

FLEMING FLASHPAPER

DECEMBER 2018

CARYL FLEMING IBM RING 21 NORTH HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA
Celebrating the enjoyment and camaraderie of magic since 1938!

DON'T MISS OUT: WHAT'S COMING UP!

DECEMBER 6TH: Holiday magic and catered party.

PLEASE BRING A DESSERT AND AN UNWRAPPED TOY OR CONTRIBUTE MONEY TOWARD OUR TOY DRIVE. THANK YOU.

BROKEN WAND

Lafe Harper, otherwise known as Junior, passed away Saturday, October 20. Our condolences go out to all his family and friends. He will be missed. Jim Militello will inform the club regarding funeral services.

Ricky Jay died November 24, 2018. See "Greats of Magic" below for more about his life.

DO YOU EVER SHOP ON AMAZON?

If so, then add our website link to your favorites and use the Amazon link at the bottom of our web page. Our club will get a referral bonus!

RING 21 CLUB MEETING:

First Thursday of the month

NEXT MEETING:

December 6th
7:15 pm

Providence St Elizabeth
10425 Magnolia Blvd
North Hollywood, CA

We are on twitter!
[@ibmring21](https://twitter.com/ibmring21)

And the internet!
www.ibmring21.org



MAGIC RESOURCES

MAGIC APPLE

The best magic shop and one of the few
Remaining “brick and mortar” magic shops!

11390 Ventura Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604

Also online: www.themagicapple.com

Magic Mondays

<https://www.magicmondayla.com/>

Westside Wizards Sam 291

Note: See www.westsidewizards.org for calendar of events

Stoner Park OPICA Adult Day Care
11759 Missouri Ave, Los Angeles, CA

Mark Wilson IBM Ring 280

Note: See www.ibmring280.com for info and calendar

The Boys & Girls Club of Santa Clarita Valley
24909 Newhall Ave. Newhall, CA 91321

Vertical Wine Bistro Dinner & Magic Show

NOTE: Vertical Wine Bistro has the best steak around!

70 N. Raymond Avenue, Pasadena, CA, 91103

www.verticalwinebistro.com

626-795-3999

Woodley Proper Magic Monday

Bar has magic on Monday nights.

www.woodleyproper.com

16101 Ventura Blvd, Encino, CA 91436

(818) 906-9775

MAGIC MONDAY

Santa Monica Playhouse

www.santamonicaplayhouse.com

1211 4th Street Santa Monica, CA, 90401

Magic and Wine – David Minkin

Bardot

1737 North Vine Street, Hollywood, CA 90028

www.MagicandWine.com

(800) 838-3006

Ivan Imodei's Intimate Illusions – The Show

Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire Hotel

9500 Wilshire Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90212

www.ivanamodei.com

(866) 811-4111

Smoke and Mirrors

The Road Theatre

5108 Lankershim Boulevard

North Hollywood, CA 91601

www.SmokeandMirrorsMagic.com

(310) 450-2849

The Magic Castle

7001 Franklin Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90028

www.magiccastle.com

(323) 851-3313

TURKEY ROUTINES!

For November, we asked members to bring their "Turkey" routines. You know... routines that are real turkeys... as in... not so good, or maybe they are really gems.

Guess what? Members didn't disappoint. We'll spare any embarrassment in describing the routines, but here are a few photos:



The Greats of Magic
A Series of Capsule Biographies of Famous Magicians
by Karl Johnson



Ricky Jay

Richard Jay Potash (June 26, 1946^[1] – November 24, 2018), known professionally as **Ricky Jay**, was an American stage magician, actor, bibliophile, and writer.^[2] In a profile for *The New Yorker*, [Mark Singer](#) called Jay "perhaps the most gifted [sleight of hand](#) artist alive".^[3] In addition to sleight of hand, Jay was known for his [card tricks](#), [card throwing](#), memory feats, and stage [patter](#). He also wrote extensively on [magic](#) and its history. His acting credits included the films *The Prestige*, *The Spanish Prisoner*, *Mystery Men*, *Heist*, *Boogie Nights*, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, *House of Games*, and *Magnolia*, and the HBO series *Deadwood*. In 2015 he was the subject of an episode of PBS' *American Masters*, making him the first (and to this date only) magician to have ever been profiled in that series.^[4]

Early life

Jay preferred not to discuss the details of his childhood. He was born in [Brooklyn, New York](#), to Shirley (Katz) and Samuel Potash.^{[5][6]} A member of a middle-class [Jewish](#) family, he grew up in [Elizabeth, New Jersey](#).^{[7][8]} He rarely spoke publicly about his parents, but he did share an anecdote: "My father oiled his hair with [Brylcreem](#) and brushed his teeth with [Colgate](#)," Jay recalled. "He kept his toothpaste in the medicine cabinet and the Brylcreem in a closet about a foot away. Once, when I was ten, I switched the tubes. All you need to know about my father is that after he brushed his teeth with Brylcreem he put the toothpaste in his hair."^[3] During an interview on the [National Public Radio](#) program *Fresh Air* with [Terry Gross](#), Jay said that possibly "the only kind memory I ever had of

my parents" was when they secretly hired one of his idols, the magician [Al Flosso](#), to perform at his [bar mitzvah](#).^[9] Jay's grandfather, Max Katz, was a [certified public accountant](#) and amateur magician who introduced Jay to magic.^{[10][11][12]}

Career

Magician

Jay first performed in public at the age of seven, in 1953, when he appeared on the television program *Time For Pets*^[13]. He is most likely the youngest magician to perform a full magic act on TV, the first magician to ever play comedy clubs, and probably the first magician to open for a rock and roll band. At New York's [Electric Circus](#) in the 1960s, he performed on a bill between [Ike and Tina Turner](#) and [Timothy Leary](#), who lectured about [LSD](#).^[3]

During the 1960s and 70s, Jay lived in [Ithaca, New York](#), performing while also intermittently attending the [Cornell University School of Hotel Administration](#), but later moved to the [Los Angeles](#) area.^{[14] [15][16]}

He quickly developed a following among magic aficionados, and a reputation for sleight-of-hand feats that baffled even his colleagues. In his 1993 *New Yorker* profile of Jay, [Mark Singer](#) related the following story from playwright [David Mamet](#) and theater director [Gregory Mosher](#):

Some years ago, late one night in the bar of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Chicago, [Jay] was performing magic with a deck of cards. Also present was a friend of Mamet and Mosher's named Christ Nogulich, the director of food and beverage at the hotel. After twenty minutes of disbelief-suspending manipulations, Jay spread the deck face up on the bar counter and asked Nogulich to concentrate on a specific card but not to reveal it. Jay then assembled the deck face down, shuffled, cut it into two piles, and asked Nogulich to point to one of the piles and name his card. "Three of clubs," Nogulich said, and he was then instructed to turn over the top card. He turned over the three of clubs. Mosher, in what could be interpreted as a passive-aggressive act, quietly announced, "Ricky, you know, I also concentrated on a card." After an interval of silence, Jay said, "That's interesting, Gregory, but I only do this for one person at a time." Mosher persisted: "Well, Ricky, I really was thinking of a card." Jay paused, frowned, stared at Mosher, and said, "This is a distinct change of procedure." A longer pause. "All right—what was the card?" "Two of spades." Jay nodded, and gestured toward the other pile, and Mosher turned over its top card. The deuce of spades. A small riot ensued.^[3]

Three of Jay's one-man shows, *Ricky Jay and His 52 Assistants*, *Ricky Jay: On the Stem*, and *Ricky Jay: A Rogue's Gallery*, were directed by Mamet, who also cast Jay in a number of his films.

A collector and historian, he was a student and friend of [Dai Vernon](#), whom he called "the greatest living contributor to the magical art." He collected rare books and manuscripts, art, and other artifacts connected to the history of magic, gambling, unusual entertainments, and frauds and confidence games. Jay opposed any public revelations of the techniques of magic.^[3]

Jay was formerly listed in the [Guinness World Records](#) for throwing a playing card 190 ft at 90 miles per hour (140 km/h) (the current record is 216 feet (66 m) by [Rick Smith, Jr.](#)). He could throw a playing card into a [watermelon](#) rind (which he referred to as the "thick, [pachydermatous](#) outer melon layer" and "the most prodigious of household fruits") from ten paces. In addition, he was able to

throw a card into the air like a boomerang and cut it cleanly in half with a pair of "giant scissors" upon its return. In his shows, he often attacked plastic animals with thrown cards in "self defense."

Actor

Jay appeared in a number of David Mamet films including [House of Games](#), [The Spanish Prisoner](#) and [Redbelt](#).

Jay played Gupta, a henchman to villain [Elliot Carver](#), in the James Bond film [Tomorrow Never Dies](#) and appeared in [Paul Thomas Anderson](#)'s [Boogie Nights](#) and [Magnolia](#), as well as Christopher Nolan's [The Prestige](#).

Jay joined the cast of the [HBO](#) western drama [Deadwood](#) as a recurring character and writer for the first season in 2004, playing card sharp Eddie Sawyer. He wrote the episode "Jewel's Boot Is Made for Walking"^[17] and left the series at the end of the first season.

Consultant

As an expert on magic, gambling, con games and unusual entertainment, Jay had long been a go-to consultant on Hollywood projects, beginning with his work on [Francis Ford Coppola](#)'s production of [Caleb Deschanel](#)'s [The Escape Artist](#).^[18] Other early work included teaching [Robert Redford](#) how to manipulate coins for [The Natural](#) and working with [Douglas Trumbull](#) on his [Showscan](#) project *New Magic* (1983).

In the early 1990s, Jay and Michael Weber created a firm, Deceptive Practices, providing "Arcane Knowledge on a Need-to-Know Basis" to film, television and stage productions. By offering both vast historical expertise and creative invention, they were able to provide surprising practical solutions to real production challenges. Among many accomplishments, they designed the wheelchair that "magically" hid [Gary Sinise](#)'s legs in [Forrest Gump](#); the glass that "drinks itself" used by the gorilla in [Congo](#); and an illusion "in which a man climbs to the top of a ladder of light and vanishes in midair" for the Broadway production of [Angels in America: Perestroika](#).^[19]

Other projects they worked on included [The Prestige](#),^[20] [The Illusionist](#), [Sneakers](#), [Leap of Faith](#), [Wolf](#), [The Parent Trap](#), [I Love Trouble](#), [The Great Buck Howard](#), [Heartbreakers](#), and [Ocean's Thirteen](#).

Additionally, he worked with libraries and museums on their collections, including the Mulholland Library of Conjuring and the Allied Arts and the [Museum of Jurassic Technology](#) in [Culver City, California](#).^[21]

Lectures and exhibitions

Jay authored numerous articles and delivered many lectures and demonstrations on such subjects as conjuring literature, con games, sense perception, and unusual entertainments. Among his presentations:

- "Sleight and Shadow", at the New York [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)
- "Belknap Visitor in the Humanities" lecture on the relationship between magicians and mediums, at [Princeton University](#)
- "Doing Likewise: Imitation, Emulation, and Mimesis", at the New York Institute of Humanities, hosted by [Jonathan Miller](#).
- "Hocus Pocus in Perfection: Four Hundred Years of Conjuring and Conjuring Literature," the Harold Smith Memorial Lecture at [Brown University](#).
- "Splendors of Decaying Celluloid", with [Errol Morris](#), Rosamond Purcell and [Bill Morrison](#) at the New York Institute for the Humanities.
- "The Origins of the Confidence Game", at the conference of Police Against Confidence Crime.

- "Chirosophi: Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Conjuring Literature," at the [Henry E. Huntington Library](#) in [San Marino, California](#).
- "Fast and Loose: The Techniques and Literature of Cheating", at the William Andrew Clark Memorial Library, [UCLA](#).
- "The Mystery of Fasting Impostors," and "The Avant Garde Art of Armless Calligraphers", at [Amherst College](#).
- "Sense, Perception, & Nonsense" at the [University of Rhode Island](#) Festival of the Arts.
- "Illusion as Truth", at the International Design Conference in Aspen (keynote address).
- "Prose & Cons: The Early Literature of Cheating", at the [New York Public Library](#) (Pforzheimer Lecture Series) and the [Chicago Humanities Festival](#).
- "Magic & Science", at the [TED Conference](#) in [Monterey, California](#).

Jay also lectured at [Harvard University](#), [USC](#), the [Grolier Club](#), the [Hammer Museum](#), [Getty Center](#), and [Town Hall Theatre](#) in New York City. In 1999 he guest-curated an exhibit at the Harvard Theater Collection entitled "The Imagery of Illusion: Nineteenth Century Magic and Deception."^[21]

Exhibitions of material from his collections have been mounted at the Hammer Museum,^[22] the [Yerba Buena Center for the Arts](#),^[23] [University of California, Davis](#),^[24] the Christine Burgin Gallery,^[25] the [Museum of Jurassic Technology](#),^[26] and UCLA's [Clark Library](#).^[27] He loaned material to the Getty Center for their exhibit "Devices of Wonder"^[28] the [Skirball Museum](#), the [Huntington Library](#), the [Whitney Museum of Art](#), and the Metropolitan Museum of Art for an exhibit entitled "Wordplay: Matthias Buchinger's Drawings From the Collection of Ricky Jay" in 2016.^[29]

Film

Jay is the subject of the feature documentary [Deceptive Practice: The Mysteries and Mentors of Ricky Jay](#).

Death

Jay died on November 24, 2018, aged 72. His attorney Stan Coleman confirmed his death; further details were not immediately released.^[30]

2018 – 2019 EXECUTIVE BOARD	MEMBERS AT LARGE
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<p>BOARD MEETINGS are on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at Four 'N 20 Pies located at 4723 Laurel Canyon Blvd, Valley Village, CA 91607. Phone: 818-761-5128.</p>	
<p>EDITOR: KARL JOHNSON 818-790-9600 karl.johnson@gwcmi.com Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is the last Thursday of the prior month. Please put "IBM 21 Newsletter" in the topic line.</p>	