

Society of American Magicians

Al Baker Assembly #35



November, 2006

Message From the President

Dear Compeers,

This is your slightly burnt out President reaching out to massage you magic psyches. October was a blur and November is shaping up to be nearly as busy. No complaints though although I find myself sitting up in bed, saying things like "At my finger tips I produce the essence of life it self; a pure white egg." Speaking of eggs, my review this month is a prop straight out of my show. I figure why should I be the only one to suffer?

It is important for those that have not paid dues to make sure you bring \$25 in U.S. currency or the equivalent to this months meeting! If you're not sure bring the dough anyway, at worst you've brought an extra \$25 to spend on John Born's lecture notes.

Things are coming together for Cavalcade of Magic and we will be formalizing the layout of the acts and support crew in up coming meetings.

On a sad note David Oliver's mother passed away recently after a long painful battle with cancer. David has been a great friend to many of us and our club and my condolences go out to him on his loss of his

beloved mother.

Pino Gareri who founded the Magical Arts Center and who was a driving force and president of Assembly 194 Hastings on Hudson also passed away late last month. Pino was a kind and likeable gentleman, a great enthusiast and passionate performer of magic. He will be missed.

I look forward to seeing every one at this months meeting and enjoying John Born's lecture. See you all then!

Magically yours,

Carlo DeBlasio

Last Month

Business first: More details for Cavalcade were ironed out, as well as some suggestions for a few extra ways for the club to make money. Also, the club asked (and is still asking) for volunteers to help with the shows (i.e. Advertising help, backstage crew, etc.)

Our October meeting feature a lecture by Alan Sands. For those who couldn't attend, Alan presented a number of effects created by his father and former member of Assembly #35, George Sands. He also provided some tips and various ways he has been able to make a few extra bucks while performing professionally.

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Alan Sands takes aim at his change bag with young member Dan Vogel

Next Meeting

November 14, 2006

Lecture by **John Born**

Location: Central Hudson – 245 South Road

Host: Derrin Berger

John is an I.B.M. Gold Cups winner and has made a name for himself with his work on two of magic's most well known plots (you'll have to show up to find out!). He has also recently released his 2nd book "Meant to Be..." Don't miss this opportunity to catch John in the middle of his lecture tour!

www.johnborn.com

Upcoming Events

November 8, 2006

Magic Palooza

Featuring Derrin Berger, Frank Monaco, Carlo Deblasio, with Special Guests Joseph Wood & Daniel GreenWolf

Showtime: 8pm, bar opens at 7:30

Tickets: \$10 at the door

Location: Backstage Studio Productions
323 Wall St, Kingston, NY

November 19th, 2006

Bob Little's Super Sunday

10:00AM-10:00PM

Guest Lecturer and FISM Winner: Arthur Trace

Performers: Arthur Trace, Jason Bishop, Joe Lefler, and Duane Laflin

www.boblittlessupersunday.com/

November 20 2006

**Top Hatters S.A.M. Assembly
Danbury, CT**

Methodist Church, Danbury CT.

7:00PM Sale Swap Meet, Bring any of your magic, books Videos pocket trick gags to Demo buy sell or trade. Bring a Guest, Bring some cash

contact: Marty Steinberg magicmarty@aol.com

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Club Calendar

November

November 14, 2006

Lecture by **John Born**

Location: Central Hudson – 245 South Road

Host: Derrin Berger

December

December 12, 2006

Lecture by **Harley Newman**

Location: Central Hudson – 245 South Road

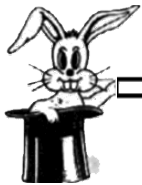
Host: Carlo Deblasio

January

January 5-7, 2006

S.A.M. #35 Presents:

Cavalcade of Magic at the Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck, NY



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Frankly Speaking...

by Frank Monaco



Sounds Good to Me

This month I would like to talk about an alternative to the standard sound system setup. There are many choices out on the market today to choose from, that are “self contained units.” Obviously, I can not cover them all, but instead, will help give you a quick look at some of them and their features.

First let’s start off by talking about one of the more popular or well known brand name systems out there, Anchor Audio. Some of you may be very familiar with these units and I also know that some of you even own one. The Anchor Audio line is fairly extensive, and is comprised of many different models to fit most audio needs. One of the best features of these type of units, are what I like to call the “convenience factor.” These units can have an Amp, speaker, wireless mic, CD Player, tape deck, all built into one self contained, sometimes Battery Powered unit. The picture below illustrates what I mean. This is the Anchor Audio Xtreme 6000.

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Notice the CD Player at the very top, extremely handy. Also, please note that this unit has an input for a Line In, to attach such items as another CD Player, Mini Disc or any audio device connected with a standard 1/4" plug.

Just below that 1/4" Plug you will notice two XLR inputs, for additional Microphones, or XLR connected devices. Now remember, this is in addition to the Wireless Microphone receiver that is already built into the unit.

When you order one of these units from a certified anchor retailer, unfortunately Anchor does not distribute directly from the company itself, you will get the choice to have a handheld mic, lavalier mic or headset style mic. These mic receivers are typically UHF in frequency, which will cut down on inference from other outside sources.

So, you can see the convenience here, can't you? You get to the show, setup the speaker stand, put the unit on the stand, turn it on, and you are done... essentially. No need to run wires, or even find a power outlet, if one isn't available, no big deal you're battery powered remember. Now, of course, one speaker alone is not always all you need. That is why Anchor Audio also sells a companion speaker that you could hook up to the main unit giving you better audience coverage overall. Remember however, you will have to run a cable to that speaker (which Anchor will supply).

You can visit Anchor Audio on the web and see the entire product line at www.anchoraudio.com.

Another company, that I have found and actually own one of their units, is Sound Projections. They are very similar to Anchor Audio, except for the fact that their line of products is not as extensive. These units are being built by a former 15 year engineer of Anchor Audio. This gentleman did not like some of the changes that happened within the company and felt he could do a better job. So, he setup his own company and as he put it "redesigned the audio systems to his own specs." He uses only Shure microphone equipment, brand name audio components, etc.

I have to admit these Sound Projection units are very good and serve my audio needs very well. Below, is a picture of the unit I have and you will notice, that it has all of the same type of features as the previously mentioned Anchor Xtreme 6000. This unit is the Sound Projections Sound Machine SM2.

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You can read all about the details of this unit at www.soundprojections.com.

Another possible choice is the Apollo line of products. These units are not as robust or powerful as the two previously mentioned systems, but they do share some of the same common features. The Apollo PA-6000 has a built in wireless mic receiver, built in tape player, battery powered, and additional ¼ inch inputs. They lack however a built in CD Player and XLR inputs. These Apollo units are good for smaller shows that require some vocal reinforcement and some music. Below is a picture of the Apollo PA-6000.



You will have to do a Google search for these units to find the best price. They do not have a specific company website that I know of, so I can't provide a direct link here.

There is one last system, I would like to bring to your attention, that I have had personal experience with and that is the Fender Passport series. Fender has put out a very capable line of portable PA systems that range from the PA-150 to the PD500. The main difference between the PA and PD line is who makes the actual speakers for these units. The PD line (the D stands for Deluxe) has the speakers manufactured by Bose....you gotta love that. These systems sound good, are self contained and for an additional fee can be battery operated. They vary in their power output and can be purchased at most reputable Music Dealers. Unlike the previously mentioned systems though, they do not have built in Mics, CD players, Tape Players, etc. They are more of a standard Sound

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system where cables need to be run, mics need to be hooked up, etc.
Below is a picture of the P250 and some of the items that come with it.



The nice thing about the Passport line is, everything hooks together into one nice, neat, little package for ease of transport.

I apologize for not going into a tremendous amount of detail about each unit. My intention was to show you some of the options you have out there and not to recommend one unit over the other. Do your own research, ask plenty of questions, and make your own decision based on your show and sound needs. Good Luck and as always, I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Carlo's Consumer Corner

by Carlo Deblasio



Product Review:

The value of a prop depends on how prolifically you use it. As a regular performer I have a handful of props that have become staples of my shows. This review focus is on one of those props.

The Silk Legacy Egg Bag by Fabric Manipulations – Price: \$87.95 from www.fabricmanipulations.com

The Malini Egg Bag is a classic of magic. I have seen versions that vary in price from \$10 to \$40, but why pay nearly \$90 for a Malini Egg Bag?

First of all, the construction and material of this bag is superior to anything else I have touched. The pocket is larger and has a design that allow for easy loading of the egg from its hiding place into the bag. The material is the right density to hide the presence of the egg most effectively. The key to the Malini Egg Bag is to be able to present it under the nose of audience members, while part of this is in the routine and handling it is also important for the bag to disguise the presence of the egg, this bag does exactly that.

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Now Fabric Manipulations offers this bag in multiple colors, I am going to recommend only the black version. Other colors fail to create the same illusion and this had to do with how well the fabric used absorbs light and as we all should know, black is the best.

I own three of these bags one for my stage case, one for my close-up case and one for a back up. Think I like it? After about a year of research and work I came up with a presentation that fits me, works both on stage and close-up and that an audiences responds favorably to.

On the down side, there is no routine or handling included for the price, and I mean NOTHING! I think for the price some form of instruction could be included. The bag does come with a sturdy plastic insert to keep your bag in crisp condition between uses.

Presentation: NONE.

Skills Required: Good audience management.

Skills Recommended: Good audience management and strong routine development

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

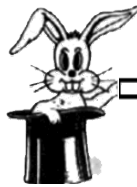
Reset: Depends on routine.

Repeatable: Yes.

I am going to add some invaluable resources for routines as an addendum:

Ken Brooke and Friends & The Malini Egg Bag, Egg Bag Teach in DVD from Steven's Magic Emporium,

Jeff Hobson Live DVD (performance only), Denny and Lee performance video (performance only), Siamese Goose Egg Bag by Ron Bauer, 50 Years in Magic DVD - Danny Tong.



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Berger with Everything

by Derrin Berger

Rather than shell out an opinion or a rant this month, I figured I'd tell you a story instead. I've covered myself with the title of this article, so I can take those liberties :) This is a story about what might be the greatest magic trick I've ever seen. I have a few I'd lump together in that category, but this might take the cake.

The Effect: A layman walks up to a table of magicians, looks at one that's holding a deck of cards and says, "I want the 5 of hearts to be the 12th card". The magician, with no cutting, shuffling, or anything, counts down to the 12th card, turns it over and it's the 5 of hearts.

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*Note: that description left out nothing and was completely accurate.

Method: Pure Luck.

The method was by far the best part of the trick, since any card, any number is a familiar idea to most of us.

We were at the S.A.M. Convention in NY a few years ago, sitting in the lobby around a table, playing with a few new tricks. I think almost all of us at the table were either familiar with the Aronson stack or actually had one ready to go in our pockets. During the course of the weekend laymen were getting used to the idea of walking around the hotel and seeing card tricks everywhere they looked, and as you can imagine, most of us were all too happy to show them a trick if they asked. A father and son were walking by the table and saw us “jamming”. He came over to the table and asked if we could show him a trick in sort of a skeptical tone, the kind you get when someone's seen every David Blaine special and uses that as a benchmark for what magic should look like. There weren't any cameras around us and we certainly didn't look the part, so needless to say I don't think he was expecting much.

My friend asks the man to name a card, and someone else at the table to name a number. We all knew he was holding the Aronson stack. So that trick was improved exactly as expected.

Now for the piece de resistance. Almost in defiance,

the man says, “I want the 5 of hearts at 12”. By looking around the table you could see the twinkle in everyone's eyes as they realized the miracle that was about to take place. That was the right card at the right number! With no moves at all, my friend simply counted to 12, turned the card over and floored the man and his son, who simply walked away shaking his head.

What are the odds that this guy would name that card and that number? I didn't work it out, but I know it's way to big to make this an everyday occurrence. That being the case, I'd like go on record by saying I think my friend had therefore performed one of the greatest tricks ever.

Not to pat myself on the back or anything, but I've also performed a miracle or two in my day. Two weekends ago I was doing a walk-around job and the man who hired me carried his granddaughter over to where I was standing. He said to her, “do you want to see the magician pull a little red ball out of your ear?” Ahem... yeah, that's right... I had a sponge ball in my pocket.

Okay, so maybe he saw me do a sponge ball trick for a bunch of other kids, but hey, let me have my day :)

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SAM #35 Message Board

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the group and re-invite everyone to join. Feel free to post comments, questions, reviews, show information, or any other magic discussion you can think of.

The web address is:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAM35/>

You may need to create a yahoo ID if you don't already have one, and you should be able to join the group once you reach that page. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Extras

Have a trick or show review? Or a magic joke or tip you've been busting to share? Or any other rambling of magic you'd like to have included in a newsletter?

Send an email to:

sam35editor@yahoo.com

Classifieds - Have something to sell? Looking for something in particular? Send an email to sam35editor@yahoo.com to have it included in a magic classifieds section.

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Up to the minute guide of Magic and Magicians on TV
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A Comprehensive magic listing of Live magic shows around the world
www.livemagicguide.com

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