



the charles howard ring

# VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS RING 92

Affiliated with the  
PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF MAGICIANS

## November General Meeting—Sun Nov 22nd Annual Christmas Dinner

The next meeting of IBM RING #92, The VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE, takes place on Sunday November 22nd, 2009 at the Best Western Sands Hotel in Vancouver (1755 Davie Street). Doors open at 5:00 for socializing and the dinner will start at 6:15. A wonderful Christmas Dinner will be supplied by The Sands Hotel at a cost of \$25.00 per person (\$12.50 for 12 and under).

If you intend to attend, you must contact Gord Boyes or Karen Eskilson and register in advance.

Dinner will be followed by our annual stage magic competition for the W.C. Shelly (adult) and Percy Poole (junior) trophies. These trophies are awarded in recognition of excellence in stage magic. The effect or routine must be visible for a large audience.

Close up effects are not permitted. The spirit of this competition is to encourage growth in the fields of assembly, banquet, club, review and cruise ship style magic. If you would like to enter the competition, please contact our Competition Chairman Neil Kremer at least 24 hours in advance.



## Membership dues

It's getting close to that time of year again. Membership dues cover the period from January 1st to December 31st each year, so it's time to renew, unless you're one of the smart ones who pays for more than one year at a time and your time isn't up. Because we understand that it can be tough to put



money into membership dues during the holiday season, the deadline for dues is extended until the end of February, but why not bring a cheque to the next meeting and get it out of the way?

Remember, there's a discounted price for a 3 year membership.

## The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:  
November 2009

## Who will the 2010 Executive be?

At our January meeting we'll be accepting nominations for positions on the VMC Executive. You can also nominate people in advance by contacting our Nomination Chairman Munro MacKenzie.

Positions with multiple nominations will be decided by a vote of the general membership at our January meeting.

Positions to be filled include President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sgt. At Arms.

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**PRESIDENT**  
Gord Boyes  
(604) 852-7361  
gord.boyes@ibmring92.com

**1st VICE PRESIDENT**  
Bruce Hunt  
(604) 591-9353  
Bruce.Hunt@ibmring92.com

**2nd VICE PRESIDENT**  
Neil Kremer  
(604) 288-2596  
Neil.Kremer @ibmring92.com

**SECRETARY**  
Karen Eskilson  
(604) 255-9946  
karen.eskilson@ibmring92.com

**TREASURER**  
David Wilson  
(604) 467-7887  
david.wilson@ibmring92.com

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**  
Denzil Bee  
(604) 254-1271  
denzil.bee@ibmring92.com

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Mike Norden  
(604) 916-9879  
mike.norden@ibmring92.com

**MAGICAL MINUTES EDITOR**  
Gord Boyes  
(604) 852-7361  
gord.boyes@ibmring92.com

**Why compare yourself  
with others? No one in  
the entire world can do  
a better job of being  
you than you.**

## October in Review

Submitted by Munro Mackenzie

Our October meeting is actually our Halloween meeting-costumes and all. The workshop, if you can call it that, was conducted by Shawn Farquhar, just back from Beijing where he had won The World Championship for the second time. Anytime Shawn speaks we all listen as he has had such a world wide experience in all phases of magic that to miss anything is to miss a lot.

Shawn Farquhar



During the business meeting we were introduced to 7 guests, 41 members also attended. The costume parade consisted of 8 goulishly attired members and it was a frightening treat. A far cry from when I was the only costumed member dressed as a pumpkin.



*(Continued on page 3)*

Thanks to John Smithman and Rod Chow, we have some pictures to share. If you take pictures at any meetings or events, be sure to send them to us! (and check out <http://www.champions.ca/vmc.html>)

## October in Review, con't

The competition was for the Tip Top & Tootsie Trophy in recognition of excellence in Halloween themed magic.

Billy Hsueh



First was Billy Hsueh with a torn corner of a card routine, followed by Alex Seaman with an excellent card effect:

Alex Seaman



thirdly was Neil Kremer with an imaginative chalice levitation; followed by Henry Tom with his Acme Dental Package dealing with dental pain (it helps if you are a real life dentist); then Bruce Hunt with help of Jesse Boyes as a mad doctor; then Jack Chow needed 4 volunteers to assist him. He was followed by his Dad, Rod Chow, who needed 3 volunteers to solve the Curse of Evil, and

Neil Kremer



finally Brianna Carlson did a torn card found in a pumpkin of your choice.

Brianna Carlson



The winner was Henry Tom with Rod Chow as runner-up. Interestingly enough, of the 7 competitors, 4 of them were our juniors pushing them.

The 50/50 draw of \$64,50 was won by Ed.Goldberg.

Our delightful Halloween tasty bit break

Rod Chow

Dennis Hewson



Bruce Hunt



Jack Chow



was prepared by Nancy Bailey, a fairly new member. Thanks Nancy.

Henry Tom

Gord Boyes



## November Lecture Review

Submitted by David Parker

Hey, this guy doesn't look like Curtis Kam, and where are his coins? He looks more like Michael Weber, whose work can be seen on *Forrest Gump*, *Ocean's 13*, *The Prestige* and *The Illusionist*.

"I will explain, rather than teach", Michael explained to the 46 members and 16 non-members that braved the rainy

weather to venture out to Douglas College on Friday November 6th so see a lecture that would focus on philosophy and technical underpinning, or as Michael would say during his lecture, "It's a lecture. We're gonna teach it in 2 minutes, so what's the big deal".

For his first trick, he had a spectator select a card and shuffle it back into the deck, and he would find it. He explained that these kind of "impossible location" tricks were good for magician's, but not necessarily lay people who would prefer to be fooled by a good double-lift.

He then did an entertaining ring on and off a stick trick using only ONE borrowed ring. Due to travel restrictions he used an expanding pointer as his stick, but explained that a plain wooden stick is the best thing to use, and that one should not use a magic wand as their magical powers might be used to explain how the trick was done.

He prefaced his Linking and Unlinking Rubber Bands trick with a disappearing rubber band routine which totally fooled me, and I was really impressed when he explained how it was done. Something new for me to try, but I will have to buy his

Lifesavers book for a detailed explanation as he went over the kazillion steps very quickly during the lecture.

This was followed by another impossible location trick utilizing poker and bridge themes.

Having spent well over one year memorizing a stacked deck, I was quite interested when he stated that he had a stacked memorized deck that took longer to explain, than it did to memorize. And you know what? He was right.

Another great comment to an audience member - "You can be smart, but you have to be completely smart".



Michael Weber

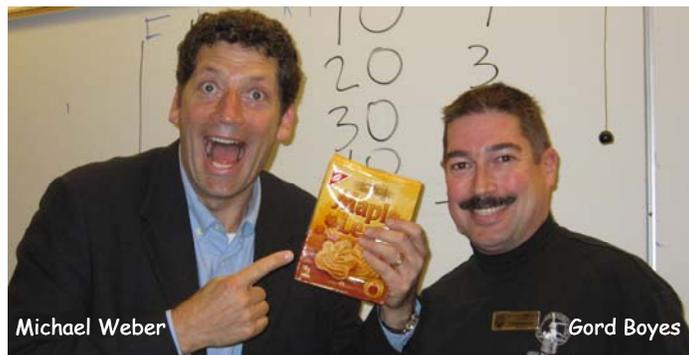
He had several sets of small lecture notes available for sale during the break, but you could only purchase them under the condition that you did not open them up, until after the lecture, and of course some people did not quite follow his directions and were chided for it.

Jeff Christensen was the lucky winner of \$20 randomly drawn from a list of all those members who pre-registered for the lecture.

And of course, it wouldn't be a lecture without the presentation of fantastic gifts; the pen, (Steve did a great flipstick move when presented with it), the garment bag (beautifully modeled by Gord Boyes), and the Maple Leaf cookies.

He talked about "indirection" - he said that it is not a real word (although it is), but to him it means that the spectator is so caught up in the moment that they are not able to dissect the trick. It is like using a tunnel to get where he is going while the spectator is trying to figure out which bridge he will build.

He called up Gord Boyes using the phrase, "the man who gives



Michael Weber

Gord Boyes

me cookies" to do his Lucky Numbers trick which uses a great prop for utilizing a forcing matrix. Then a self working card trick where the spectator "center deals" a good poker hand to himself, only to get beaten by the Magician's hand. And then another card trick that can be done using a photocopier, scanner, or fax machine.

To end the evening, Michael performed his design duplication trick he calls Back to the Drawing Boards. Three spectators draw pictures on three different large pieces of cardboard (especially selected from a dumpster at the airport by Michael). A fourth spectator selects one of the three pictures and concentrates on this. All this is done while Michael's back was turned. He was able to draw an almost identical picture to the one that was selected.

Up until tonight Michael had performed for two Presidents, but after bringing Gord Boyes up as a spectator, he can now increase that number to three.

# 2010 Lecture Update

submitted by Lee Asher

On November 6th we had our final X-ellent Lecture Series speaker of 2009 (Michael Weber), and in February 2010, we will embark on a brand new season. It's going to be our seventh year, and I'm extremely proud of everyone who continually supports this circuit.

Almost seven years ago, when we started, only three cities participated. Now we're seven cities strong, including most of western Canada and the Pacific Northwest.



X-ellent Lecture Series earns a place among some of the most desired regions to lecture in the world, and rightfully so. We have something 'x-tra special' in our neighborhood. It's ours, we've worked hard, and it clearly shows.

Again, thank you all for helping to make X-ellent Lecture Series the success that it is.

In my opinion, this past season had something for everyone.



Kimlat exuding dexterity. It would have been nice to see Curtis Kam, but personal matters took him away from us. Things happens. Maybe we will



Highlights included Gertner exemplifying class, Levent disseminating history, and



see Curtis some other time in the future?

In his place, we had the great Michael Weber. If you knew of his legendary reputation, or had never heard of Michael Weber before - either way, you were in for a genuine experience like no other!

Now for the announcement you've been patiently waiting for? seventh season's lineup. These next five lectures are superb. All dates are booked, so these are confirmed.

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 - Rafael Benatar (Suave Secrets from Spain Card magic for all levels)

Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 - David Williamson (That's right! Who knows what he'll do?)

Jun 11<sup>th</sup> 2010 - Keith Fields (Alien of extraordinary ability) Busking Magic

Sep 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 - Tom Noddy (Extraordinary Bubble Magic)

Nov 2010 - Richard Sanders (Commercial magic with a visual flare)

Season seven... here we come!

Rafael Benatar is a professional performer and lecturer who was born in Caracas and now lives in Spain, where he is one of the most active members of the renowned Escuela Magica de Madrid.

Rafael performs at corporate events, banquets, trade shows, theaters and other venues and is one of the few who performs at all three rooms of The Magic Castle. He has also lectured extensively, in five languages, for magicians of many countries.

Rafael is one of Spain's foremost magic writers. His works include a book on magic with unprepared cards, as well as several booklets and a number of articles on the theory of magic. He has also prepared the Spanish editions of many classics of magic such as the Corinda and Kaplan books and is a contributor to several major magazines. He also translated Juan Tamariz's best-selling Mnemonica and the Ascanio trilogy into English.

Rafael Benatar is a recipient of The Linking Ring Parade of the Year award from the IBM. His three video tapes, later released as DVDs, received rave reviews. His Cups and Balls routine is considered one of the most elegant, direct and practical of all Cups and Balls routines.



February 5th, 2010

## Tidbits

### Genie of the Lamp

VMC member Jeff Christensen will be performing in 14 shows as the magical Genie of the Lamp in The Gilbert & Sullivan Society's Pantomime version of ALADDIN. In addition to his lead role Jeff will also share the stage in Act 1 with his daughter Hannah as villagers in the chorus and jr. Dance ensemble.

The show will run from November 25 to December 6th at the Surrey Arts Centre Main Stage Theatre. Never before produced in North America, this new UK version of the traditional story of Aladdin and the Magic Lamp will be told with all the pantomime trimmings! The Widow Twankey wonders what will become of her two sons as they try to run her travel service. Aladdin falls for the beautiful princess and, with the help of The Genie of the Magic Lamp, overcomes some incredible obstacles to win his heart's desire. Join in the fun of this Christmas tradition; boo the villains, cheer the heroes and wonder at the fabulous spectacle of Aladdin!

Tickets are now on sale! Special prices for Cubs, Brownies, Guides & Scouts. Go to [Click Here](http://www.fvgss.org/Aladdin%20Brochure.pdf) for details ([http://www.fvgss.org/Aladdin Brochure.pdf](http://www.fvgss.org/Aladdin%20Brochure.pdf)) or regular priced tickets can be purchased by calling the Surrey Arts Centre at 604 - 501 - 5566.

Hannah would love to see you at the show!!

### On Tour

VMC member Dave Womach (David DaVinci) is going on tour with Ringling for 2 years!

Tour dates can be found online at <http://www.ringling.com/TopLanding.aspx?id=35906> and include:

West Palm Beach, Florida Dec 23, 2009 - Dec 28, 2009

Sarasota, Florida Dec 31, 2009 - Jan 03, 2010

Fort Myers, Florida Jan 07, 2010 - Jan 10, 2010

Lakeland, Florida Jan 15, 2010 - Jan 17, 2010

Savannah, Georgia Jan 21, 2010 - Jan 24, 2010

Tallahassee, Florida Jan 28, 2010 - Jan 31, 2010

Macon, Georgia Feb 05, 2010 - Feb 07, 2010

Shelbyville, Tennessee Feb 11, 2010 - Feb 14, 2010

Fayetteville, North Carolina Feb 25, 2010 - Feb 28, 2010

Knoxville, Tennessee Mar 03, 2010 - Mar 07, 2010

Chattanooga, Tennessee Mar 11, 2010 - Mar 14, 2010

Augusta, Georgia Mar 18, 2010 - Mar 21, 2010

Salisbury, Maryland Apr 01, 2010 - Apr 04, 2010

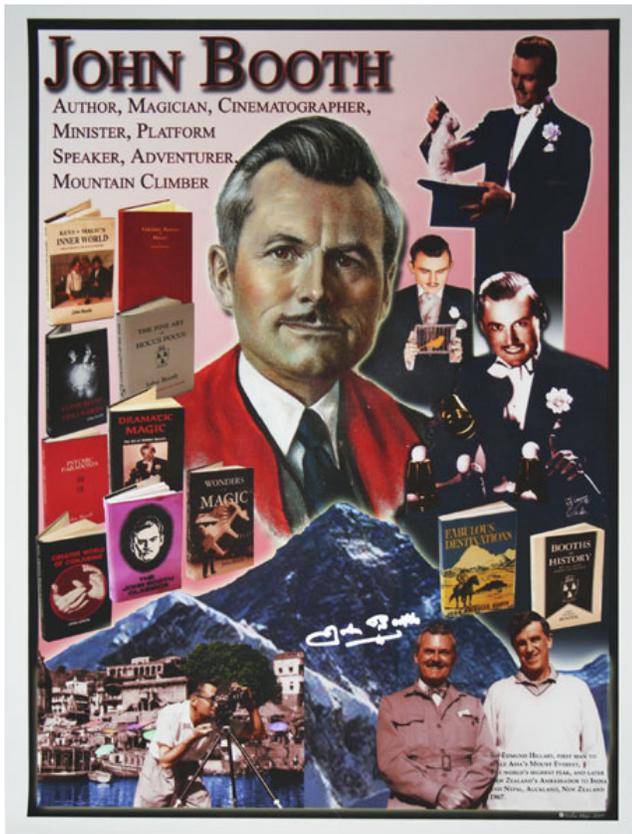
More information about David can be found on his website,

<http://www.david-davinci.com/index.html>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey website. The main content area is a vibrant red and yellow banner for the 'ILLUSCINATION' tour. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'EXPLORE THE SHOWS', 'BUY TICKETS!', 'FIND THE TOUR NEAR YOU', 'SPECIAL OFFERS', and 'VIP SEATING'. The central image features a man in a gold jacket riding a white horse, with a lion, an elephant, and a woman on a tightrope. The text 'ILLUSCINATION' is written in large, stylized letters. Below the banner, there are three main sections: 'FIND THE TOUR NEAR YOU' with a map of the United States, 'SPECIAL OFFERS' with a 'SPECIAL OFFERS' button, and 'VIP SEATING' with an image of red seats and the text 'YOU'LL EXPERIENCE THE SHOW LIKE NEVER BEFORE!'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://www.ringling.com/TopLanding.aspx?id=35906'. The browser's title bar says 'Illuscination'. The browser's status bar shows 'Thu 4:02 PM'.

## Broken Wands

I've just received a communication from Alan Watson letting me know that John Booth passed away last Wednesday.



Whaley's Who's Who In Magic

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Booth, Rev Dr John (William Nicholls), LittD, MIMC (Meadville, Pennsylvania: 7 Aug 1912- ) Inspired at age 10 by a magic set. Learned at age 14 from W.J. Armstrong ("Armah"). Semi-pro at 15 (in 1927). Edited-published Canada's second (after W.G. Edwards's Edwards Monthly) magic magazine, The Canadian Magician's Digest (1929, 3 issues). Organized the first Canadian magic convention (Hamilton, Ontario) 18-19 Apr 1931. Pro 1934-Mar 1940, as a prominent society, nightclub, & hotel magician. In 1938 also worked alternate venues as "Jancini". 1937 Sphinx Award.

Then an ordained Unitarian minister (1942 until retired in 1975). Part-time pro celebrity platform lecturer 1943-58, touring world-wide. 1977 AMA Literary Fellowship. 1983 SAM Hall of Fame. 1985 & 1988 H. Adrian Smith Literary Award; 1987 Magic Circle "John Nevil Maskelyne Prize".

Invented Pull-Down (late 1920s) & Booth's Baffling Block (1928). Wrote over 400 articles (since 1928) for Linking Ring, Sphinx, Genii, & Magicol. Also (since 1930) 12 books on magic:

Super Magical Miracles (1930), Forging Ahead in Magic (1939, 154pp; reprinted 1944), Marvels of Mystery (1941, 146pp; reprinted 1946 & 1963), The John Booth Classics (1975, 252pp, being a reprint of the two previous books plus "A Conjuror's Reminiscences"), Psychic Paradoxes (1984, 243pp), Wonders of Magic (1986, 289pp), Dramatic Magic (1988, 243pp), Creative World of Conjuring (1990, 268pp), Conjurians' Discoveries (1992, 274pp), The Fine Art of Hocus Pocus (1996, 287pp), Extending Magic Beyond Credibility (2001, 272pp), Magical Mentalism. Also wrote books on religion, travel, & genealogy as "John Nicholls Booth": Fantastic Destinations, The Quest for Preaching Power, The Story of the Second Church in Boston. An index of his 1963-88 Linking Ring articles is Ben Robinson & Amy Janello (editor), Memoirs of a Magician's Ghost (1988, 243pp).

Another recent loss is Carl Ballantine.



Whaley's Who's Who In Magic

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Ballantine, Carl "Jipper"

(Chicago, Illinois: 27 Sep 1917- ) Stage name of Meyer Kessler. Inspired at age 12 by his barber who would do the Thimbles while cutting Carl's hair. Originally a printer. Then in Chicago in the 1930s doing pro straight magic, first as "Count Marakoff" & "Carl Sharp", then, since the early 1940s switched to comedy magic as "Carl Ballantine" billed as "The Amazing Mr. Ballantine". Played the New York Capitol in 1950. The Ed Sullivan TV show in 1953, & the Las Vegas El Rancho Vegas in 1956. Also a TV comedian ("McHale's Navy", etc) since 1959 & movie actor since 1965. Won Tannen's "Louie". 1985 AMA Performing Fellowship.



**VMC Christmas Dinner & Show—Nov 22**

**X-ellent Lecture - Rafael Benetar—Feb 5**

**X-ellent Lecture - David Williamson—April 23**

**Kramiens Magic Jamboree 2010—April 30—May 1**



## Kramien's Magic Jamboree

Where you mingle with the stars

April 30—May 1, 2010

That's right, the famous Stan Kramien Magic Jamboree will be returning in 2010 after a one year hiatus. The most fun you will ever have at a magic gathering! The VMC always has a strong turnout for this annual convention, with great shows, lectures, competitions, dealers tables, the annual auction (run by our club). If you've ever been to it, then you know why it's one of the years highlights for many of our members. I guarantee you'll never hear anyone say that they didn't enjoy it immensely. Double the fun by considering car



## X-ellent Lecture Series - Rafael Benetar on February 5th.

The next installment of the X-ellent lecture series features guest lecturer Rafael Benetar on February 5th at Douglas College in New Westminster (700 Royal Avenue, Room 2203). As always, cost for members in advance is \$20, or \$25 at the door. Cost for non-members is \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Junior members are free! The Lecture starts at 7:30pm.

**Please note that in order to receive the discounted advance price, you must contact and register with our Treasurer at least 24 hours in advance of the lecture.** Telling anyone else, indicating your intent on Facebook, or anything else is not sufficient. **If you pay in advance by Paypal or any other method, you must bring a printed receipt to the lecture.**

Rafael Benetar is a professional performer and lecturer who was born in Caracas and now lives in Spain, where he is one of the most active members of the renowned Escuela Magica de Madrid.

Rafael performs at corporate events, banquets, trade shows, theaters and other venues and is one of the few who performs at all three rooms of The Magic Castle. He has also lectured extensively, in five languages, for magicians of many countries.

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