



the charles howard ring

# VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS RING 92

Affiliated with the  
PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF MAGICIANS

## Children's Magician of the Year

The Children's Magician of the Year show is almost upon us and it promises to be a great afternoon of magic and fun for the whole family.

Top magicians are vying for the prestigious Wilf Rutherford trophy and title of "Children's Magician of the Year."



It's your vote that decides who wins so be a part of the action and join us on Sunday June the 7th at 1 pm at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts - Studio Theatre  
6450 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby

<http://www.shadboltcentre.com/theatre.php>

General admission tickets are only \$10. Available by phoning the theatre box office at 604-205-3000. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Since 1960, the Vancouver Magic Circle, now Canada's largest magic club, has held an annual show featuring some of the finest children's entertainers in western Canada. These magicians are vying for the honour of being titled Children's Magician of the Year, the winner being selected by popular vote of the

audience.

Please help make this event a success by spreading the word to anybody who may be interested in a fun and magical afternoon.

After you read about the award winning performance of Jack Chow and his cousin Juliana in this months tidbits section (page 4), you may want to see them perform this act at the Children's Magician of the Year show in the 2nd half.



Thanks for your valuable support! See you there!

Neil

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## The Magical Minutes

Newsletter Date:  
May 2009

### [MyLovelyAssistant.com](http://MyLovelyAssistant.com)

Blatant honesty in a world of deception.

Ever wanted an honest review of a product you're considering purchasing? Well, the last time I checked, Consumer Report didn't review products in the magic category. Fortunately, there is help available.

Check out

[www.mylovelyassistant.com](http://www.mylovelyassistant.com)

for reviews done by professionals such as Jeff McBride or David Acer. You can search for products from your favourite creator (hmmm.. Tony Chris... Matthew Johnson) or by Title, or Category. You can even register and submit your own reviews which may be posted after being reviewed by a moderator.

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## May General Meeting—Thurs May 28th Close Up Night

The next meeting of IBM RING #92, The VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE, takes place on Thursday May 28th, 2009 at Sunrise Community Hall in Vancouver (1950 Windermere St.). This evening will be our annual "Close Up Night", with the competitions for the H.B. MacLean Trophy for adults and the Dick Gardner Trophy for juniors.

The H.B. Maclean Trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in close up magic. The effect or routine must be easily performed in an intimate and close up setting. In order to keep this award separate and distinct from other Vancouver Magic Circle trophies, no playing cards or stage effects will be permitted. The spirit of this competition is to encourage growth in the fields of restaurant, table, trade show and walk around style magic.

Likewise, the Dick Gardner Trophy is awarded in recognition of excellence in close up magic by a junior member. Unlike the adult competition, playing cards may be used in this presentation, but no stage effects will be permitted.

6:30—Doors open

7:00—Workshop begins

8:00—Business Meeting

8:20—Snacks and socializing

9:00—Competitions

The workshop this evening will be hosted by VMC member Peter Barrett. The workshop Peter will be giving will be a method to help in improving ones memory, especially in regards to lists of various things or objects which you would like to recall at a later date. At least, I think that's what Peter told me, I really can't remember (just kidding).



**Don't live down to expectations. Go out there and do something remarkable.**

~ Wendy Wasserstein

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>)

# April in Review

Submitted by Munro Mackenzie



The evening started with Matthew Johnson and Tony Chris (aka Tony Kazoleas) telling us of the ability of their company, Abacadabra Magic Media, to take any idea of a magician or a product and develop it from the gem of an idea to a fully finished production with no middleman and with minimum of time. It really was quite interesting how sophisticated their entire production could be.



After a short business meeting it was on to the social hour with great food provided by Meira and Ora Pacht, the wife and daughter of



member Rabbi Don Pacht. Just a little bit different and most tasty too. Thanks. Brianna Carlson added to our pleasure by providing a tray of tasty cupcakes.



Then it was off to the competition for the Charles Howard Trophy which is a gimmick card night.



First up was Rabbi Don Pacht who needed the help of Billy and Alex and 2 half decks of cards. He was followed by Andrew Musgrave, James Hanson, Henry Tom, Ray Roch, and finally Denzil Bee who all bedazzled us with their skills.



Then Brianna did a demonstration with rope and Steve Dickson also did a demo while the judges totaled their scores.

The winner was Rabbi Don Pacht.

39 members and 6 guests had a fine evening.



## Tidbits

### Ray Roch: One-Man Parade

I hope everyone checked out and enjoyed the One-Man Parade article in the April 2009 issue of The Linking Ring. Our own Ray Roch was featured with a fantastic article.

### Chinatown Champs:

A couple of weeks ago, Jack Chow and cousin Juliana Chow competed in the Chinatown Plaza Talent competition. With their upbeat, colourful and wonderful stage magic act, they thrilled the audience and judges, capturing 1st place and winning the grand prize of cash and jewellery. Hmm... I wonder who got which ???



Jack Chow & Juliana Chow

### FISM:

In July 2009, the 24th FISM will be held in Beijing. Shawn Farquhar will be representing CAM in Close-up cards, and Rod Chow will be representing IBM in Close-up Parlour.

FISM is an abbreviation of Federation Internationale des Socits Magiques (International Federation of Magic Societies) founded in 1948. It is the International body bringing together the world's leading magic societies. The Federation today consists of over 80 clubs, both national and international, as well as national Federations which represent nearly 50,000 Magicians from 41 countries.

Learn more about it here...

<https://www.fism2009.org/index.asp>



A picture from the archives.. Ray Roch and Juliana Chen at Science World in the early 80's

### F.F.F.F.

The FFFF (Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic) convention is the "Original Close-Up Magic Convention" and the most prestigious gathering of close-up magicians in the world. Since 1971 the By-Invitation-Only event continues to feature the best performers, creators and lecturers in the world (like 3 time FISM winner Shawn Farquhar and Rod Chow).



"Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic" commonly referred to as the 4F convention was started in April 1971 at the famous Forks Hotel in Buffalo, New York by Eddie Fechter, Bill Okal and

"Obie" O'Brien, who decided that it would be nice to have a convention dedicated strictly to the art of close-up magic. Bill Okal is no longer involved with the convention and Eddie Fechter passed away on March 31, 1979, leaving Obie O'Brien who continues to produce "The Original Close-Up Magic Convention."

The Vancouver Magic Circle is thrilled to be represented by 2 world class performers at this event.



Shawn Farquhar performs his famous solid cups and balls



Rod Chow receives his PhD from Obie O'Brien



Shawn Farquhar is announced as the Guest of Honor for 2014

## 4F 2009 Review

Submitted by Rod Chow

It was an honor again to attend this invitation only convention which brings together the top close-up magicians and famous names in magic from all over the world. This is a four day convention held at the Holiday Inn in Batavia New York. All lectures and performances were held in a large room with tiered seating and with large screen video enhancement. There was a moderate sized dealer's room off to the side which was quite typical of dealer rooms found at most conventions, except with a bit more of a close-up emphasis. The guest of honor this year was 2000 FISM World Champion in Card Magic, Henry Evans, who gave us an amazing performance as well as a superb lecture. Next year's guest of honor will be the long-standing chairman of 4F, Obie O'Brien, who has the exceptional privilege of being honored on the 40th anniversary of 4F. At the end of the convention, our own Shawn Farquhar was announced as being the guest of honor for 2014. This is not to be taken lightly, as being chosen to be a Guest of Honor puts Shawn into the category of being one of the greats of close-up magic amongst past famous legends in the close-up world. As well, Shawn will be showered with gifts and special awards in addition to be given a front and centered reserved seat for the entire convention and prime reserved seating for

all future conventions! Shawn performed his new torn and restored mis-made signed \$100 bill and his FISM award winning solid cups and balls to fantastic response. Trying something different, I performed my Money Magic routine entirely to music, and received some pivotal feedback and routining advice, especially from Shawn, and also from other 4F magicians in preparation for my FISM run in Beijing, China, this July. After my third time performing at 4F I was so proud to be presented a PhD Doctor's degree of magic from Obie O'Brien. Shawn was privileged to receive this degree last year. 4F is not just about seeing spectacular close-up performances by FISM and other International Award winners, but also about the learning, which in general is not unlike the lectures we bring in here for the VMC, but most valuable it is about being around the best of the best magicians who are willing to talk, share, give advice and establish friendships with you. Plus thanks to the hospitality of Obie O'Brien and his board of directors, which includes, IBM International President and CAM President, Joan Caesar, we get free donuts every night, free drinks every afternoon, and free meals!

## Northern Peeks

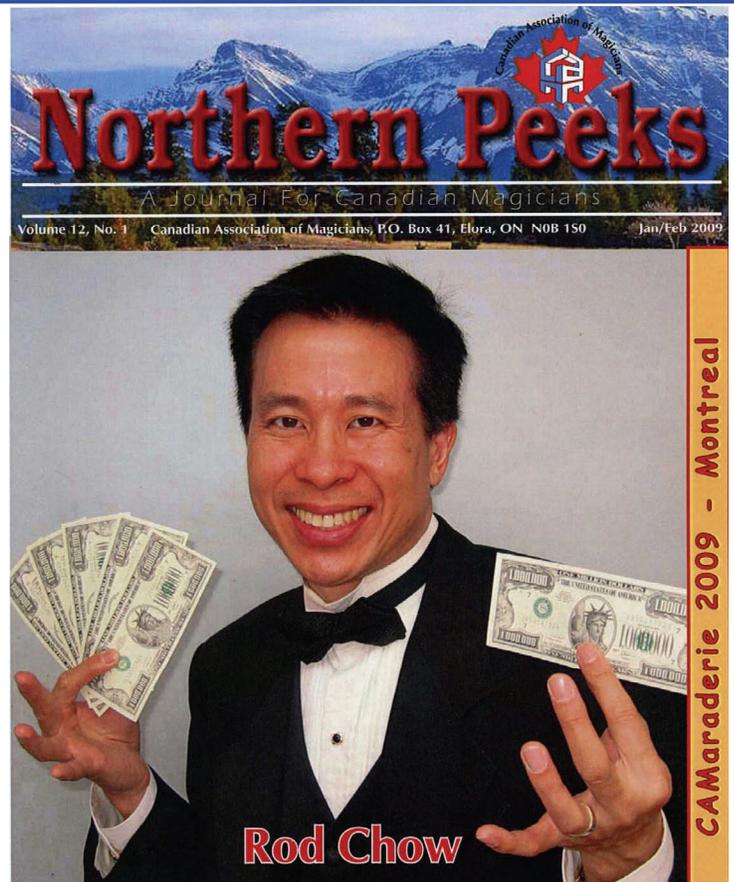
The official magazine of the Canadian Association of Magicians, Northern Peeks, ran an 8 page article about Rod Chow in the Jan/Feb 2009 edition. The article was written by VMC member Lon Mandrake. I highly recommend that you try to get your hands on a copy and read it. Once I started reading I couldn't put it down!

Things you can learn from the article:

- Did Rod's parents approve of magic?
- Who was the first magician Rod saw perform?
- Was Rod a good student?
- When was Rod's first visit to a magic store?
- How did Rod get involved with the VMC?
- When did Rod win his first competition?
- How did Rod meet "The Enchanting Sylvia"?
- Who are some of the other people who have contributed to Rod's great success?
- Are Rod's children interested in magic? (OK, maybe you don't have to read the article for that one)

You can find a link to the entire article here:

<http://sites.google.com/site/rodchowmagic/news>



## X-elent Lecture Series Review – Levent

Submitted by David Parker

I wasn't really sure what to expect as I walked into the lecture hall at Douglas College on May 1, 2009. I had not heard of Levent before, nor had any of the people in the VMC that I asked about him, except for Ray Roch, who had seen him on cruise ship, and said he was remarkable.

After a wonderful introduction by Gord Boyes, Levent told us of the structure of the lecture. He would start out with the Fundamental Rules of Stage Magic. He created these nine rules based on patterns and commonalities from watching the masters of the past. I expected this to be boring, especially as he had already emailed the rules out to us, so I had read them already. But what I was not expecting, and what made it really interesting was that for each rule, he performed an example trick that the rule applied to, and I could see how important that rule was. Now, he had caught my interest, and I could appreciate all of the work he had put into researching the classical magicians in order to come up with these rules.

He showed us various magicians' versions of the Salt Pour Trick. He pointed out some of the strengths and weaknesses, and then showed us how he had studied those to come up with his version of that trick, which he then demonstrated.

By researching Charlie Miller articles, Levent found a new finale to the Professor's Nightmare Rope Trick, which he modified slightly and demonstrated to us.

Levent demonstrated some silk magic using dye tubes, and gave us a brief history lesson of the dye tube. He told us of a Vancouver connection to his marketed Half Dyed Silk Trick. While performing on a cruise ship he stopped at Jacko's Magic Shop (owned by our own Jack Mellor) and bought a Japanese silk and dye tube trick, which he put away without opening. Awhile later he found himself on a cruise ship needing to create some additional material for a show, so he pulled out the trick, only to find that the instructions were in Japanese. He played around with the trick, and one thing led to another, and this led to his unique creation of a dye tube for a Half Dyed Silk Trick. Jack was at the lecture, remembers that trick, and claims that there should have been English instructions in the trick.

Then it was time for the 35 members and 6 guests to take a break and look at the Salt Pour trick, Half

Dyed Silk Trick, and Miser's Dream DVD that Levent had for sale.

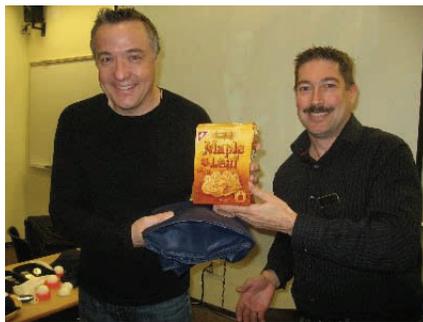
Following the break it was time for our draw of one member who booked in advance to win back their \$20 admission fee. This time, we had a repeat winner - Dave Hamil, who repeated his generous gesture of donating his winnings to the club. Thank you Dave.

And then it was time for the Gifts of Appreciation: the coveted VMC pen - ooooooh, the lovely VMC garment bag - aaaaaah, and last but not least -- at this point Levent piped up with, "The BC Bag of Weed", but that was not to be the case, as he was presented with the Taste of Canada, Maple Leaf Cookies - yummy!

Levent has written a book on Roy Benson. As part of his research, he was able to obtain a rare video clip of Roy Benson doing his Billiard Ball Routine. Levent then recreated the routine for us, followed by an explanation of how he did it. Then he showed us his own Billiard Ball Routine using 8 balls without any body loads.

The finale of the evening was Levent's Miser's Dream Routine. This was the most hilarious version I have ever seen. Not only does he produce coins from all over the place, he manages to steal wallets and jewellery, and when a spectator cannot produce a coin from behind their ear - he produces a plastic ear, then proceeds to produce coins from it. And I won't even discuss the state of the coins that came out of his nose.

Way to go, Levent. Thanks for an entertaining evening



# X-ellent Lecture Series—June 12, 2009

## Fielding West - Comedy Magic

Fielding West is not only a magician's magician but he possesses that very rare and impeccable sense of comedic timing that has landed him the opening spot for some of the biggest names in show business.

A winner in the prestigious Desert Magic Seminar's Comedy Magic Competition, Fielding has opened the show for such A-list celebrities as Liza Minnelli,



Coming in June '09

Glen Campbell and dozens more.

His numerous network television appearances include spots on A&E's An Evening at the Improv, Caroline's Comedy Hour, and NBC's The World's Greatest Magic and World's Wildest Magic specials.

Fielding is also in demand as a writer, magic consultant and technical director and has worked with Lance Burton, Siegfried and Roy and many others.

## Chow Chow Chow

I saw the article, didn't understand a thing, but it has great pictures and looks very impressive.

A 4 page colour feature Ming Pao article was published in the Ming Pao Saturday Magazine on April 11, 2009.

The headline and main thrust of the article is:

### Vancouver Chinatown's Famous Magic Family

Rod Chow and sons Jack and Nicholas are all champion magicians with exceptional skills. They, along with wife, mom and magic assistant Sylvia, operate out of the famous world's narrowest building in Chinatown, which is also home to their insurance brokerage, Jack Chow Insurance.



得第一名，而Jack至... 常出戰各種天才... 紀輕輕已登上美加西... 羅然成為兩位... 友生活的一... Rod更透... 小朋友... 行有好處... 處，好... 且點熟悉... 環境、... 各... 2009.04.11 25

加國生活 星期六專訪 撰文：陳韻如 攝影：區耀雄 部分圖片提供：Rod Chow 設計：老虎貓

在溫哥華唐人街內，一幢世界知名的全球最窄建築物，裡面是一間華人經營的保險公司，當大家以為這只是一間普通通賣燕梳的公司時，其實店子背後的，是一個魔術練習場，老闆Rod Chow加上太太及兩個兒子，個個身懷絕技、人人都是魔術冠軍，說他們是溫哥華魔術家庭，沒有人會反對。

# 唐人街魔術家庭

出生於溫哥華的Rod Chow繼承父業，在唐人街街實保險，但自幼喜歡魔術的Rod另外還有一個「魔術師」的身分，他更將這份對魔術的熱情感染家中各人，太太Sylvia及兩名兒子——12歲的Jack、9歲的Nicholas，都成了魔術狂熱份子，一家人成了真真正正的「魔術家庭」。在這個曾被列入健力士紀錄大全的全球最窄建築物內練習魔術，Rod表示：「雖然這裡很窄，但幾乎任何魔術都可以在這裡練習，除了2樓可以練習一般技巧外，大型的魔術我們就在地庫的停車場練習。」

對於為何會對魔術如此著迷，Rod說：「我10多歲就開始練習魔術，小時候父母曾帶我看魔術表演，從那時開始，我對魔術著迷；母親又帶我去賣魔術用品的店舖，店裡的魔術師表演了幾個小把戲，我深深被吸引，心裡也想做出和他一樣的魔術！令人感到驚喜。我很享受表演魔術時，觀眾感到不可思議的一刹那。」

「大部分魔術我是自學和自創的，也有跟專業魔術師上過課；後來更參加魔術組織、甚至開始參加比賽。」回想成為魔術師這條路，Rod表現得自信十足，問太太Sylvia可有覺得Rod用魔法迷倒了她，Sylvia表示：「剛

▲狹窄的辦公室內掛滿了各式各樣的報章及獎狀。

00 2009.04.11

Find a link to the entire article here: <http://sites.google.com/site/rodchowmagic/news>



## 2009 X-ellent Lecture Series

June 12th—Fielding West—Comedy Magic

September 4th—Kostya Kimlat—The Many Sides of Magic

November 6th— Curtis Kam—Coin Magic Connoisseur

### Our next guest lecturer will be Fielding West on June 12th.

The next installment of the X-ellent lecture series features guest lecturer Fielding West on June 12th 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!



### PCAM 2009

#### Pacific Coast Association of Magicians

The PCAM 2009 convention will be held on a cruise ship, the Norwegian Pearl, a magnificent vessel with everything you could possibly want from a five star hotel, departing the port of Vancouver on Monday September 21st, disembarking in Los Angeles on Saturday September 26th, with stops in Astoria (Oregon) and San Francisco. After arrival in Los Angeles, the plan is for a group of us to go to Magicopolis ([www. Magicopolis.com](http://www.Magicopolis.com)) the afternoon or evening of Saturday Sept 26th.

Don't miss it!!

Check [www.magicatsea.com](http://www.magicatsea.com) for more info.

### Children's Magician of The Year

Sunday June 7, 2009

Shadbolt Theater, Burnaby

Join us as last years winner Mike Norden emcees the competition for the Wilf Rutherford Trophy in recognition of the best childrens appeal magic.

General admission tickets are only 10 dollars - available via the box office at 604-205-3000.

Visit the Shadbolt Theater website for more information:

<http://www.shadboltcentre.com/events.php?eventid=47>

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