



the charles howard ring

# VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS RING 92

affiliated with the  
PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF MAGICIANS

## Christmas was Cancelled!

Well, bah humbug. While it was a Winter Wonderland in Vancouver on November 26th, 2006 – we were not rejoicing! The huge storm dumped the white stuff all over our roads and most of us just stood and stared at it with a faint recollection of what this frozen stuff was. Yep – snow, and lots of it.

Due to the safety of our members and not wanting them to drive in these horrible and dangerous conditions we postponed our Annual Party to the following Thursday. Our phone team sprang into action like good little elves and contacted all members with the update.

What's that? Another storm for Thursday?! Oh, it won't be that bad. Sigh. Due to another storm we had to give in to Mother Nature and for the first time we can remember we had to cancel

Christmas here in Vancouver.

So instead we are celebrating it in January! (Unless it snows again) so come on out on January 25th at the Sunrise Community Hall and bring some food! We are doing a pot-luck style post-holiday party to make up for the cancellation. Please bring easy to make or ready to eat food (like salads, buns, meat and cheese, snakes, desserts, dips, pop, etc) and contact Walter Ruteck if you need further information. You do not HAVE to bring food, but if you don't you will need to purchase the 50/50 tickets, or Dennis will get after you!

We will also have our Elections of Officers so please submit any nominations to Munro MacKenzie for consideration. Since we missed out on the competitions in December we will be holding the

William Shelly and Percy Poole Trophy competition for stage magic at the January meeting. Please contact Walter Ruteck to register for this. We will be postponing the Initiation of new members for 2007 until a later date, as this event was moved to January. A fun filled evening not to be missed! Come one, come all!

### Media Magic: Many Vancouver Magic Circle Members in the news!

We have to comment on how amazing it is on the sheer number of Ring 92 members that have been in the press, both local and high profile appearances: Tony Eng has been on the cover of the Linking Ring, as well as Murray Sawchuk – wow! Michael Glenister had a routine published in TLR and Rod Chow was highlighted in M.U.M. Justin Gilbert is working on the Criss Angel show (with Vancouver based mentalist Andrew Gerard) and Jamie Grant was in MAGIC with his 'Ripley's Believe it or Not' contest entry. MAGIC also featured Stan Kramien last year, as well as Shawn Farquhar being mentioned everywhere after his TWO Silver medals at FISM. Trevor Watters was on the front page of a local rag, and Reg Donnelly was spotted (with Paul Romhany) on Hocus-Pocus.com with a new trick.

MYI members from Victoria have graced the pages of TLR Youth Forum and Murray Hatfield (not a member... bug him) has made an appearance in a number of papers across Canada. Way to go everyone! If you or someone you know is in the news, let us know!

### Competition, Prizes, Awards, and Comedy to be featured at the Installation Banquet

The Installation Banquet will be held on February 16, 2007 at the Sands Hotel and starts at 6pm. Tickets are \$20 and kids are \$12. Dinner, of course, is included.

Call David Wilson for tickets at 604-467-7887 or better yet email us at tickets@ibmring92.com

The evening will be Comedy Night and will host the competitions for the Rick Honey and Cecil Ackery Trophies – please contact Walter Ruteck to compete.

Since we missed out on our Christmas dinner we expect this event to sell out fast. Our President has a slew of awards to give out, and all the donations of prizes

(totaling over \$1500!) will be given out this evening as well. Everyone is going to get a trick worth \$10 so



how can you go wrong?! Call now and we will throw in a FREE Celine Dion CD! (yes, we are kidding)



V.M.C. EXECUTIVE

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# VEGAS REVIEW: Thomas and Burton (the other one)

Since Mike is going to use his President's Report for some sappy crap – here is a continued review of the Las Vegas shows: Last month was Lance and Mac King (who will be at Kramien's this year – register NOW!)

This month we will look at Nathan Burton and Rick Thomas. Nathan was at the Aladdin Hotel but may be relocating soon. It was a nice little theatre where all the sight lines are good, but it is not stadium seating and the chairs are not terribly comfy.

I met Nathan before the show to have a chat and he is a very nice fellow. And no, he is NOT related to Lance Burton in case you were wondering. Nathan was a hit on the recent *America's Got Talent* TV show and this has boosted his career in a huge way.

His show is all original made props using some old techniques – with a new and modern twist. It played very well and kept the audience involved and interested. The hot female

assistants always helps (for me anyway). His show was very well themed, and was the perfect length. After the show he was available for pictures and autographs. I was impressed and I hope he gets a better theatre and bigger show down the road. 2 For 1 tickets were only \$30 for an afternoon show – you can't go wrong!

Rick Thomas was appearing at the Stardust Hotel, which was being demolished in December. We caught his LAST show. Another afternoon performance, but in the style of a full evening gala show! Not what you expect – but in a good way. The tigers and animals he uses are amazing and his disappearance and reappearance are quick and impressive. I felt his style of posturing was a little over acting

(and smarmy as my wife calls it) but over all it was amazing magic for another decent price. Just not a show I would go see twice, that's all.

Next month we take a look at Penn & Teller – and you will be surprised on what we have to say!



President Mike Norden and Nathan Burton become the meat in a Las Vegas Showgirl sandwich! Looks at those happy faces...

## President's Perspective



Well, this will be my "Rear End Review" folks... oops – Year End!

I can't believe 2006 has flown by. It has been a pleasure being your President and I am truly in awe of this club. Without the help of a great Executive and members I would have no clue what to do (hope it wasn't too obvious.) I truly want to say thank you to some people:

To Clinton for all your hard work with the newsletter and the Children's show – and your unique perspectives and opinions. We value them... even if they are wrong.

To Karen for being a secretary extraordinaire! Our minutes have never been faster – too fast as most people forgot they got them....

To Dave Watters for putting the fun back into the picnic and hosting and many parties and basically keeping the magic bug alive in all of us.

To Munro for his dedication. We should all strive for this.

To David Wilson for being more dedicated than Munro. And for being the man behind the curtain – Bravo my friend.

To Dennis Chan. Goodbye 'Bull Dog' – hello Mr. Librarian. Thank you for taking this over and for your service as Sergeant-at-Arms for years past.

To Walter for his inspiration. We hope you will help us organize things again this year.

And to all the rest who have taught me about this club, the community of magic, and shared their time with me and all our members. You are truly a great group of people who I am proud to be President of.

Ok – stop crying already! So do you want to do it all again? I am willing for 2007 if you will have me! See you at the meeting!

# A Letter From Alain Nu

Dear Vancouver Magic Circle,

I'm excited to come to your city to lecture (and just have a great time hanging out with you all).

Thanks goes out to my great friend Lee Asher. Without his taunting me, I might not have ever lectured again -- not because I do not enjoy it, mind you.

It's really just time-consuming to prepare a lecture, and my life after "The Mysterious World of Alain Nu" aired on TLC has been, to say the least, challenging to keep well-balanced.

Nevertheless, I have decided to make the best of doing this lecture on many of my own collected works and philosophies of performance for Lee Asher's X-ellent Lecture Series.

In fact, it's been a great while since I've been on the lecture scene. I've decided to make it a collection of both old and new material—snippets of the thoughts that create my personal paradigm for performance.

My aim will also be to show you a variety of styles--impromptu, close up, stand-up, as well as combinations of the three. I think you will find my material to be refreshing in many different ways. In my opinion, it's the stuff that made the Discovery television network look in my direction for my specials.

Effects at my lecture include several mentalism premises with ordinary or found objects, my thoughts on the card at any number concept, metal bending, zodiac divinations, and some cool over the phone effects that you will go home and use. We will also speak about some surprise elements and unconventional ideas and thoughts for those who like more of a variety mixed in to their mystery making.

The thrust of my program will cover the "graceful art" of creating mystery in today's society; effects that focus on maximum impact with a minimum of props and in any performing condition. We will discuss concepts that will challenge your mystery-making chops on all levels, from mental to technical to philosophical to artistic - and others just for the hell of it.

I believe everyone gets something out of coming to hear what I have to say, most of which, I hope, will be a further appreciation and respect for what professionals do.

Finally, because I know many of you are wondering, I do plan on selling some merchandise, including two sets of notes which are still in the process of being written.

This is material that I am not planning to distribute en masse--I am funny like that.

I'm trying to gather as much as I can at this point, so wish me luck. Otherwise,

I'm really looking forward to contributing to the endless discussion!

Hope you can make it to my lecture in February!

My best,

*Alain Nu*

## Alain Nu Mystery and Mentalism

*Alain Nu, star of Discovery/TLC's "The Mysterious World of Alain Nu" now performs a non-stop schedule of shows for colleges, theatres, and businesses all over the world. He is taking time out of his hectic schedule to teach his material on the Xellent Series Lecture Circuit. Most of the effects taught at Alain's lecture focus on creating genuine feelings of mysterious paradigms through which mentalism concepts take shape. This is one lecture you won't want to miss because many of Alain's professional secrets will be revealed to you.*

### Effects you'll learn at **ALAIN NU**'s lecture include:

- Several routines involving ordinary found objects based on mentalism premises.
- A demonstration/discussion on bending metal (One of Alain's signature effects.)
- Alain's version of the "any card to any number called" solution.
- Thoughts regarding the divination of zodiac signs, and how to perform it.
- Some very cool over-the-telephone mentalism effects you will go home and use.
- Even some hardcore chops, surprise elements, and unconventional opinions.

*Alain's innovative abilities to construct dynamic mental effects allows for each of his pieces to leave the impression of something truly extraordinary happening. Alain will teach many of these and describe them in full detail along with the techniques, subtleties, and motivations that Alain uses to turn simple ideas and premises into mind-blowing presentations. There is something for any student of magic in this lecture. Whether a total beginner, a practicing technician, or a real-world performer, you will come away having learned a good many concepts, ideas and inspirations as well as a few very clever tricks!*



*Pay in advance with Credit Card on the website payments page to get the advance rate!*

**For more information visit  
[www.JustSayNu.com](http://www.JustSayNu.com)**

**Friday, February 9, 2007 - 7:30pm  
 Douglas College, Room 2203**

Advance - \$25 / \$20 for members  
 At Door - \$30 / \$25 for members

THE LYNNWOOD MAGIC CLUB PRESENTS  
**SMOKE AND MIRRORS**  
AN EVENING OF MAGIC & MYSTERY



FEATURING  
THE TALENTS OF

**BRUCE MEYERS**

**PHILEMON VANDERBECK**

**MASTER PAYNE**

**RICH WATERS**

**TELEMUS**

**STERLING DIETZ**

**Brian Cook**

AND OUR MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**STEVE HAMILTON**

**7:00 P.M. SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3RD**  
**HISTORIC EVERETT THEATRE 2911 COLBY AVE.**  
**ADULTS \$15. CHILDREN \$12.**

**FOR TICKETS OR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT OUR BOX OFFICE 425-258-6766**  
**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE BURNED CHILDREN RECOVERY FOUNDATION**

# David Malek Lecture

Reviewed by Mike Norden

David Malek came to town to present a lecture in November. A great size crowd of 24 members and 3 guests were there to watch and learn. This was



David Malek receives his Maple Leaf cookies from President Mike Norden

another lecture provided by Lee Asher's Xcellent Lecture Series and we were looking forward to a good show. David is a very personable and likable guy and showed that right from the get go. He gave a brief introduction and then jumped right into showing off - and I mean that in a good way! He performed some clever sleight of hand and did two routines that were impressive but beyond our mortal abilities, or so we thought. He took the time to explain the workings, but I still think most of us were puzzled and in awe.

At the intermission we approached him and asked him if he could interject some more of the *acting* aspect he was promoted for. Well, he did a 180 on the lecture and wowed the crowd with some

stories, tricks, patter and character suggestions that many found quite useful. What was really impressive was his ability to read the crowd and change his lecture to suit the atmosphere. Our members left entertained and satisfied. David Malek and about 8 members then went to a local restaurant and closed the place down while swapping stories and sharing tricks. A great lecture indeed!

## WEB CORNER

Mike Norden

Hello web heads. With the Christmas season being a busy one, I have not updated the site with anything new of late. We always keep the home page, events and lectures up to date so check it regularly for what is happening in our club and around town!

Last month I put in an offer of \$100 in gift certificates for the best impromptu trick. A whole one person responded — thanks Munro. There are many people who go to the effort to make this newsletter happen each month and sometimes I wonder if anyone reads it.. It takes Clinton about 20 hours of work to produce it and David many hours to label, fold, stamp and send it. Not to mention the writing and editing we all do.

Now to offer \$100 and get one response has me wondering if we should just create an online version and not incur the two thousand dollars a year it costs to produce and mail out a printed version. So here is my new 'contest' — email me with the subject "I READ THE NEWSLETTER" for a chance to win a gift certificate, and based on that response we will determine if we print the newsletter or email it out to all. So get to your computers and make your voice known!

A last web thing — check out [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) for some time consuming fun. Type in some of our members names like Shawn Farquhar, Murray, or Rick Mearns?! There are a lot of magic clips on this site and you can spend hours... and hours... and yes dear, I am coming to bed... and hours...

Mike Norden is Ring 92's webmaster.  
Contact him at [mike.norden@ibmring92.com](mailto:mike.norden@ibmring92.com)

WWW.IBMRING92.COM

**Our ROSTER BOOK is being updated.**  
**Your dues must be paid by the**  
**February 28th deadline or your name**  
**will NOT appear in the book. Please send**  
**your cheque to David Wilson, ASAP.**

## SPONSORSPOTLIGHT

ELLUSIONIST.COM - WWW.ELLUSIONIST.COM

One of our most generous sponsors is also one of our newest!

Ellusionist.com has been known in the past as a 'David Blaine' site for wannabe magicians. This is not true anymore, if it ever was. They produce original material with custom decks and props that you will not find anywhere else.

They have amazing deals and once you buy a trick you can log online to a chat forum to discuss the trick with other members who have bought it. Very cool! They offer an

unheard of Money Back Guarantee so you will not be unsatisfied, a free newsletter, download videos and a very secure site for your shopping experience.



ELLUSIONIST®  
MAGIC BEYOND BELIEF

We have to give these guys our gratitude — well done and we hope you will all visit their site and show our appreciation on their donations to our club. Did we mention everyone who comes to the February meeting will get a Tiger, Ghost, or Master Edition deck of cards! Thank you *Ellusionist.com*!

# TIDBITS FROM THE TOP HAT

## CONJURORS' CALENDAR

Murray Hatfield rolled his magic show into town and many members were seen checking out the show in Surrey, New West, Burnaby, Vancouver and Abbotsford.

Another spectacular show featuring the talents of Nels Cremean, Danny Alan, Tom Burgoon and of course Murray and Teresa. This tour is a highlight for the magic world in Canada and raises much needed funds for the Firefighter and the burn patients. If you did not get a chance to see it this year, make sure you mark it on your calendar for next year!

Shawn Farquhar is back cruising. From January 9 through April he will be cruising the Mexican Riviera on the Norwegian Star. At the beginning of May he will jump ship and head over to Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines working with them for two months. In July, it's off to the Australian Society of Magicians Centenary, a celebration embracing over 100 years of magic in Australia and New Zealand. In August it's back to NCL, this time on the Jewel, and he'll finish out 2007 where he started, back on the Norwegian Star cruising the Mexican Riviera.

Bowl For Big Brothers campaign has started- we are looking for a few good men and women to join! Please email Mike Norden for more information. If you would like to donate, go to our website, [www.ibmring92.com](http://www.ibmring92.com) and click on the link. Tax receipts are given for donations over \$10. Last year the club raised over \$1200 and we were the top group the night we bowled! We want to do even better this year! Please help us out!

Our Member Spotlight is Zany Zack this month (last month was Clinton W. Gray, but nobody cared...) Check him out in the members section of the website.

Yeeri has a dilemma. His new house is too small for all his illusions. This is good news for someone who's looking to add a stage illusion to his or her act. He has a **Sword Box** and **Treasure Chest** illusion (audience participation piece) with cool swords included. You can get BOTH of them for only \$450 (which is less than the cost of the building materials). If you are interested contact Yeeri at 604-306-6229

With a showman's flair, a comedian's wit and capacities that only a bona fide mentalist can possess and profess, (yeah right...) the Amazing Kreskin has, for over four decades, dramatized the unique facets of the human mind. By many, he is considered the Nostradamus of the 21st century. And now he's coming to British Columbia. Catch him in one of several cities throughout the province, including Fort St. John... so we know he has reached the pinnacle of his career. Dates are listed in the Conjuror's Calendar.



Lorena and Trevor play with a baby lion at the annual Farquhar New Year's Eve party

### the monthly guide to magic & events in our community

#### January 18 - 21, 2007

The Centre for Performing Arts hosts **DAVID COPPERFIELD - GRAND ILLUSION** See the legend. Call Ticketmaster for tickets!

#### Thursday, January 25, 2007 - 7pm

IBM Ring #92 The Vancouver Magic Circle **JANUARY MEETING**  
Election of Officers and Stage Competition

#### JANUARY 27/28, 2007

**THE NIAGRA COMEDY MAGIC SEMINAR**  
Starring Bob Sheets, John Ferrentino and David Merry Niagra Falls, Ontario  
Visit website: [ComedyMagicSeminar.com](http://ComedyMagicSeminar.com)

#### Saturday, February 3, 2007 - 7:00 pm

The Lynwood Ring presents **SMOKE & MIRRORS**  
Historic Everett Theatre, 2911 Colby Avenue  
Please see the poster in this issue and the website for more details.

#### Friday, February 9, 2007 - 7:30pm

IBM Ring # 92 presents **MAGIC LECTURE BY ALAIN NU**  
Douglas College - Room 2203  
Advance - \$25 / \$20 for members  
At Door - \$30 / \$25 for members  
You must pay in advance with Credit Card on the website Payments page to get advance rate!

#### Friday, February 16, 2007

IBM Ring #92 The Vancouver Magic Circle **INSTALLATION BANQUET AT THE SANDS**  
Comedy Night - come out for a laugh!  
The Cecil Ackery Comedy Trophy (Adult)  
The Rick Honey Comedy Trophy (Jr)

#### February - Multiple dates

BC Touring Council presents **THE AMAZING KRESKIN**  
Details at [www.amazingkreskin.com](http://www.amazingkreskin.com)

Feb 17 - Act Theatre, Maple Ridge  
Feb 18 - Performing Arts Center, Vernon  
Feb 20 - Fort St. John, venue TBA  
Feb 21 - Vanier Hall, Prince George  
Feb 24 - Civic Center, Port Hardy

#### Thursday, March 22, 2007 - 6:30pm

IBM Ring #92 The Vancouver Magic Circle **MARCH MEETING - PAST PRESIDENTS NIGHT AND ONE TRICK CARD NIGHT!**

#### April 27/28, 2007

Stan Kramien's **20TH ANNUAL NW MAGIC JAMBOREE!**  
Annual magic get-together in Newberg, Oregon.

#### Sunday, June 10th, 2007 - 1pm

IBM Ring #92 The Vancouver Magic Circle's **MAGIC FOR YOUNGSTERS SHOW!**  
Children's Magician of the Year competition for the Wilf Rutherford Trophy. Held at the Shadbolt Theatre in Burnaby.