn from it. The phrase "what ever happens, let it happen" that I learned from David Oliver's Minute-man course, I think is the most important and useful thing I have ever learned. It is the one thing a book or magic video can't teach you: how to recover from a mess-up.

When I mess up now, I don't even stop, I just do. I've messed up sooooo many times that messing up is second nature to me. There is no use or need for me to let the audience on to what happened. Take everything as a learning experience.

I think Walt Disney stated it pretty well when he said, "It is good to have a failure while you're young, because it teaches you so much. For one thing, it makes you aware that such a thing can happen to anybody, and once you've lived through the worst, you're never quite as vulnerable afterward" and "You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you."

I'll see you at the meeting!

"..a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you"



Well, I'm back to school after a very nice spring break vacation and back to my usual routine of doing schoolwork until I fall asleep at the computer. So first let me apologize for getting a little behind in writing the articles each month. It seems to be that the deadlines for the BMW fall right in the middle of a week of tests and labs, but enough complaining and making excuses.

So lets jump right into everyone's favorite topic: the Masked Magician!!! He's an idiot.

Now that I've got that out of my system (as if we really need to hear more about the guy to begin with), I'd like to talk about something that many of you may come across: competitions. Magic camp is just around the corner and everyone who's there knows that the competitions are big part of learning magic. Now, I haven't been in any big competitions, but I've seen a bunch, and I've competed at magic camp every year that I've gone (5 years so far!). I'm sure we could go on and on about competitions, but for now I just thought I'd offer a few tips for those who plan on entering and are working on acts in hopes of winning the grand prizes!

1. Have fun! Don't make the competition into a big deal, just go out there and do your best. Its better to just relax and learn as much as you can, than to only be there for the sake of

winning.

2. Compete for yourself, not for the purpose of beating someone or showing off. You'll be better off thinking about you well you do instead of how bad someone else does. What if you, or someone else, is just having a really bad day and it changes the results? Would it make you feel any better to win because someone was just having an off day? Besides, who wants to brag about a competition that's a total blow-out?

3. Aim to entertain. It's just another show with the only difference being that there's a whole bunch of magicians watching you. Don't just try to do tricks that fool people, or really difficult sleight of hand. Worry about how good the act is and then add some knucklebusters later on.

4. Be able to laugh at your mistakes, especially during a magic competition. Now, nobody wants anything to go wrong, but sometimes it can't be helped. Other magicians will know what you're doing and may have had the same thing go wrong for them. Don't let them see how mad you are, just shrug it off or chuckle and they'll understand that it may have just been a freak thing that messed up. Then when you're done you can go off stage and complain all you want!

5. Take every loss as a lesson, and every win as a bonus. If you go into the competition with the right attitude, it doesn't

matter what place you come in. Most competitions have feedback sessions to get some input on your act. You'll get new ideas and they'll tell you if something was either way off or really good. The judges aren't out to hurt you, they're there to help. Take their advice and kick on the next one. If you win, there's an extra bonus, but it doesn't mean you're all done learning. There's always room for improvement and you always try to get more out of the competition than a trophy. For now this is the best non-technical advice that I can give you. Trust me, you'll be better off to go into a competition with a good attitude. I speak from experience, just ask anyone who's seen me compete. I've gone from taking competitions as a failure and doing poorly to seeing competitions as a place to have fun and doing well. I really think that the reason I won the last two competitions was because I didn't even plan on winning. I just wanted to go out and have a good time, which I definitely did! And winning was just the icing on the cake!

So that's it for now! Maybe next time I'll get into some of the technical things to expect with a competition and how to go about working on your act. So until then...

May your lefty's stay hidden, you're wands keep spinning, and your rabbits doing whatever rabbits do.

-Derrin

The Secretary's Synaptic Secretions

By Secretary David Condon

Who knew this show would be such a hit?! It seemed like everything was against us. The past few shows haven't sold too many tickets, we were missing many of our veteran performers, and Secrets of Magic Revealed 1 & 2 had aired that week.

However, the house was packed, the new acts were great, David's additions to the shadow box were amazing, and the show went off flawlessly. This was the best show since I joined the SYM four years ago and possibly the best ever!

"The Stage Manager's Nightmare" went off great and the addition of the theater's scrim-curtain made the effect clearer and more professional. Nils was produced and did a masterful job emceeing.

His paper tear was excellent and he seemed relaxed and comfortable on stage throughout the first half.

Alex Green was the first performer and his act was very polished.

Then Max Roseglass made it through his routine without teaching any of the audience members any new words. He also seemed very confident and gave a great performance.

Next was Dane Grigas who was very poised as he performed his mental-epic routine. Next up was Chris "da prez" Britt with his award-winning inspector act. It was a huge hit.

Then Joe Grassia performed a bill routine that closed with a killer watch and wallet steal which the crowd loved.

The next performers were David Hubblebank and David Kahn who closed the first half with their new lightning-fast metamorphosis (complete with double toe-loop and triple-axle. Just kidding).

David's changes to the shadow box were mind-blowing. Not only did it open up completely, but we lowered it from the ceiling! How cool is that?!!!

We produced Joe Grassia, our emcee for the second half, who was a huge hit with the crowd.

Nils gave his farewell performance and wowed the audience with his juggling feats and showmanship.

Next up, was the three-man act with Josh Cohen, Max Nover, and Mike Ullman.

They were certainly the high-light of the show for me and most of the audience would agree.

Josh won the crowd over with his skillful billiard-ball manipulations, Max did his great severed arm act which was very cool, and finally Mike closed with his impressive and dramatic rope-routine.

Paul Denaro skillfully performed his well practiced invisible-deck routine.

The next performer was Noah Kistler who used his subtle(?) brand of humor to win the crowd over. His new watch routine was excellent.

Finally, David closed the show.

If you missed the show you really missed out! See you all at the next meeting.

David Condon

Directions to Hank Lee's

FROM THE NORTH

Take either Route 93 or the Mystic-Tobin Bridge to the Central Artery. The Central Artery becomes the Expressway South. Take the Expressway to the Kneeland Street exit. As you come out of the exit, you will be at a set of lights. Go through the lights (bearing slightly to the left) and drive one block to a second set of lights. Take a left at these lights (Kneeland Street). Go two blocks and take another left. This is South Street. We're on the left side of the street at number 127.

FROM THE SOUTH

Find your way to the Southeast Expressway (Route 3). Take the very last exit, marked Downtown-Chinatown. As you come off the exit ramp, you will be at a set of lights. Take a right at these lights, then your first left (you are now on South Street.) Go up South to number 127, on the left side of the street.

FROM THE WEST

Take the Massachusetts Turnpike to the very last exit marked Chinatown-Downtown Boston—Kneeland Street. As you come down the exit ramp, you will be at a set of traffic lights. Take a right at these lights (you are now on Kneeland Street). Take your second left off of Kneeland Street. You are now on South Street. We are on the left side of the street at number 127.

If You get lost :617-482-TRIX

CALENDAR

S.Y.M. #29's Magic

Fri-Sun April 3,4,5th, 1998

Hank Lee's Cape Cod Conclave

Magic Convention #10!

SOLD OUT !!!!

617 - 482 - TRIX

Friday April 10th, 1998

S.A.M. #9 Monthly Meeting

(S.Y.M. #29 Members Invited)

at Sheraton Tara Hotel - Newton

(Exit 17, over the Mass Pike)

7:00pm

Piet Hartling Lecture

1997 FISM 2nd Place Winner

From Germany

Friday, April 17th, 1998

S.Y.M. #29 Monthly Meeting

6:30 - 9:30 pm

@ Hank Lee's Magic Factory

617-482-8749

Peter Sklar Seminar

In agreement with Mr. Sklar, you **MUST** have one of your parents with you at this meeting. **NO** exceptions.

Also, because members & parents of New Hampshire's S.Y.M. #1 will be joining us, space will be limited.

So, for **THIS MEETING**, you **must call** David Oliver {781-878-1479} and make reservations.

Also, bring a notebook and a pen.
(For more info, see the enclosed flyer)

Sunday, April 19th, 1998

16th Annual N.E. Close-up Contest

Sponsored by S.A.M. #16

@ Crowne Plaza Hotel - Worcester, MA

Doors open at noon.

\$6.00 admission

(only 150 seats available... always a sell-out!)

Come and support our members,

Chris Britt & Noah Levine

Saturday, May 30th, 1998

S.Y.M. #29 Monthly Meeting

2:00 pm - ?

@ **The George Lentros**

Magic Barn & Gallery

in Ashland, MA

(More details to come)

Friday, June 19th, 1998

S.Y.M. #29 Monthly Meeting

(event & place TBA)

July 6th - 31st, 1998

12th Annual Summer Magic Course

with David Oliver

@ Minuteman Summer Camp

in Lexington

781-861-7150

for info & registration

July 8th - 11th, 1998

S.A.M. National Convention

New Orleans, LA

(check your SYMbol for details)

July 17th, 1998

S.Y.M. #29 Monthly Meeting

(event & place TBA)

Don't Miss The Meeting...

at hank lee's magic factory

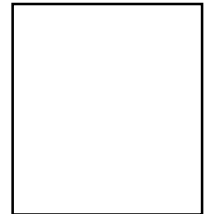
Parents, Please Read Important Information Inside!!!

Friday,
April 17 1998

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c/o 41 Norman Street
Rockland, MA 02370-2017



Please Rush!!!

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