

Legerdemain Digest

RING 313 - THE JOHN FEDKO RING

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS



Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Get ready for a treat. On Tuesday, April 26, 2011 IBM Ring 313 hosts a magical lecture by Danny Magic. Danny Magic, also known as Dan McKinnon, served as president of Ring 313 in 2000.

Whether he is performing close-up magic at a cocktail party, baffling customers at a restaurant, or delighting guests at a wedding. The quick hands and quick wit of Danny Magic will bring added sparkle to any occasion. Leaving an audience laughing, mystified and most importantly entertained.

Dan specializes in close-up, sleight of hand magic. He was awarded first place at both IBM (ring 313) and Orange County magic's annual close-up competition. Dan was also IBM (ring 313) magician of the year. Dan is a member at the world famous Magic Castle (Academy of magical arts) in Hollywood. (dannymagic.com)

In addition, Dan will be available on Tuesday, April 26 from 4:30 - 6:30

pm for a hands on workshop at Knowlwood's Restaurant. If you want to be a part of that workshop, please contact Dan McKinnon directly at Danny.Magic@verizon.net. There is a separate fee to participate. Make your arrangements now to ensure your space in this fun workshop. Among other subjects, Dan will teach card handling sleights, coin work, watch steals, and rubber band work.

PAST EVENTS

BY Philip Henderson

The evening's lecturer, SUDS the Magician (aka Ted Sudbrack, Order of Merlin member of IBM) is the perfect example of the "man who needs no introduction," everyone knows SUDS! He began his lecture asking if anyone had lost a cloth bag that he found in the parking lot. He showed us a red bag with a blue lining . . . well this bag was more than it appeared at first glance. After careful examination, he discovered a zipper pocket in the bag; opening the zipper, he found inside another "red bag with a blue lining" . . . eventually finding a zipper pocket in that bag. Upon removing a third small bag from this second "red" bag, SUDS found a hundred dollar bill inside. Actually, it was an overdue \$100 telephone bill.

This bit of magic was an excellent opener for what was to follow . . . the evening was filled with non-stop sight gags, and other magical effects. SUDS performed several effects using a "remote control radio." He performed a Monte effect using a wooden box with three small light

bulbs. SUDS put on a funny bit using a small paper bag, a blue silk and a red silk. At the end of the bit, he removed from the small lunch bag a ten-foot long magic wand as the explanation for the magic trick. SUDS told us a wonder filled story about a new product for golfers, a golf ball that could not be lost. When asked where he got this special golf ball, he deadpanned, "I found it."

SUDS magic depends as much upon his love for the audience as it does on the many (and varied) props that he uses. He attends to the happiness of his audience and plays with them. He doesn't embarrass the spectators who assist him; he gets them to play with him. SUDS is a performer and dealer. He always has something new in his magical box of tricks. Members and guests eagerly scooped up many of SUDS products. If you enjoy good humor and laughter, go see SUDS perform. With Ted Sudbrack, the truth is, the magic is SUDS himself!



Member's Corner

FROM THE LIBRARY OF SOCRATINI

In the past few months there has been a lot of talk about theory and performance in Magic. This reminded me of something I read from Tommy Wonder. His thoughts were very insightful and I would like to share them with you. The following is an excerpt from Tommy Wonders' "The Books of Wonder" Volume 1 pages 2-3.

"The idea that, without talent, no amount of work can make one a truly good performer may seem pessimistic, even elitist; but I believe it, nevertheless, to be true. However, I'm not really the cynical misanthrope this statement might at first suggest, for I tend to think that most, if not all people have some measure of talent—maybe not much, maybe just a speck; but a tiny little diamond polished to perfection is far more enjoyable than an enormous unpolished one. So don't despair if you find that your "raw diamond" is not huge. Your magic can still be admirable.

I don't believe that one can enlarge one's talent. One can only polish it to bring out its qualities for audiences to enjoy. If this is true, there is really no need to be worried about the amount of talent one has. We shouldn't be concerned with how big the raw diamond is. There is nothing to be gained by feeling depressed over a lesser stone. We should only consider how well we can polish the gem we have; and we should only feel discouraged if we fail to polish it sufficiently.

I always smile a little when I hear people rationalizing the absence of quality in their work by saying, "But you see, I don't have as much talent as so-and-so!" I don't pretend to know exactly what talent is, and maybe some do lack it completely—but I do know that the phrase *lack of talent* is often used as an excuse for a lack of polishing.

Whether we have talent and how much is something for others to worry about. Let's ban that fear forever, and let's also stop

using the amount of talent we imagine ourselves to have as an excuse. These things are senseless and will never bring us any closer to our goals.

FEELING RIGHT One of the best ways I know of to polish the talent one has is to use it as much as possible. In other words, practice and perform magic as much as you can. In doing so, you will come to see and feel almost automatically how you should do things; you will *sense-when* it is right. The more magic you perform, the more experience you gain and the more your sense for "what is right for you" can be developed. This sense can become so sharp that, after a time, you will even be able to tell when something is right just by *imagining* yourself doing it. And you will certainly be able to tell when it is right by actually trying it.

Let's say that you want to work out a new effect, and at home you try various moves and sequences. You do it this way, you do it that way; and suddenly you feel that a particular way is, well—just right. This feeling that something *is just right for you is*, in my opinion, the primary basis for making decisions, and should never be ignored. Many great performers make decisions about their work solely on what they sense is right for them. They can't explain exactly why they do the things they do in a particular way—but it just feels *right*.

This "right feeling" is a much better, much more secure basis for deciding these things than any theoretical analysis can ever be. Of course, the amount of "feeling" you have will depend on how much natural talent you possess and how thoroughly this sense has been developed. If the sense is very small, then "feeling right" might be a shaky, possibly even a probably better to forsake the performance of magic. Before you can hope that intuition will lead you to correct decisions, it is first necessary to develop it as much as you can. The intuition, the feeling, must be developed by intensive practice and performance. If you fail to

achieve this development, basing decisions on intuition will be an incorrect approach. One can't base decisions on a sense one does not yet possess.

To place intuition above hard analysis is not a very scientific approach. It's probably not even scientifically defensible; but can our theoretical analysis be scientific? For a theory to be scientifically valid it must be complete and all encompassing.. Is magic theory today this complete? And even *if* someday we do understand magic so thoroughly and precisely that the extant body of theory does encompass all aspects of magical performance, won't that theory be too large and cumbersome to be workable? At any rate, our theoretical understanding of magic today is still limited, and is easily overshadowed by even a moderate amount of intuition or talent. And intuition and talent certainly work a lot faster!

WHY THEORY

If all the above is true—and I believe it is—then the question must be asked, What is the use of theory? Shouldn't we just forget it and develop our intuition, then just do what feels right? I don't think so; for by doing that we would be discarding an invaluable tool!

You see, after your intuition tells you what to do, theory can become a great aid. Once you have decided that something feels particularly right, thought guided by theory can give you important insight concerning your decision. Understanding why something feels good can lead you to more precise or effective utilization of that insight. Intuition is, after all, an obscure, subconscious process that doesn't offer clear reasons for its decisions. Only through theoretical analysis can we refine, improve and broaden those hazy lessons that intuition presents to us.

Intuition is a great step toward accomplishing good magic, but intuition alone is unlikely to achieve the full potential of the ideas it generates. That is the job of theo-

retical analysis. However, if theoretical thinking is applied without that first intuitive leap the result can be pure rubbish. It is far too easy to use theory to twist a completely misshapen assumption into something that gives the appearance of being straight. You can do this without ever being aware of it. But all the theoretical patches in the world won't

stop a rotten foundation from crumbling when a ramshackle structure is set before an audience. I believe this misuse of theory is possible because our theories are incomplete. We still have so much to learn, and it is highly unlikely that we will ever understand it all.

The main function of theory, then, is to solidify and refine the fruits of our

intuition. That is its real purpose. Once we have, through theoretical analysis, made the vague feelings of intuition concrete concepts, it is much easier to determine if and how the teachings of our feelings can be improved and better applied.

Intuition first; theory and analysis second. This progression is essential!

A message from our President.

This is your club. Please tell someone, on the board if you are bored or if you like what's happening.

Last month S.U.D.S. showed us some of the latest and greatest and also how to entertain with no props at all. This coming month will only be worth attending if you like to see good timing, misdirection and effects.



Just a short time ago I was wandering the halls of the Castle (or as I like to call it The Big House) and came upon Danny Magic entertaining guests in the museum. Time after time he reached in his pocket and produced a previously selected card. Time and time again the audience roared. You could hear it all the way upstairs.

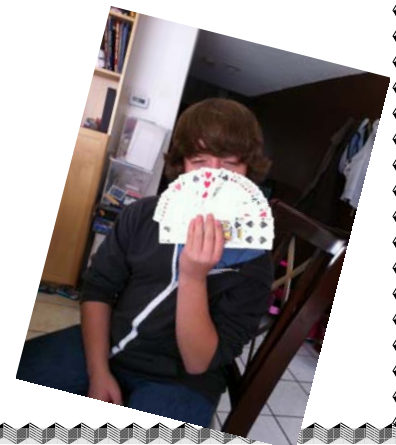
So, while no one can promise they can teach you timing it helps if you can learn by watching someone who already has it. That's it. Be at the meeting and maybe learn something or sit at home and watch an old magic special but remember if it's One Night Only and you can watch the special any time you want... then...the unadvertised special is more special than the advertised special.

Jay Leslie, 714.847.5311 jleslie@hbquik.com



Who is that Magician Member??

Attention Readers! Who is this mysterious misfit who dares hide behind a flourish of cards? A master at his craft, he is. He has won many awards in his day. He is as dedicated to magic as a mouse is to cheese. Go on, guess, I say. Email ring313.editor@gmail.com with your thoughts on the matter and stay tuned for the next edition to see if your choice is correct. He, of honorable mention shall be featured in our next issue of the newsletter. Same bat time. Same bat channel.



Please send any submissions

to: Ring313.editor@gmail.com

Legerdemain Digest

News Letter Editor



HELP NEEDED! Volunteers are needed to help with Magic Day at the OC Fair on Saturday, July 30, 2011. Free Admission & Parking the whole day for 3 hours of labor (um, I mean labor of love). We need magicians to help promote IBM Ring 313 as well as OCMC by working the magic booth from 12 - 3. Contact ring313.editor@gmail.com

Magic Calendar

Regular meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District building, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine. Directions and a map are available at www.Ring313.org.

Tuesday, April 26, 2011	7PM	Ring 313 Gen Mtg — Irv Water District Lecture by Danny Magic
Tuesday, May 10, 2011	7PM	Ring 313 LITE Mtg—Knowlwood's Restaurant, Irvine
Saturday, May 14, 2011	2PM	Ring 313 Junior's Mtg—@Annie's and Kent's
Tuesday, May 31, 2011	7PM	Ring 313 Gen Mtg — Irv Water District - Lecture
Coming in June	TBA	<i>Annual Ring 313 Picnic</i>

**If you would like to host the picnic, contact Jay Leslie!*

Your Ring 313 Officers and Board Members

Jay Leslie -President-(714) 847-5311; **Kent Kwan** - Vice President (714) 966-1652; **Philip Henderson**-Secretary (949) 322-4329 ; **Chris Wyncoop**- Treasurer (949)929-0829; **Jim Greene**- Sergeant at Arms (714) 318-2309; **Todd Reis** - Member at Large (714) 673-7320 ; **John Fedko** (714) 538-6044; and Kevin Brown (949) 347-0305 **Annie Young**- Juniors and Newsletter Co-Editor (714) 966-1652; and **Diane Tamura** Newsletter Co-Editor (714)337-0206; **Don Hill**-Webmaster (714) 345-1114; **Michael Van Horn**—Raffle Coordinator (714) 965-0101, **Catherine Fedko** - Librarian (714) 538-6044