



V — RING 92 — VANCOUVER MAGIC CIRCLE

the Charles Howard Ring

www.ibmring92.com

THE MAGICAL MINUTES NEWSLETTER

Since 1942

EVENT SCHEDULE:

DOORS OPEN	5:30PM
DINNER	6:00PM
INSTALLATION	7:00PM
AWARDS	7:15PM
PHOTO	7:30PM
CONTEST	7:45PM
EVENT ENDS	9:30PM

MORE INFO ONLINE!



THIS IS A PHOTO OF **THE** ACTUAL PLATE OF ROAST BEEF THAT WILL BE SERVED AT THIS YEAR'S DINNER!

Installation Dinner and Show

February 23, 2012 - The Columbia Theatre, 530 Columbia Street, New Westminster

The executive and future executive of the Vancouver Magic Circle invite you to an evening of magic and fine food as we thank the current executive and welcome the new one for the coming year. We have selected a central location and a beautiful venue for this year's event. Recently, the old Raymond Burr Theatre on Columbia Street was purchased and reopened as the Columbia Theatre. In its past, such great magicians as Leon Mandrake performed on the stage and now it's your chance to shine. Sign up to compete today!

Classic Roast Beef Buffet Dinner

- 1 Roast Beef Carved at the Table, Gravy, Horseradish
- 2 Spinach Lasagna
- 3 Oven Roasted Yellow Potatoes or Mashed Potatoes
- 4 Buttered Sweet Corn and Carrots
- 5 Tortellini, Cucumber, Cherry tomato and Bocconcini Salad
- 6 Caesar Salad
- 7 Rolls and Butter
- 8 Fresh Fruit Platter
- 9 Apple Crisp with Whipped Cream
- 10 Coffee and Tea

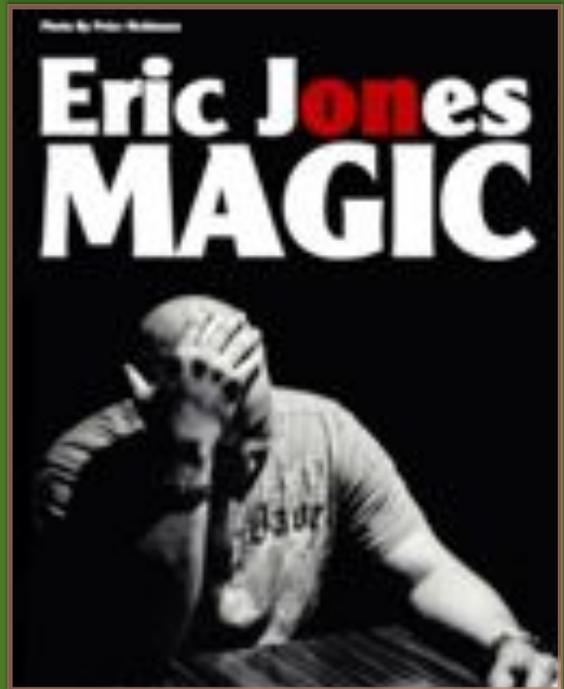
\$35 cover-charge includes dinner!

Eric Jones Lecture

7:30pm - Friday, February 24th, 2012

Eric Jones is beginning to make a name for himself in the world of close-up magic. Armed with cunning sleight of hand and a charming personality, Eric dazzles his audiences with his digital dexterity. He uses these tools to politely deceive and entertain his audiences. Ordinary, everyday items become objects of fancy as Eric delicately handles them with feats of prestidigitation. Coins multiply, cards fly, and audiences cheer.

Eric's lecture will challenge you to look at your magic in a whole new light after discussing ways to make close-up effects play to large audiences, re-directing attention rather than misdirecting it, how to properly block/stage your performances to both conceal method as well as optimize the audience reaction to the magic. These and several other ideas will be discussed while you learn some of Eric's award winning magic.



Douglas College – 700 Royal Avenue, New Westminster

VMC Members:

\$20 advanced purchase \$25 at the door

Junior members:

\$10 advanced purchase \$15 at the door

Non-members:

\$50 (includes Associate member application fee)

For information contact Shawn Farquhar
(604) 936-1234.

VMC LECTURE PASS

Are you a regular lecture attendee? Well...why not?! If you are (and you should be), you definitely want to get yourself an annual Lecture Pass. Buying the Lecture Pass means you're only paying for 4 lectures, but can attend 5. Never have to worry about paying 2012 Lecture Fees again!!!

Adult Lecture Pass = \$80 Junior Lecture Pass = \$40

Deadline to purchase Lecture Pass is the 23rd (same night as Installation Banquet)

Only cash/cheque accepted (no PayPal option)

DUES ARE DUE

Dear VMC Members,

Each winter as the DEW settles on the ground, we DO our DUE diligence and ask members to pay their DUES as they are now DUE. Please don't wait until they are overDUE and we are forced to DO something about it.

Thank you,
The Executive DUDES

January Ring Report

By: Dennis Chan

Happy New Year everyone. I hope that everyone had a nice Christmas and New Year. The club's 2011 Christmas dinner was a huge success. Your's truly, Dennis Chan will be filling in for Munro MacKenzie for a little while. This is the month where we have the elections of new officers for 2012. The positions are for president, 1st v.p, 2nd v.p. treasurer, secretary and sergeant-at-arms. Dave Watters , past president conducted the elections. I am pleased to announce, by acclamation, the new officers for 2012: President, Alex Seaman, 1st v.p, Graham Kita , 2nd v.p. Gordon McIntosh , secretary, Andrew Yeo, treasurer ,Phil Razon and sergeant-at-arms, Dennis the " Bulldog " Chan. Congratulations to the new officers. Many thanks to Dustin Anderson for doing the refreshments.

Ballots for the Kramien and the Murray awards were handed out. The winners will be announced at the installation banquet. The

installation banquet was discussed. The time, date and place for the banquet to be announced. The winners of the raffle were Dave Watters and Nicholas Chow. They both won lecture notes by Jon Allan. Bruce Meyers won a DVD.



This is also the initiation night of new members whereby they must perform three magical effects and then take part in the initiation ceremony in order to become full fledged members of

the Vancouver Magic Circle, IBM Ring Number 92. Presiding over the initiation ceremony was Alex Seaman, our newly elected president. The newly initiated members are Jessica Chan, Son Le and Robert Britton, Congratulations. Vincent Wang did his three magical effects but did not take part in the ceremony. He had to leave early.

There were 35 members and 6 guests in attendance.

Dennis Chan.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Presidents Message

Please help me welcome Rabbi Don Pacht as our new newsletter editor, thank you Rabbi Don for taking this important role.

This will be my final message as President of the Vancouver Magic Circle. I'd like to take a moment and thank all the people who have stepped forward to help organize and run our club over the last year. There have certainly been some ups and downs, but it has been a great honour to serve as president of I.B.M Ring #92. I would like to name a few of the members who have been instrumental in helping me run club events and meetings: Alex Seaman, Shawn Farquhar, Dennis Chan, Dennis Hewson, Graham Kita, David Wilson, David Watters, Henry Tom, Billy Bales and Dustin Anderson. These gentlemen have shown dedication, passion and loyalty to our club and I owe them all a great debt of gratitude. I'd also like to thank all the members who have shown their support by attending and contributing to club events, without you we would not have a club. I look forward to continuing to serve the VMC as Past President, and spending time with our wonderful group of magical friends.

Bryn Williams



A very special THANK YOU from all the members (and Junior Members), of the Vancouver Magic Circle to Bryn Williams, for time served as President of our club. Bryn got an early parole last month for good behaviour!



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2011 IN PHOTOS



GETTING TO KNOW ALEX SEAMAN

Magical Minutes ace reporter Rabbi Don Pacht sat down to find out a little more about the new fearless leader of the Vancouver Magic Circle. Who is he? Where did he come from? Didn't he used to be a junior member? Did he get that suit as a hand-me-down from Shawn Farquhar? Why is it that he has never been seen in the same room as David Copperfield? Hmmm.

Read on to find out everything you ever wanted to know (and, quite frankly, a few things you will probably wish you didn't), about Alex Seaman!

DP-How long have you been involved in Magic?

AS-I've been performing magic for 8 years (since I was 11 years old)

DP-How did you get your start?

AS-My family and I were in Victoria and happened to stumble into Tony's Trick and Joke Shop (run by Tony Eng). At 11 years old with two younger brothers, my aim was to get as many pranks as I could fit in my arms, but then I saw this big wall of magic stuff, it looked intriguing. For the next hour and a half, Shayne King (the magician working at the store that day) proceeded to amaze me and I ended up leaving the shop with my first magic props: a Svengali Deck, 4 Red Sponge Balls, and a Royal Magic plastic Cups and Balls set. After months of practicing and finally being able to get enough confidence, I performed my first birthday party show for my neighbour and I've been going strong since!

DP-Who has helped you the most along the way?

AS-I'd have to say that there are 3 people that have helped me the most through my magic. The first two are my parents. As weird as it is to say, at this point in my life, the majority of the time I've been doing magic, I didn't have a driver's license. This meant that Mom or Dad were the official limo drivers for my shows. No matter what the situation was, they were always ready to switch a shift or change their plans for the day to help me out. They have been, are, and always will be my primary support network and I know that if it weren't for their support from when I started out, to as I grew through performances, and VMC meetings, I wouldn't have accomplished what I have today.

The third person is hands down, my mentor Shawn Farquhar. In 2009, as a Junior Member of the club, I had asked Shawn if he would be willing to put aside a little bit of his time to have me as his pupil. I was elated when he said yes. Both myself *and* the club are so lucky to have someone who is always willing to share his knowledge, asking nothing in return. It seems like every VMC meeting I attend, Shawn manages to show a new principle/effect to anyone willing to put in the time and effort to make it look as good as it does when he's demonstrating it. I can say with 100% certainty, that without the support of my parents and Shawn, I would not be where I am today.



An Interview with El Presidente...continued

DP-who are some of your role models in Magic?

AS-I'm not really too sure as to who my role models are in magic. There are certainly many magicians who have inspired me in different ways and have therefore contributed to my performance style today, but I'm trying to do everything I can to establish my own performance style. I think that the more "me" I can be, the better. Just be you (everyone else is already taken).

DP-When you are asked in an impromptu setting, what is your "go-to" trick?

AS-You can bet that in an impromptu setting, my hand would be the first to that deck of cards on the poker table. My "go-to" impromptu trick is my Ambitious Card Routine. Normally, I end the routine with an Ultimate Invisible Deck, but in an impromptu environment, the signed card will appear in my wallet. It's never failed to get gasps, shrieks and (what I personally find most rewarding), what I like to call "the spectator's handshake of amazement". This is when they're either so mystified or even so grateful for being able to partake in a magical experience, they offer a handshake in respect. For me, that is one of the coolest feelings.

DP-What are your ambitions for your first year as President?

AS-As President for 2012, my ambitions for the club are to have more club solidarity, more participation and more magic at the meetings. The new Executive is a phenomenal group of individuals and I can't express how excited I am to be able to work with all of them.

DP-What advice do you have for those new to magic?

AS-My main piece of advice to those new to magic is GET INVOLVED. The Vancouver Magic Circle is an incredible network of ultimately, your colleagues. But I'm confident that you'll find, just as I did, that these people will become some of your best friends. It really is true that you get out of the club whatever you put in. You've got to be willing to make an effort. Time, dedication and passion are the cornerstones of starting out in magic. I can promise that you will learn AT LEAST 1 new magic trick/move/principle every club event. That is a promise. To show you how much I believe in the value and reward of this club, if you do not learn at least 1 trick/move/principle at a meeting, come find me and I will personally ensure that you learn a new piece of magic.

DP-Where DID you get that blue suit...and do they have one in a 42 long?

AS-Haha, always back to the blue suit. It was over a year ago that, after seeing magicians like Michael Finney, Oscar Munoz, Trevor Watters, Shawn Farquhar, Mike Norden, Clint W. Gray to name a few, all sporting non-traditional suits in one form or another. I already knew that suits were my style, as I had been wearing them for years. I never really grew towards the whole "underground magician" movement. Personally, I can't justify performing at a paying gig in a hoodie, skate shoes and baggy jeans. For me, suits were the way to go. Blue, being my favourite colour, seemed appropriate. I was trying to source out a blue suit (it's exactly as difficult as it sounds) when, during a mentor session with Shawn, he mentioned that he had an old blue suit he doesn't use (being that now he performs in his signature "barney-went-corporate" purple suit). So, for over a year, I've been performing my magic exclusively in a blue suit. It fits me and my energetic performance style, and I've since made an effort to colour-standardize my magic to the colours black, blue and yellow. Unfortunately, it seems that I've grown upwards and outwards... time for a new blue suit.

CONTEST QUESTION: How many times does Alex Seaman appear in this Newsletter?

The first VMC member to send in the correct answer will win a free digital copy of this Newsletter!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lon Mandrake sent a letter LAST month stating that his psychic powers have shown him the the winner will be none other than Dave Watters. So, I guess the contest is over. Boy, it is tough to hold contests for mind-readers.

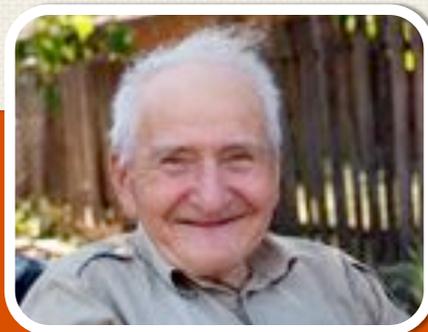
Fascinating Facts:

Are you awkward at parties? Do you wish that you had a collection of obscure facts about topics that most people are completely unaware that they even exist?

Well...this feature is for you!

Great ice-breakers

Nick Janson (UK) has escaped from handcuffs locked on him by more than 1,760 different police officers around the world since 1954.



Editor's Note: This is NOT a true likeness of Nick Janson, we could not find a photo of him online. Instead we have used this stock photo of Munro MacKenzie as a baby.

From the Guinness World Records 2005

LONGEST RUNNING TV MAGIC SHOW

Dick ' Mr. Magic ' Williams (USA) hosted 1,200 programs of WMC-TV'S Magicland, a weekly half-hour magic show that was on air for 23 years from January 1966 to January 1989.

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604-542-6435
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Do you have a contribution for THE MAGICAL MINUTES?

Please send your submissions to Rabbi Don Pacht at dpacht@vhebrewacademy.com. All submissions must be received YESTERDAY!

How are we doing?

The editorial staff of THE MAGICAL MINUTES NEWSLETTER is always open to feedback (provided that it is positive and comes wrapped around a bottle of single malt scotch).

Negative (or constructive), feedback should be directed to the VMC Executive.

WARNING: This Newsletter has not been clinically proven to treat or cure any disease. Please consult your doctor before changing your Newsletter.