



**MAGIC  
ACROSS  
TEXAS**

## **Vol. 6, #5 -May 2015**

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Official Newsletter

of the

Texas Association of Magicians

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**for all magicians everywhere!**

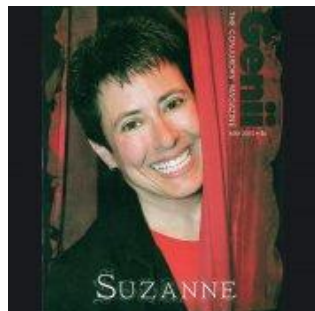
### **Message from the President**

Dear Texas Magicians:

I recently attended and performed for the in Des Moines, Iowa. It was fun working with three perform for 2015 TAOM: Suzanne, Randi Rains, and



AbraCORNdabra convention people who will also Nick Lewin.



I saw first-hand that TAOM attendees are in for a real treat. Suzanne's close-up act is amazing. In fact she's so amazing you will see her this summer on Penn and Teller's "Fool Us!" She would not/could not tell me if she fooled Penn and Teller. We have to watch and see.

It was also a thrill watching Nick Lewin perform at the public gala show in Des Moines. He's a polished pro and had the audience eating out of his hands. Oooh, and is Nick's lecture good! He has superb, commercial effects and advice from his years on the road working for real audiences.



Randi Rains is also clever and very funny. I learned that she has several movie credits for prop and set building. Her sponge products, (bricks, hammers & wrenches) SOLD OUT the first 10 minutes the Iowa Dealers Room was open. Expect some very interesting and unique products and props at Randi's TAOM dealer booth.

I also got a sneak peek at Randi's "hands on" lecture on how to build an Okito Voodoo Doll. Randi and Mica will be sharing a lecture spot. Mica's "hands on" lecture will be on how to build a confetti canon. Mica is nationally known for his confetti canons. You've probably seen his work on "America's Got Talent" or "Dancing with the Stars." Mica will give you the know-how to build your own confetti canon. POW, a double header lecture!

I am so excited about what we have planned for TAOM conventioners on Sunday evening. There are 3 different events between 6pm and 12 midnight!

- 1) Esther's Follies Theater starring Ray Anderson will open just for us. Since their theater has only 250 seats there will be two shows, one at 6:30pm and one at 9pm. (PLEASE NOTE: Esther's Follies is a PG-13 rated show with sexual humor, political satire, music and great comedy magic.)
- 2) The TAOM group not seeing Esther's will see a fabulous show at the Sheraton hotel. This show will take place in Creekside at 6:30pm and 9pm and will feature comedy magician Nick Lewin along with several of our stars of tomorrow: 2014 TAOM winner, Ava Byers and 2011 Jr. Stage winner Drake Stanton.
- 3) Plans are also being finalized for the grand party at 10:30pm on Sunday night. Steve Daly, attired in turban and cape, will emcee as he introduces several magical cabaret acts, acrobats, and the Yes Ma'am Brass Band! Dust off your best "Moulin Rouge" outfit and be ready to party!



If you have not registered for TAOM – [click here to do it now!](#) You will have a great time!

Trixie Bond  
President, 2015 TAOM

## CONVENTION UPDATE



TAOM 2015 is proud to bring you the magic of **Steve Daly, aka Tiny Bubbles**. "Tiny" isn't your average 450-pound Cher impersonator; he is also a magician, comedian, hypnotist, puppeteer, caricature artist, park consultant, producer, and mentor. This full-time entertainer works regularly on the Las Vegas strip and tours with his own comedy shows. DO NOT MISS HIS ACT!

Another star, **Amanda Ferrell** from the United Kingdom, will amaze and enthrall you. Amanda has performed throughout the UK for more than 25 years to rave reviews. She belongs to the esteemed Inner Magic Circle in London and the prestigious FFFF. Be prepared; this British lady should not be allowed near sharp or pointed objects. Be afraid....be very afraid!

## EXTRA! EXTRA! BOB FITCH WORKSHOP



### **Bob Fitch Workshop**

***Friday, September 4th (3 hours) 10 a.m.-1 p.m.***

***Fee: \$100.00. Limited to 6 registrations.***

***Bob will give your act his full attention. You may find a new direction and purposeful meaning for your routine.***

\$25.00 observer fee (limited registrations) to see Bob coach 6 acts and learn some valuable tools.

Go to <http://taom.org/2015/bob-fitch-workshop/> to register. Details and preparation details will be privately emailed to you after you register.

What do Bill Malone, Paul Gertner, Bob Sheets, David Copperfield and 4 FISM winners have in common? Answer: they have gone to Bob Fitch for coaching! If you are ready to improve your performance, this is your golden opportunity!

In the past, magicians have had few resources to learn professional performance, communication and movement skills. This intensive, structured workshop has been tailored to magicians and is intended to give them basic theatre tools and self-directing skills to take away and be able to apply to their own work. These tools and skills can improve every routine a performer does and raise their level of professionalism. When it comes to teaching professional stagecraft, performance skills and communication fundamentals to magicians, there is no teacher more qualified than Bob Fitch. Winner of the Academy of Magical Arts Lifetime Achievement Award, Bob's extensive performing career has included 27 Broadway shows, including "Annie", for which he won the Burns-Mantle Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical for creating the role of the villainous Rooster Hannigan. Also awarded the MIMC w/Gold Star from the prestigious Magic Circle and Magician of the Year, from NYC's SAM #1 Parent Assembly. On stage, screen and TV, Bob has worked with the best in show business.

As a skilled magician he knows how to apply this knowledge to the conjuring arts. Stars of magic, FISM and Gold Cup winners and dozens of working pros from around the world have turned to Bob to take their performances to the next level. Whether you do close-up or stage, illusions or mentalism, corporate or comedy clubs, Bob can help you improve your strengths, minimize your weaknesses and put more of YOU into your performance.

## The Illusionists are Coming!

**The Illusionists are coming to Houston!** See show information [HERE](#). This acclaimed show will be at Jones Hall in Houston June 2 through 6. AND... Groupon has a special deal on tickets for magicians. See ticket information [HERE](#).

***OR SEE IT FREE....Now this is truly magical!***

S.A.M. Assembly 19, Society for the Performing Arts (SPA) and "The Illusionists-Witness The Impossible™" National Tour have joined together to provide an opportunity for some lucky and talented magicians and their guests to not only see the show FOR FREE, one mage and a guest will also get to go backstage and meet a member of the cast.

Interested? All you need to do is go to <https://www.facebook.com/HoustonMagic> and check out the contest information!



It's a contest and the rules are simple. Prepare a 3-7 minute video of you performing your best effect(s). They must be 'Family Friendly', of course. Post your video on the page. You also need to "like" both the HoustonMagic page and the SPA page. Our panel of judges will select the best performance, based on originality, skill, entertainment values, presentation and style. Now here's the fun part.... a special "People's Favorite" winner will also be chosen based upon the contestant's entry receiving the most Facebook 'likes' on the HoustonMagic page. You do need to mention SPA in your video, either verbally or with an embedded link. Entries must be posted no later than 11:59 pm, Central Daylight Time on May 31, 2015.

The winner of each category will receive two tickets to a performance, the date and time to be determined by SPA. Tickets are non-transferable and have no cash value.

Decision of the Judges is final. Entries may be subject to approval by SPA. Entry deadline subject to change. All ages are invited to participate, but, if chosen, the winner must be over 18 or accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

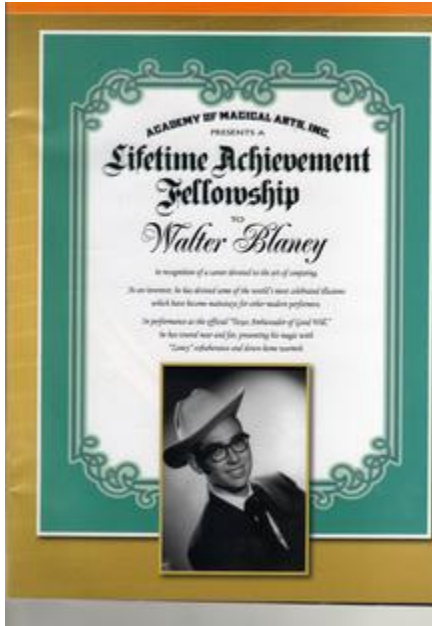
["The Illusionists - Witness The Impossible™" is a Registered Trademark. Used by permission ]

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### Illusionists Interviewed for "Why the World Needs Magic"

Dal Sanders' and Jason Van Sickle's massive video project, supported by the S.A.M. Endowment Fund, scored another coup with a great interview a couple of weeks ago with the cast of "The Illusionists". To enjoy this in-depth discussion, go to <https://youtu.be/eeCAi15UK2U>

## Blaney Awarded Lifetime Achievement Fellowship Award



Here's a lovely report from your friend and mine, Walter "Zaney" Blaney:

"The Academy of Magical Arts (AMA), in conjunction with The Magic Castle, held their annual Magic Awards Show in the beautiful Saban Theater in Hollywood Sunday evening, May 17th. On the show they make various awards to the winning acts who have appeared at The Magic Castle during the past year, much like the Oscar Awards Show for the movie industry. And they also make several "Magic Fellowship Awards" to a few special individuals in the magic world who have excelled in their own special fields in magic.... like Performing Fellowship, Literary Fellowship, Masters Fellowship.

My daughter Becky and I flew out to the event, and the AMA officers comped us with our plane fare, hotel, private transportation. They treated us like kings.

On the show I was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Fellowship Award. Seen below is a copy of the award as it appeared in the program. This is considered as one of the top awards in the magic world, and I was honored and extremely happy to receive it.

The show producers arranged for my longtime pal in magic (since we were nine years old) Mark Wilson, and his wife Nani, to appear on stage to introduce me and give a bit of history on my career in magic. Then I told a few stories about Bill and Milt Larsen, founders of both the AMA and The Magic Castle. In my three minute acceptance speech I vanished the Blaney Birdcage five times to fit the points I was making.

The crowd always loves this famous old piece of magic. It's one of my signature tricks and I think was a good choice in those few moments in the limelight. The show closed with several terrific magic acts from around the world. Then the whole crowd retreated to the Magic Castle to be royally wined and dined. As the old saying goes, a good time was had by all.

Best from Texas, Walter

PS: I learned about the coming award several months ago, but it was to be kept a secret until the night of the show. I gave my word, and I kept my word. Now I can at last pass the news of my good fortune on to you.





June 4, San Antonio - S.A.M. 52 Annual Installation of Officers Banquet and Show featuring the comedy and magic of **Arsene Dupin** at Pompeii Italian Grill at 6:00 p.m. Reservations required; contact Doug Gorman at [dougorman@att.net](mailto:dougorman@att.net) for details.



June 6, New Orleans - **Francis Menotti Lecture**. For details, contact Westley Annis at [westley@da-parish.com](mailto:westley@da-parish.com)

June 9, Houston - **Francis Menotti Lecture**, IATSE Local 51 Meeting Hall, 3030 North Freeway, at 7:30 p.m.

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June 15, Austin - **Jamie Salinas Lecture on Seances, Mentalism, and Magic** at 7:30 p.m., at Omni Southpark.



June 26, Austin - **Nathan Kranzo Lecture**, 7:00 p.m. at Heroes Night Out.

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June 27, Luling Watermelon Thumb - **Joe Libby**. Details next month.

## Bits and Pieces of Interesting Stuff

**ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO DO MAGIC** -- This is a golden opportunity to have a talented photographer record you and your magic. **Professional Photographer Sandy Flint** needs a class of 2016 magician from Houston, Austin, San Antonio, or Dallas areas (or willing to travel). Photo sessions will produce a photo art composite during the summer for a photographic competition. No fees involved and the magician will receive a copy of the final image. Check out Flint Photography website at <http://www.flint-photography.com/>

If you are interested in this exciting project, send Sandy an email -- [magician@flint-photography.com](mailto:magician@flint-photography.com)

**Magic Needed** - Lubbock magician Rick Honea had all his magic stolen a while back when his entire trailer full of magic vanished. He's in need of a few standard items if you have extras to share. Specifically, he needs a dove bag, change bag, stage-size Hippity Hop Rabbits, dove pan, duck pan, and What's Next. If you can help, get in touch with Rick at drhonea@gmail.com

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**Magic on the Grill at Tokyohana Every Thursday and Saturday Night**

**David Rangel** coordinates a covey of local area magicians who perform close-up magic each week atop hibachi grills at Tokyohana Grill and Sushi Bar. Come enjoy some excellent oriental cuisine or sit at the sushi bar and enjoy some sushi and a drink with some magic on the side.



**Where:** Tokyohana Grill and Sushi Bar,  
3239 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77027

**When:** Thursdays from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

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**Second Saturday Magic Show at the Magic Attic Theatre at Main Street at the Magic & Fun Company in McKinney**

Family-friendly shows at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. February 14.

In other exciting news, the [Society of Young Magicians](#), sponsored by Dallas Society of American Magicians, will have regular meetings at 1:00 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month at Main Street Magic and Fun Company in McKinney. This world-wide organization for youth, ages 7 through 17 promotes interest in magic as a wholesome hobby that will help develop self-confidence and skill, the ability to speak in public, discipline that comes from learning, practicing and performing magic, and a sense of service to others through helping others learn magic and by performing magic at charitable events. To learn more or to let us know that you will be attending, please call Jennifer at 214-274-7802 or email [mainstreetmagic@att.net](mailto:mainstreetmagic@att.net)

AND THERE'S STILL MORE...**Magic Camp** start on June 8 with a wide variety of classes, age groups, and times for the whole summer. Where: Main Street Magic & Fun Co | 972-542-5010 | Historic Downtown McKinney How: [mainstreetmagic@att.net](mailto:mainstreetmagic@att.net)

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**Magic at the Improv In Addison EVERY SUNDAY** at 2:00 p.m. Doors open at 1:00 for lunch and pre-show entertainment.

<http://addison.improv.com/>



**In Arlington EVERY SUNDAY** at 2:00 p.m. Featuring Christopher Lyle and Ian Richards on January 25, David Hira on February 1, and Mike Squires on February 8. Go to <http://arlington.improv.com/> for details

**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://houston.improv.com/>



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**Shane Wilson & Chris Alonzo at Sakura Japanese Steakhouse in Houston**

Shane Wilson & Chris Alonzo now appear regularly at Pearland's superb hibachi restaurant, [Sakura](#). Catch live performances every Friday and Saturday beginning at 7:00 p.m. See Chris Alonzo on Fridays and Shane Wilson on Saturdays.

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**See Ben Jackson Live Each Week at Campioni Restaurant in North Houston**

Ben Jackson performs close-up magic on Tuesday and Friday nights when it doesn't conflict with his busy professional schedule of corporate performances. Catch him when you can.

Campioni - 5419 FM 1960 West in Houston; Phone 281-893-2267 make dinner reservations.

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**Second Saturday Magic Sale at Magic, Etc., 9:00 a.m.,**

Forest Park Blvd. at 1-30 in Fort Worth.

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**New Kid on the Block -- er, new MAGIC SHOP in Texas.** Next time you're in Beaumont, check it out! Laugh It Up Gift Shop, 6155 Eastex Freeway, Suite 691 in Parkdale Mall. This nice little gag and gift shop has a growing magic section and always accommodates special orders. email [info@laughitupgifts.com](mailto:info@laughitupgifts.com) and check out their website at [www.laughitupgifts.com](http://www.laughitupgifts.com)

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**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 [lhornumg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lhornumg@sbcglobal.net) for details and to be added to the meeting notice distribution list.

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**Rick Hebert - Every Other Weekend at Claudia's in League City**

[Rick Hebert](#) is performing restaurant magic every other weekend at Claudio's Restaurant & Piano Bar in League City. Their website is: <http://www.claudiospianobar.com/>

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Rick will be strolling table-side magic, as well as doing a short magic show on the main stage every other weekend. Check the website to dates and times.



## 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 every Monday night. Bring your cards and props to practice your "chops" in the back room.

**But wait....there's more:**

## Second Tuesday TOO!

This special interest group focuses on performance. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9:30 at Humperdink's Restaurant at Six Flags in Arlington.

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. The meetings will focus on a single theme each month. There is no formal membership, no notes or minutes, no officers -- each meeting will address the development of performance skills, routines, and other elements important to the public performance of magic.

For more information... forget it! There is simply no one in charge who will respond! Just show up each second Tuesday at Humperdink's Restaurant at Six Flags in Arlington at 7:00 and join in the fun and magic!

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## The Last Word



Good thoughts and best wishes to those who have been affected by the disastrous floods throughout Texas during the past month. With the floods headlining almost every newscast, it's hard to think about the fun of magic. One way magicians can help right now is take a little cheer to shelters to brighten spirits of those displaced from their homes.

On a lighter note, I'm happy to report that the TAOM Board of Directors voted at the May 2 mid-year meeting in Austin to amend the bylaws to allow a Board-appointed convention committee to host a convention. Frank Seltzer will continue as chairman of the exploratory committee to come up with a presentation on details for 2017.

Judy Hollingsworth  
TAOM Club Coordinator

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