

DECEMBER 2022

The Fleming Flashpaper

The International Brotherhood of Magicians RING 21 Hollywood, California Newsletter

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Regular meetings are on the 1st

& Board meetings on the 3rd

Thursdays' of each month at

7:00 pm.usually via this

Zoom Link when not in person:

RING 21 ZOOM Meetings



FREE PARKING!

Holiday Not Pot Luck Dinner Party

Our December holiday party will be at a brand new location

[The Coral Cafe](#) Click their name for driving directions

Attendees pay for their own food and drink! Toy drive too!

3321 W Burbank Blvd, Burbank, CA 91505

Dutch Style, that is everyone pays their own meal, drinks, appetizers and/or just desserts. Bring a toy or infant or teen items for a donation that we'll be giving to [Spark of Love](#), a tradition Robert DeLaGuerra started and we continue. Here is a link to the charity as well as a list of items they are looking for: [Spark of Love](#) We'll be having raffle prizes too and anyone wanting to perform table, strolling or holiday magic are **more** than welcome! The festivities start **Dec. 1 at 7pm**, hope to see all you there!

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THE
GREATS OF MAGIC

by member
GERRY SCHILLER

Learn more about a
famous magician

Comic Strips,
Reviews & More
Inside too!



HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND MERRY CHANUKAH To All!



FRATERNITY

PUBLICITY

MYSTERY

ORIGINALITY

ELEVATION

DIVERSION

These steps are listed on our Membership Charter,
representing our Goals and Accomplishments.

Upcoming Scheduled* Events

December- Holiday Magic Party at [The Coral Cafe](#)

January-Performance Night, your favorite trick of 2021

February- Valentine's Day Magic-Performance Night

March-Lecturer TBA

April- I.B.M. Jam-at the [Burbank Elks Lodge](#)

May-[Los Magicos](#) Night-Performance Night

June-Lecturer TBA

July-I.B.M. Convention-Pittsburg ibmconvention.com


August-Initiation Night and ???

September-Elections and 1930's Theme Night-Performance Night

October-Annual Banquet



Congratulations to our member
Joe Marchese winning
1st Place Stage Competition at
Daytona Magic Convention!!



You're invited to our Holiday Party
For the I.B.M. Hollywood
RING 21

Magic Holiday Party

— 12.01.22 —

THIS THURSDAY!

Where: [The Coral Cafe](#)

3321 W Burbank Blvd, Burbank, CA 91505

Doing Dutch treat-each pay their own

**When: Thursday December 1
at 7PM**

Bring a toy, infant, or teen item for underserved children
and teens that we'll give to [Spark of Love](#).

Here is a list of items they are looking for: [Spark of Love](#)

Raffle prizes too and anyone wanting to perform table,
strolling or holiday magic are more than welcome!

Click here

[For newsletter
Submission
Consideration](#)

[Click here to go to our
zoom room](#)

Our President Charles
sponsors Book Day on our

[Instagram](#)

every Wednesday which is
dedicated to
promoting books on magic and
magic history. See what's being
shared **each Wednesday**.

We are on:

twitter



[@ibmring21](#)

facebook



[IBM RING 21 The Caryl Fleming
Ring](#)

instagram



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And the internet!

www.ibmring21.org

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International Brotherhood of Magicians
And Join Local I.B.M. RING 21 Hollywood!



- Linking Ring Magazine
- Monthly Meetings
- Conventions
- Lectures
- Contests
- Workshops

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The Greats of Magic

A Series of Capsule Biographies of Famous Magicians

by Gerald Schiller

**This Month
featuring...**

Black Herman



Living in the twenty-first century we tend to believe that, generally speaking, we live in a country that provides equal opportunity for all. Whether or not this is true, is often open to debate. But it is somewhat surprising that there are relatively few female magicians, and an equally small number of black and Hispanic performers.

Yet more than one hundred years ago there was a magician who gained a great deal of prominence — and he was a black man.

He was born in 1892 in Amherst, Virginia. His name was Benjamin Rucker.

As a young man Rucker met a performer who used the name of “Prince Herman,” and who taught Rucker some of the basic skills of doing magic. They soon became partners and developed a medicine show in which they toured, sold patent “cure-alls,” and performed a variety of magic effects.

In 1909 Prince Herman died and Rucker, just seventeen years old, decided to continue touring the show. He did, however, make several changes. He cut out the medicine sales and concentrated on doing magic. But also, in honor of his late partner, he decided to use the name “Black Herman.”

The year was 1909 and in much of America blacks were considered second-class citizens. In the southern states segregation was a way of life. Strict “Jim Crow” laws were in effect and Afro-Americans were restricted in dozens of ways.

Thus Black Herman’s audiences in the South were limited to black people only. He traveled with a circus tent so he had no problem finding a place to perform.

When he worked in the North, however, he would appear before racially mixed audiences. Some of his popular illusions were the “Asrah” levitation in which an assistant is covered with a cloth as she lies on the table, then mysteriously rises into the air. Suddenly the magician pulls the cloth from the floating body, and she is gone!

Black Herman was also skilled in escapes. After audience members tied him securely with a long length of rope, he would be free in minutes.

He would often end the act by having his audience follow him outside and help to “bury” him in a grave. Several days later he would be exhumed and lead the spectators back into the tent for the rest of the show!

In 1925 Herman had a book published called *Secrets of Magic, Mystery and Legerdemain*. He would sell copies after his show. The book included a heavily fictionalized

autobiography, instructions on how to do simple tricks, astrological forecasts and explanations of African folk magic practices.

In 1929 the stock market crashed and many Americans began to suffer the effects of the Great Depression.

However, Black Herman continued performing, providing entertainment for mass audiences at a very modest price.

In April of 1934 Herman collapsed during a performance. He died of a heart attack in Louisville, Kentucky.

Ironically, audiences refused to believe he was really dead, thinking this was just a part of his "buried alive" routine.

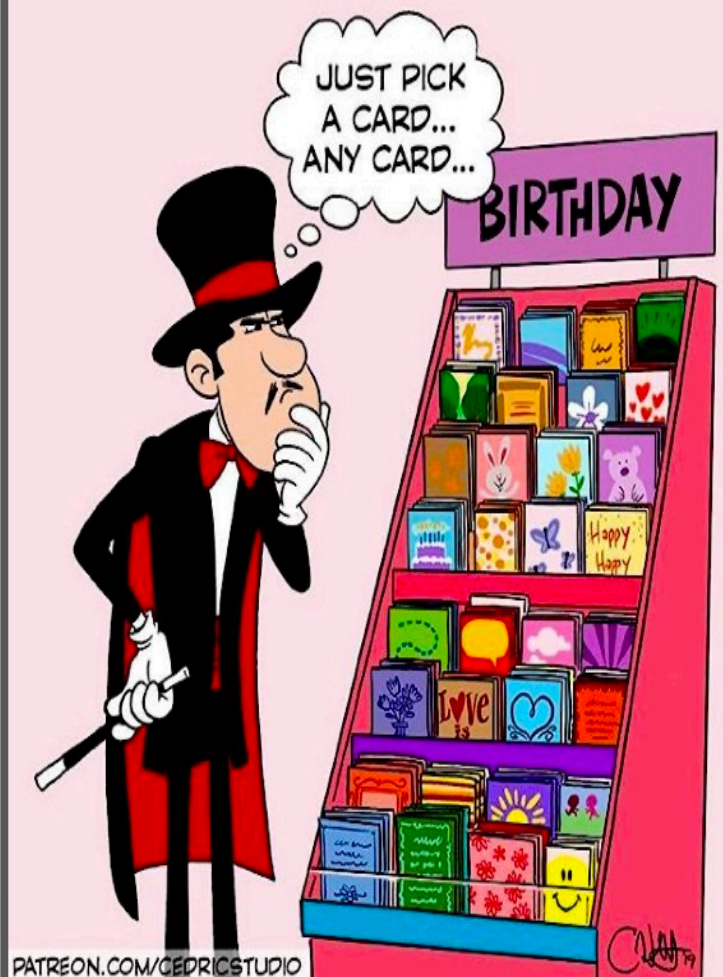
His assistant, Washington Reeves, decided to capitalize on this fact and charged admission to the public to see Black Herman's body in the mortuary!

The name Black Herman, however, did not die with him. Several other black performers adopted the name in the years that followed.

Though he was only 42 years old when he died, Black Herman may well have been the very first prominent Afro-American to gain fame practicing the art of magic.



"Did you order the rabbit, sir?"



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MAGIC RESOURCES AND MORE LINKS

OTHER LOCAL RINGS

RING 280 SANTA CLARITA
www.ibmring280.com

RING 313 ORANGE COUNTY
ring313.org

RING 96 LONG BEACH
<https://www.ring96.com/>

OTHER LOCAL MAGIC MEETINGS

SAM 291 WEST LA
www.westsidewizards.org

SAM ASSEMBLY 22. DUARTE
<https://sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home>

Orange County Magic Club
theocmc.com

MAGIC LEARNINGS

THE MAGIC APPLE-magic shop
11390 Ventura Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604
Also order online:
www.themagicapple.com

MAGIC ON THE GO
Magic instruction by Steve Valentine
<https://magiconthego.vhx.tv/>

SHOWS

MAGIC MONDAY
Santa Monica Playhouse
www.santamonicaplayhouse.com
1211 4th Street Santa Monica

Ivan Imodei's Intimate Illusions
Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire
9500 Wilshire Boulevard,
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
www.ivanamodei.com
(866) 811-4111

The Magic Castle
7001 Franklin Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90028
www.magiccastle.com
(323) 851-3313

PERFORMANCES ONLINE

Lex The Illusionist performs an excellent Anniversary Waltz: <https://youtu.be/PuAwD2PukLE>

Bob Thomas: FUNNY book test with Lex participating:
<https://youtu.be/FQ-w0bOXSS4>

Michael Larkin: Ninja ring Daryl coin routine
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bShYQju5Zqk>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyUg-UGhGlw>

Karl Johnson and daughter give a fun performance:
https://youtu.be/mkKwufGLB_Q

Don Kinney: Short hilarious interview at Kingsley Manor.
<https://fpkingsleymanor.oneday.com/Video/E3B7436B42>



NOVEMBER LINKING RING REPORT

BY GERRY SCHILLER AND LEX SCHWARTZ

RING 21 was graced with the presence of the charming Kayla Drescher as its October lecturer. Her topic was a style of magic that only a few of us have practiced: Magic behind the Bar.

Kayla has had years of developing this skill since she frequently holds sway over the Magic Castle's Library Bar and she appears frequently at Chicago's Magic Lounge.

Bar Magic (as she says) is definitely unique and requires some special knowledge and skills. She feels it's second only in providing a challenge to that of the magician for kids' parties (which I can attest!)

However one of the problems with her lecture was she presented just a tiny smidgen of what she has learned.

Knowing skills and technique is one thing; being able to present it in a lecture is another.

In her two hour lecture she spent almost the entire first hour showing us one coin sleight!

With so much to impart I personally felt that more time might have been spent more profitably.

In her second hour she rapidly presented some bullet points: your material should be interactive; use objects from your environment (like glasses, napkins, coins) and involve as many people as possible.


For her a bar should be like a parlor show and not a tight close up show for just a few people.

I personally felt that she could have talked more about specific effects she does and how to choose magic that works behind that bar. She needed to highlight the specific magic that has worked for her over the years.

She did talk a bit about the "bar environment" and suggested tips like having magnets on your side of the bar to hold small gimmicks and objects for quick and easy access. And having a small ledge as a kind of servante just out of sight.

Above all, her philosophy is: your job as a performer is above all, to keep other staff members happy.

Her lecture may have inspired others to pursue doing bar gigs. Maybe it showed them it was a really tough way to succeed as a magician. As the late, great Max Maven replied when I pushed him to book me to do the late, late Castle Shows, "Gerry, do you really want to do your well crafted magic for a bunch of drunks, really?"





Above is Christmas in Hollywood- Noel's (no I's) Happy New Year Everyone!

