



**MAGIC
ACROSS
TEXAS**

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TO ALL MAGICIANS EVERYWHERE...

Merry Christmas

Happy Holidays

Best Wishes for 2017

from TAM

Officers, Representatives, and Past Presidents



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, the holidays are upon us, and it also means time is running out for the best seats for next year's TAOM convention in Frisco on Labor Day Weekend. You might want to go get your registration NOW before prices go up on January 1. So far, I have promised you that the convention will be fun, but have not really told you much about who is going to be there. Yeah, I can follow Stan Allen's lead...after all Magic LIVE gets 1500 people with a waiting list.

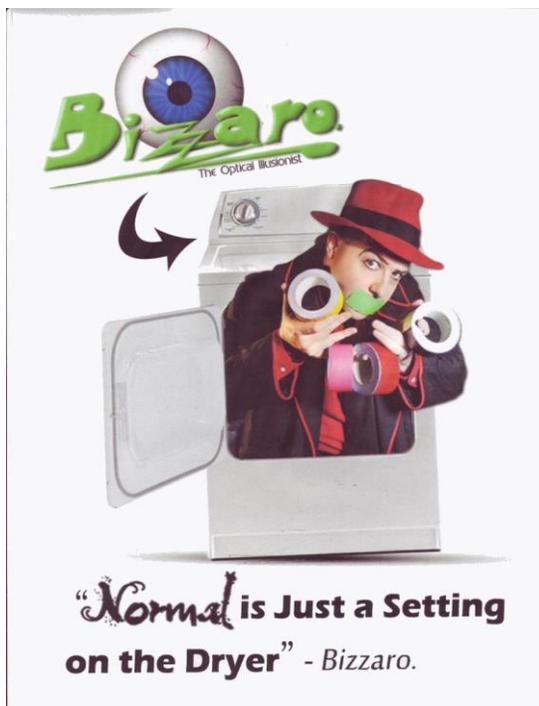
There will be some great talent that I'll announce later next year, but, face it, TAOM is one of the best conventions on the planet. Even Brent Braun from Penguin, when he was touring Texas with Michael Ammar, said it is one of his favorites and he hopes to be able to come. (His schedule at Penguin is crazy what with the Live Expos and lectures going on across the country.) The TAOM is a time to hang out with friends and spend time seasoning. One of the reasons we picked the Embassy Suites in Frisco is the huge area they have for breakfast and the manager's reception every day. When that space isn't being used, it makes a great place for you to sit and work on moves or new tricks. And for the adults who desire special beverages, I have assurances that the bar will be open until 2am every night. (That was part of our negotiations.)

But since it is the holidays, I will give you the name of one of the great talents coming in for TAOM 2017. (I guess the holiday spirit has me feeling generous.) The person coming in is, without a doubt, one of the most creative people in the business today. He's appeared on AGT, Masters of Illusion, Fox and NBC. He performs at the Magic Castle. He has been a consultant for many programs including Wizard Wars and a new program set to air next year featuring the Illusionists Adam Trent. (In that show he and Adam actually fooled Dr. Rubik with his cube...yes, Rubik is still alive and teaching.) He has made

magic for other magicians including David Copperfield. Says Justin Flom, "Don't hire him. I'd rather his schedule be open so he can continue working with me."

Not only can he make or improve tricks, he also is a first rate director who, in his words, "can make your show suck a lot less." Who is this? He is Texas's own though now Las Vegas based **Bizzaro**, the Optical Illusionist making his TAOM debut. Bizzaro will be performing, presenting a lecture and generally hanging around to talk with you. He is one who is very approachable and knowledgeable. And did I say creative? Yeah really creative. An all around great guy.

In addition, if your act needs to suck less, we're working on a special seminar, where you can get some one on one with Biz to help with your act. More details about that later. But Bizzaro will be here for TAOM 2017 and you should be too!



Remember to register early for the best seats at the convention! You don't want to miss this one!
Go online and register at TAOM.org



"NOTHING NEW, JUST DIFFERENT"

Do you remember that guy who got naked and fooled Penn and Teller on Fool Us? Do you remember the S.A.M. President who named David Copperfield "The Magician of The Century" and "The King of Magic"? Do you remember that magician who wrote Exposed and Fearless and financed it through crowd sourcing? Do you remember that magician who has not only worked on his own career but has worked tirelessly making other acts better? That guy is **Vinny Grosso** and Dallas Magic Club magicians are lucky that he will kick off 2017 with a special lecture on January 17 at 7 p.m, at Dallas Building Assn., 5816 West Plano Parkway in Plano.



Who is Vinny Grosso? Past National President of The Society of American Magicians, Member of the Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star, world record holder for jumping on broken glass (WRR), tour manager and technical director for artists like Cesar Millan (the dog whisperer), Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood (Whose Line), Ina Garten (the "Barefoot Contessa") & Mel Brooks. *Oh, and he is a winner on "Penn and Teller Fool Us"!*

What's in this lecture? As the title suggests - unique handling, technique and performance premises for several existing routines including a tossed out deck (without a deck!), name a card, Kellar rope tie, fish bowl production, confabulation and more. In addition Vinny will discuss his routine Tasteless that fooled Penn & Teller. Vinny will reveal the genesis of the routine, earlier methods and the entire experience. All the behind-the-scenes info including walking off the stage thinking he didn't fool them!



January 19, 7:00 p.m. – **LEVENT** will headline the annual banquet show for the Fort Worth Magicians Club. The banquet will be at Lou's Place, 1201 Wesleyan in Fort with and the show just across the street at Martin's Hall. Tickets are \$45 and \$25.

January 20, 7:00 p.m. – **LEVENT** will lecture at Lou's Place. Levent has appeared numerous times on Masters of Illusion; he travels around the world performing his comedy act on cruise ships and is a prolific author and researcher. Lecture: \$25

BITS AND PIECES OF INTERESTING STUFF



CONGRATULATIONS, DAVID HIRA!

Good news: TAOM Past President David Hira presented an outstanding podcast on Penguin LIVE on December 18. His lecture motivates you to share your magic with enthusiasm and love for your audience.

Better news: This expanded lecture that includes routines that were not in previous lectures is **available for download!**

Go to www.penguinmagic.com/p/7642

John Magic's Theater and Museum

Elaborate stage shows start at 7:00 p.m. every Saturday night and doors open at 7:30 p.m. on Friday's for outstanding close-up magic featuring various magicians. Cody Fisher, Arsene Dupin, Brad Henderson, John Wright and others perform from time to time. The theater is located at 13419 Fitzhugh Road off 290 past Oak Hill west of Austin. You'll need to make reservations by calling 512-289-4461. Go to www.magicstheater.com for details.



Second Saturday Magic Sale

Magic, Etc., Fort Worth's premier magic shop hosts a Second Saturday Sale every month where magicians can score good savings on props and supplies. Magicians get "special" treatment and special prices. Magic, Etc. is located on Forest Park Boulevard at I-30 in Fort Worth.

Thrifty Third Thursday

Magic, Etc. and Fort Worth Costume started a new monthly gathering of magicians from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. You are invited to wheel and deal for the best buys ever only at Fort Worth's own Magic, Etc. and Fort Worth Costume.

HUMPERDINKS

Restaurant & Brewpub

Monday Night Magic in Arlington

All magic aficionados are invited to attend informal gatherings at Humperdink's Restaurant at LaQuinta Inn, #6 North Six Flags Drive in Arlington every Monday night. Bring your cards and props to practice your "choips" in the back room.

But wait...there's more! Second Tuesday TOO! This special interest group, the Mid-Cities Magic Circle, focuses on performance. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9:30 at Humperdink's.

The purpose of the Mid-Cities Magic Circle is to provide a venue for Dallas/Fort Worth performing magicians to study their art and improve as public performers. Each meeting focuses on a single theme -- development of performance skills, routines, and other elements important to the public performance of magic.

There is no formal membership, no officers, no notes or minutes. For more information -- forget it! There is simply no one in charge to respond. Just show up on the second Tuesday of the month at Humperdink's and join the fun and magic!



Shane Wilson and Chris Alonzo at Sakura in Houston

Pearland's superb hibachi restaurant, Sakura, is proud to present the magic talents of **Chris Alonzo** every Friday and **Shane Wilson** every Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m.

Cards in South Austin

The **South Austin Card Group** meets on the last Saturday of each month, usually at the home of Ron Cartlidge. Get in touch with Lou Hornung at lhornung@sbcglobal.net for details and to be added to the meeting notice distribution list.



In Addison EVERY SUNDAY at 2:00 p.m. Doors open at 1:00 for lunch and pre-show entertainment. Details at <http://improv.com/>

In Houston - Ted Schwank and Carter Blackburn take you on a high-energy adventure in magic, illusion, and comedy. For dates and times, go to <http://mprov.com/>

In Arlington EVERY SUNDAY at 2:00 p.m. Various magicians from North Texas will entertain you royally and make you laugh. Details at <http://improv.com/>



Magic on the Grill at Tokyohana 3239 Southwest Freeway in Houston

David Rangel coordinates a covey of local area magicians who perform close-up magic every Thursday and Saturday night at Tokyohana Grill and Sushi Bar, 3239 Southwest Freeway, in Houston. Enjoy excellent Oriental cuisine or sit at the sushi bar with top talent magic on the side. Thursdays from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

ONE LAST THING



*Best Wishes for a
Magical
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy & Prosperous 2017*

Judy Hollingsworth
TAOM Club Coordinator
Magic Across Texas Editor
TAOM Past President