



The Servante

Official Newsletter of the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists

Volume 2026 - Number 8 - August 2026
Monthly Club Meeting - Thursday August 20, 2026 - 7:00 pm
Illusion Warehouse - 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas
Three Blocks North of Seminary Drive

MAGICIAN'S ROUNDTABLE

Our Thursday August 20 monthly club meeting will be a Potluck-Style Magic Jam Session! Please bring a finger food of your choice to share, along with your favorite magic effects, tricks, props, or gadgets that you've been working on. This is a great opportunity to perform your material, exchange creative ideas, and receive constructive feedback from your fellow magicians. Whether you're polishing an existing routine, developing a new effect, or simply looking for inspiration, this will be an enjoyable evening of collaboration, learning, and creativity. Most importantly, this will be a wonderful opportunity to experience the camaraderie, fellowship, and shared passion for magic that make our club so special. We look forward to seeing everyone around the round table for an evening of great food, great magic, and great company!

Hare Evison, President

HOUSTON TAOM CONVENTION IS IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS!

Since 1946, the Texas Association of Magicians has been the heartbeat of magic in Texas. In only two weeks on Labor Day weekend September 4-7, the Houston magic clubs are writing the next chapter! World-class dining, incredible nightlife, and the legendary hospitality of the Houston magic community makes the convention a full family event. Also the convention will feature the magic talents of John Bannon, Armando Lucero, Mike Pisciotta, Eric DeCamps, Jake and David Rangel, Chip Romero, Caesar, Jamie Salinas, Paul Vigil, Geoff Williams, John Shryock and Mari Lynn. The convention will honor Scott Hollingsworth, Scott Wells, and living legend Bill Palmer. The convention will be full of shows, lectures, a fully stocked dealer's room, and special events.



The convention will be held at the Hilton Post Oak by the Galleria, which features oversized guest rooms, step-out balconies, and just steps from all the meeting events. Located in Uptown Houston, the Hilton offers luxury, comfort, and convenience with on-site dining, a open area second floor pool, and the world-class Galleria mall nearby. Book now to lock in the special TAOM rate! See www.taom.org for hotel and convention registration details. Also see the flyer elsewhere in this edition of the SERVANTE. Don't miss this convention!

MAGISTRORUM CONVENTION

Andrew Deruiter and Susan Williams' Bizarre Magic and Mentalism convention will once again be held at the Marriott Hotel in Las Colinas (Dallas). The dates for this year's convention is September 17-20. The convention features a wide variety of performers, unique magic presentations, shows, lectures, and dealer's room. Feature performers include Larry Hass, Bill Palmer, Doug Gorman, and others. See www.Magistrorum.net for full details, and note the flyer elsewhere in this edition of the SERVANTE.

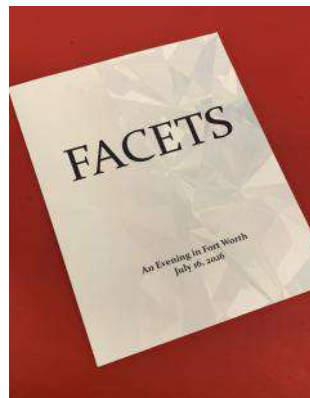
JULY MONTHLY CLUB MEETING MINUTES

On Thursday July 16, the SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists was honored once again to have Lance Pierce lecture and perform at the club's monthly meeting. Lance is an underground legend and one of the finest practitioners of classical sleight-of-hand magic you will ever see. A student of the late Roger Klause, Bob White, Michael Skinner, and others, Lance Pierce has a finesse and non-assuming approach to magic that incredible to behold.

The author of the acclaimed book ROGER KLAUSE IN CONCERT, Lance finds great satisfaction working with magicians behind the scenes to help them wherever he can. His current passion is finding more and better ways to give back to magic and magicians as much as he has benefited himself from those who've helped him every step of the way. He is an inventor, innovator, and perfectionist when it comes to the sleight-of-hand art of magic.

Lance's lecture was filled with cardiology, tricks, routines, and inspiration. He even prepared a special 100 page book titled "FACETS . . . , an evening in Fort Worth July 16, 2026." Magicians who were not at the lecture can purchase copies online through the Illusion Warehouse magic shop website at www.illusionwarehouse.com/product-page/facets-by-lance-pierce, with all remuneration being forwarded to Lance.

The meeting was well attended with 32 magicians and guests in attendance. The event was held at 7:00 pm, the Illusion Warehouse magic shop in Fort Worth. The lecture was free for all 2026 club members in good standing (2026 dues paid up members). Others attended the lecture by paying \$25 cash at the door or sending payment to the club's PayPal account. Special guests at the lecture were Bill Malone and Gary Plants.



JULY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

President Hare Evison called to order the Thursday July 16, 2026 Executive Committee meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists at about 6:00 pm in the Illusion Warehouse museum room.

A quorum of all officers were in attendance including President Hare Evison, Vice President Gary Poe, Secretary Bruce Chadwick, Treasurer Lonnie Olander, Sergeant at Arms Jack McCoy, and Member at Large Caleb Westeen. Not in attendance was Historian William Weebo Beaty.

The minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting as printed in the July issue of the SERVANTE were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer Lonnie Olander presented the club's April financial report. The club's previous Operating Account balance was \$2,382.75. Since then the club received \$222.91 from the final Buddy Hunt magic trick donation auction. The clubs had disbursements of \$13.86 for MailChimp, \$450 to pay for the Lance Pierce lecture, and \$50 to the Illusion Warehouse for the showmanship books given to the club members. This leaves the clubs with a working balance of \$2091.80.

Next the committee voted not to pursue the annual public show on Saturday September 26. Secretary Chadwick suggested the possibility of a "Dinner and Show" in 2027 at the Chinese buffet restaurant where the clubs have held their January installation banquet for the past several years.

The agenda for the August meeting was discussed. The meeting will be a "sit around and play magic" magician's round table. President Hare Evison was asked to generate a pre-meeting written overview of the meeting agenda.

The committee discussed the continual proposed collaboration with the Dallas Magic Club to co-host magic lectures and each club paying half the lecturer's fee. It was recognized that the AOI and Dallas Magic club seem to be having difficulty communicating with each other. With this in mind, it was proposed that Caleb Westeen, who is a member of both the DMC and AOI clubs, be the point man to help facilitate communication and help find a suitable restaurant meeting location somewhere between Dallas and Fort Worth.

The clubs discussed the evening's Lance Pierce lecturer for the July 16 monthly club meeting. The lecture was free for members who have paid their 2026 club dues. All others attended by paying \$25 cash at the door or by sending a PayPal payment to the club's account. Pierce's lecture fee and hotel reimbursement is \$450.

Last month, Secretary Chadwick announced that some of the officers including Gary Poe and Lonnie Olander plan on joining Bruce Chadwick to preview the DoubleTree by Hilton Fort Worth South Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Altamesa Blvd, Fort Worth on Monday July 27 for their hotel open house. Other Executive Committee officers are welcome to attend as well. If the clubs host an annual Texas Association of Magicians convention in 2028 or 2029, the hotel is being considered as a the possible convention hotel.

With no further business, the meeting concluded about 6:30 pm to start the July monthly club meeting with Lance Pierce.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Chadwick, Secretary





From the President's Top Hat

Welcome once again, friends and fellow lovers of magic! As we gather beneath the brim of the President's Top Hat, this monthly column continues to celebrate the art, humor, challenges, and unforgettable moments that come with being part of the magical community. Whether you perform on stage, practice behind the scenes, or simply enjoy the wonder of illusion, I hope these reflections inspire you to keep growing in your craft and finding joy in the experience along the way.

Costumes with Hidden Secrets

One of the most challenging decisions for a magician can be surprisingly simple: **What am I going to wear?**

Over the years, I have adapted my magic attire to include some of the "hidden secrets" I use to perform. Personally, I like wearing a blazer because it allows me to utilize holdouts, magnetic devices, sewn-in hidden pockets, the classic Topit, drawstrings, remote controls, power reels, and even a busker bag. Ha!

These utilities give me unique ways to perform certain effects, and magicians have been incorporating hidden devices into their clothing since the beginning of magic. So, I suppose it isn't really much of a secret!

My kids like to joke that I'm "just really good at hiding things in my pockets." Ha! They may be onto something.

Of course, a blazer isn't necessary to put on a great magic show. For me, though, the right garment can become another tool in my magic. Whether it is a wizard's cape, classic top hat, vest, or well-fitted blazer, I enjoy taking those traditional images of a magician and finding ways to make them work for my act.

A Little Fashion... and a Lot of Magic

Interestingly, my interest in pockets started long before I became a professional magician.

When I was in fashion school studying tailoring, my "fashion mother" would always tell me, **"You're going to make men's wear because you can wear it."**

Little did she know about my plans for those pockets!

I was always adding pockets to the dresses I made. The models loved them, and my fashion mother would proudly ask, **"You added pockets?!"** It became part of my design aesthetic.

During my senior year, I worked with ready-to-wear menswear and learned just how challenging it was to construct a man's blazer. There were so many pieces to the pattern, and adding pockets meant more pieces, more challenges, and, of course, more secrets! Ha!

I never shied away from adding pockets because, even then, I knew they might become important someday.

When the Costume Becomes Part of the Act

As a magician, finding the right balance is important. You don't want to become so dependent on hidden devices and apparatuses that they interfere with the rest of your routine. Finding that balance is a unique art form in itself.

For me, the way a magician looks also matters. An audience wants to see someone who **looks like a magician**—someone who makes them feel like they are about to experience something they don't normally see.

That doesn't mean the outfit creates the magic. **The magician does.** The costume simply becomes another part of the presentation.

Over the years, I've collected different outfits, hats, holdout bags, and apparatuses, learning how each can help elevate a performance. Once you find the right balance, something interesting happens: **The outfit becomes part of you—and part of your act.**

Looking good can make you feel good, and feeling confident can help you perform at your best. So maybe it's time to dust off that old vest with a few extra pockets, find a good holdout or drawstring, and go to work!

For me, it's about **feeling my best, looking my best, performing my best, and utilizing my surroundings—especially when I'm wearing them.**

So find the outfit that makes you feel like a magician.

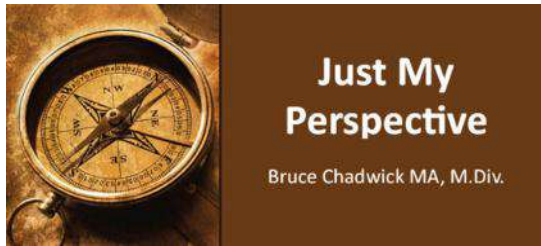
Then step onto that stage and let the magic begin.

Keep the magic alive!

— Hare Evison

President, Bruce Chadwick S.A.M. Assembly 138

Alliance of Illusionists Magic Club



ACTING IS NOT ACTING

Magicians often applaud Eugene Robert-Houdin for saying, "A magician is an actor playing the part of a magician." From a cursory understanding about magic and acting, one might assume that Houdin was simply saying that magicians are actors. However this famous quote may have a much deeper

meaning. While the magic part in the quote may easily be understood, a proper understanding about acting is required to understand the quote fully.

Most people think that acting is just pretending. Unfortunately everyone has seen plays and movies where the acting is not believable and the actors don't come across as real or genuine. That's because they are pretending, which causes their performances to look fake.

When actors think that acting is just pretending, their performance usually come across as artificial and plastic. Amateurish play like acting, and mundane delivery of words and actions, fall way short of the thespian arts. Bad acting usually mixes a combination of overacting, underacting, being monotone, and not knowing how to react to other actors onstage, especially when an actor has no lines.

True acting is the art of producing realism and believability. It is an art where a person draws upon various techniques to define a character and then literally transform into that character. Good actors produce believability by surrealistically becoming the characters they are portraying. This produces authenticity and realism.

Such artistic acting integrates a true conversion of a person's mind, body, and spirit. In fact this process is most uncanny. It is the process of becoming a character that is real enough where an audience may even start believing that the person on stage is the way they are in real life. As well, an audience may get to the point where they are not sure whether or not a person is acting. Realism is what acting is all about. This type of acting employs the total spectrum of reality that completely embodies an actor's entire being, their mind, body, and spirit.

There are many different philosophies regarding the art of acting, but the most famous approach is the Stanislavski Method. This is a systematic approach to acting where actors use real emotions, past experiences, and psychological realism to act out their roles. Actors draw from their own experiences and feelings to parallel the experiences and feelings of the characters they portray.

Good actors also delve deeply into a playwright's script to try and understand the intentions of the writer, and thus understand a character that has proper motivations and idiosyncrasies to convey the script. This mix, combined with techniques of relaxation, concentration, and imagination, helps actors embody their roles, produce authenticity, and then believably interact with the other actors onstage.

So what does all this have to do with magic? Most magicians think magic is just performing tricks and puzzles. Unfortunately this is the saddest, most amateurish, and lowest level of magic. If this is what magic is about, there is no art in magic, and magic shouldn't exist. Most of these magicians don't have a clue what the performance of magic is all about. They simply want to be applauded for demonstrating their ability to perform puzzles. However performers who think magic tricks are nothing more than the demonstration of puzzles do not understand the art of magic. True magic occurs when magicians transform themselves into genuine wonder workers.

The magician who understands the art of acting is the person who understands the art of magic. A true magician takes the tools of the actor, integrates the performance of magic tricks, and transforms into a true conjuror. Becoming the real magician that Robert-Houdin talks about employs the entire acting process of literally becoming a person that apparently really does the impossible.



ANCESTERS

There was a tower built at Babel, the thing that made the tower special is that it was the product of what people working together could do. God knocked the tower down and separated the people. He divided them. God had seen them working as one and said, "...nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do". He knew the power of working together. He also knew what was in their imagination at the time and their lack of wisdom so down went the tower.

I was thinking about the incredible meeting last month and about the fantastic magicians (Pierce, Malone, Plants) we had with us and what a bridge to our magician ancestors they are. Think about the connections. These guys were friends with, and students of magicians like Marlo, Klause, and Skinner.

They didn't read books about these guys. They wrote the books about those guys! They spent years collecting the subtle bits that turn magic into art and in turn they built on what was handed to them. That prior generation didn't invent magic. They were taught and influenced by their own prior generation...think Vernon, Miller, Malini and such.

The art of magic has grown very slowly through history until the last century is when it really began an exponential growth. Many things had changed but I think the primary change was collaboration. Magicians began to gather together. They would pull each other upward. They would correct, teach, inspire, mentor and befriend one another. The magicians grew. Magic grew.

We can learn from books and video but there is a power they don't have. They don't know you. They can't look at your routine and tell you to try slowing it down a little. A video can't sit with you and say, "what if". Eyes besides your own is an invaluable tool to seeing your magic as it really is. We are too close to our own magic to see clearly.

Technology has created an environment where we can learn magic alone. The progression from books, to VHS to DVD to online video and now instant download has allowed for a massive increase at the rate we can learn... alone. It can be rapid and it can be shallow.

There is no friend in that to help you see your blind spots. These tools allowed us to turn a mostly solitary practice into a completely solitary one. We lose something in that.

Magic clubs and conventions have dwindled. Brick and mortar stores are largely gone.

We need to see the value in these things and hang on to them. We need to support one another so that we can grow. They offer you so much that can't be ordered from an online magic store.





CUPS AND BALLS

This is not a review about any particular cup or set of cups. This is about the cup(s) and ball(s) magic in general.

You might think it crazy that I would waste space on a trick everyone knows and has. Surprisingly, that is not the case. I know magicians who have never studied it. I am talking about magicians that actually do close-up and parlor type sleight of hand magic.

I thought that was odd the first time I encountered one of those magicians. I had assumed all magicians began to study cups quite early in their magic walk like I did.

The study of the cups encompasses so many elements of magic. It brings them all together into the absolute most classic trick in all magicdom. The foundations laid in a good study of cups will be a solid foundation that will reward your effort in so much of your other magic. If you are already adept at sleights you will find that using these sleights in the moving context of the cups will sharpen them.

A good routine involving one or more cups will teach not only the mechanics of the sleights but also the timing, misdirection and psychology behind them in a way that studying individual elements in isolation will not.

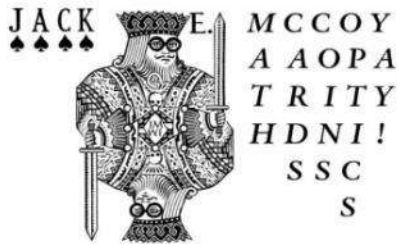
You don't need a set of \$800 Sherwood cups. A basic set of aluminum cups will get you through the learning phase until you have the skill to turn a borrowed coffee cup into great impromptu magic.

Where can you learn? The greater magic DVD is a good overview as is Mark Wilson's Book (The Complete Course in Magic). Ammar and Daryl have some very in-depth work if you get serious.

The mini chop cup in The Illusion Warehouse has a nice starter DVD and is an excellent prop. I prefer it over my fancy Rings and Things mini cup. It comes with two Leo Semester's mini baseballs which are a very nice to work with. It is very powerful magic in the palm of your hand.

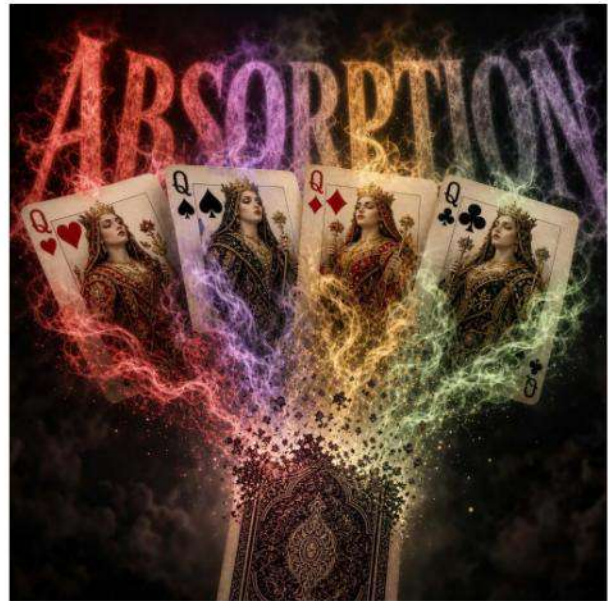
There is more to life than card tricks...there is other magic too.





Effect: The 4 queens fully absorb a selection, vanishing it in a stunning way and revealing it's identity to the magician. This isn't hyperbole, it's exactly what the spectators experience.

History: In a futile attempt performing with a sticky deck, a Bro. John Hamman move which he dubbed the 'undercount variation', explained in his brilliant book *'The Secrets of Bro. John Hamman'*, (*'Watch Me Like A Hawk'* pg. 44), I fumbled but noticed something. Subsequently, a simplified count procedure evolved which I'll call the 'Absorption Count' until someone informs me of a previous credit. This is my 4th variation of Bro. John's effect.



1. Remove the 4 queens in any order, place square face down on the table in a stack.



2. A card is selected, noted, and placed on top of the 4 queens. The remaining cards set on the case off to the right side.



3. The packet is picked up and held in the left hand. The left thumb extends over the top, holding the cards in place the middle finger pushes the bottom card rightward. The right hand takes this right-jogged card,,



„and rotates to display the queen's face.



4. The right hand rotates the queen face down and begins moving towards the packet, during its travel the left middle pushes its bottom card rightwards.



5. The right hand takes this card below the queen it already has and rotates to show its face. Notice the 2 cards aren't perfectly square but slightly askew (very important as the spectator knows it's supposed to be 2.



6. The left middle right-jogs its bottom card. The right hand moves leftward, this time however when it nears the left's packet, the right thumb pushes its top card leftward.



7. The right hand shoves its left-jogged card into the left's thumb crotch.



8. That thumb crotch shoved card is retained by the left hand as the right hand moves rightward with all the others. This switch is impossible for the human eye to catch when done smoothly.



9. The right hand rotates to display the faces, the spectator sees the other 2 queens, 3 queens being visible creates a strong display. Because the previous pair were mostly squared, logically in the mind only 3 queens should be visible. There's a discrepancy here but one which will never be caught. See if you can find it.



10. The left hand places its card on the table then approaches palm up to the right hand's packet.



11. The left fingers square the packet. If the queen 2nd down didn't show during step 9, push the top queen over to show it and re-square. It's important they see all 4 queen suits during steps 3 - 9 for a strong convincer their selection is on the table. **Note: If the queen arrangement began with colors alternating, you can now immediately do an Elmsley count to show 4 queens. I do think it's overkill however, as the old saying goes 'Why run if you're not being chased.'**



12. The left hand rotates the cards face down and drops on top of the table card. The right hand picks all up and places in the left hand.



13. The top card is pushed over, the right hand preparing to flip it face up. The 2nd card down is also slightly spread.



14. Once flipped face up the cards are squared In the left hand, a pinky break is created below the top 2 cards. The right hand grasps the top double in biddle grip.



15. The right hand moves the double towards the deck, rotating its face towards the spectator as you talk about the queen, also glimpsing the selection underneath.



16. The double is placed on the deck, the selection secretly unloaded. Display the remaining queens similarly like the first but without doubles. When the final queen is turned face up and discarded, the vanish of the selection comes as a big surprise. Reveal their selection's identity.

General Patter: A. Make sure to call out all the queen suits as they are shown. The fact all 4 suits are seen is a strong aspect. Once dropped on top of the single card, explain the queens will absorb their card's identity and reveal it to you magically. This far-fetched, almost silly claim is exactly what they end up experiencing so the magical sensation is strong.

B. "The 1st queen absorbs the selection's value, the 2nd queen absorbs the selection's suit, the 3rd queen absorbs the ink, and the 4th queen absorbs the paper." Say the 4th card phrase as you're turning the final queen face up to coincide with they realizing their card is no longer there. Say, "See, I told you they'd absorb it. They also revealed it psychically, your card was the ____ of ____ wasn't it?"

2026
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF
MAGICIANS
CONVENTION

OVER
THE
TOP
in
TEXAS

EVERYTHING'S
BIGGER
ESPECIALLY MAGIC!

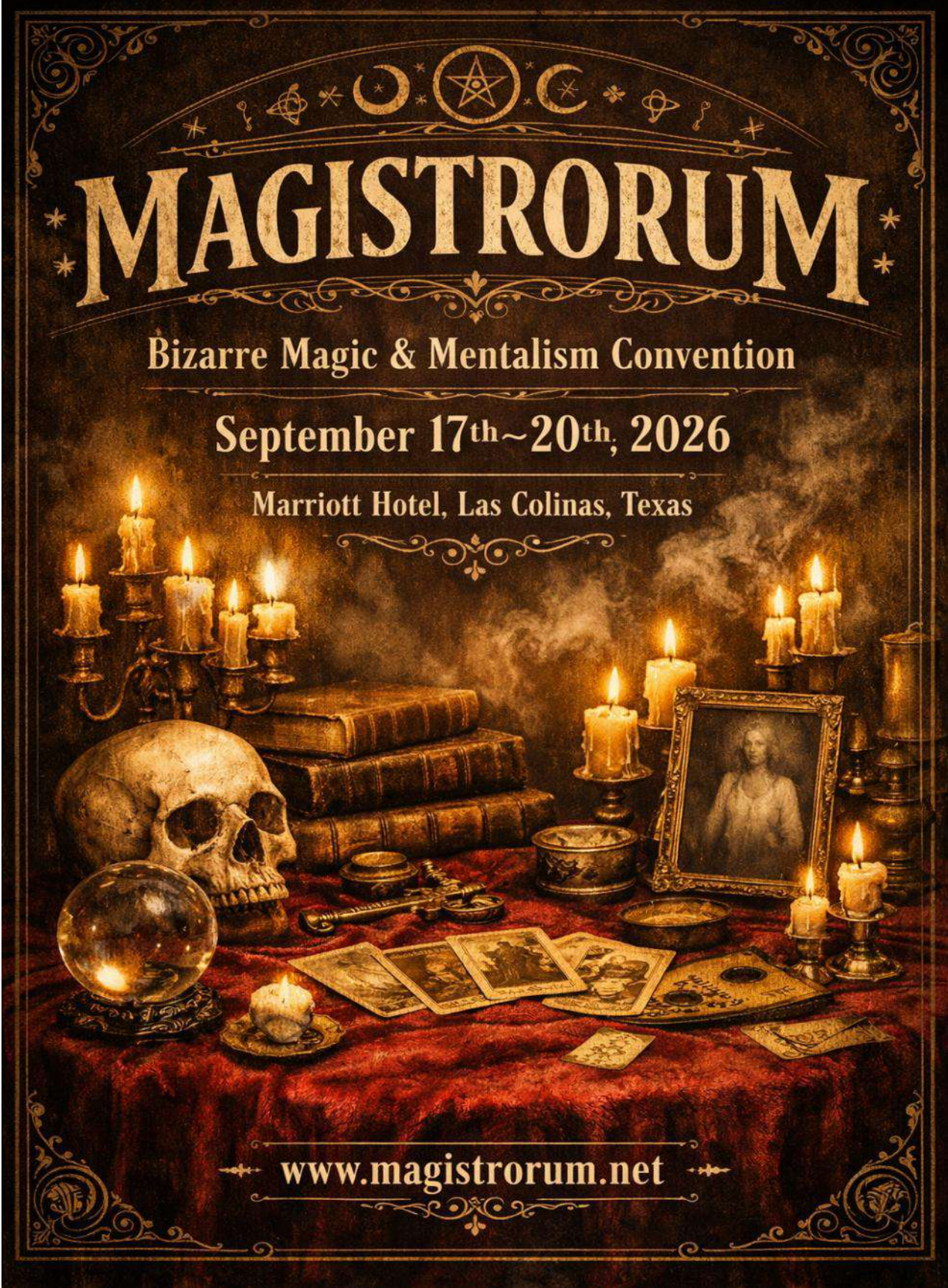
HOUSTON 2026

GUESTS OF HONOR
SCOTT HOLLINGSWORTH & SCOTT WELLS
LIVING LEGEND AWARD
BILL PALMER
15 PERFORMERS | 8 LECTURES & MORE!

HOSTED BY
GENE PROTAS TAOM PRESIDENT 2026 & THE HOUSTON MAGIC CLUBS

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026
HOUSTON, TEXAS

REGISTER AT WWW.TAOM.ORG

The poster features a dark, atmospheric background with a red velvet cloth-covered table. On the table are various occultic items: a human skull, a crystal ball, several lit candles in ornate holders, a stack of old books, a framed portrait of a woman, tarot cards, and a ceremonial dagger. Above the table, the title 'MAGISTRORUM' is written in large, stylized letters, with 'Bizarre Magic & Mentalism Convention' and the dates 'September 17th~20th, 2026' below it. The location 'Marriott Hotel, Las Colinas, Texas' is also listed. The entire poster is framed by an ornate border with magical symbols at the top.

MAGISTRORUM

Bizarre Magic & Mentalism Convention

September 17th~20th, 2026

Marriott Hotel, Las Colinas, Texas

www.magistrorum.net

2026 OFFICERS

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DFW AREA MAGIC HAPPENINGS

FORT WORTH SAM ASSEMBLY 138 ALLIANCE OF ILLUSIONISTS

Meets on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Illusion Warehouse party room and magic shop located at 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76110. Contact chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com or go to www.sam138.com. Also Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/162025544420781/>



FORT WORTH MAGICIANS CLUB INC AND REN CLARK IBM RING 15

Meets on the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm. See <https://fortworthmagiciansclub.org/>

MID-CITIES MAGIC CIRCLE

See Mid-Cities Magic Circle at www.MidCitiesMagicCircle.org



DALLAS MAGIC CLUB, SAM ASSEMBLY 13 AND IBM RING 174

See www.dallasmagic.org for meeting information.

IMPROV COMEDY CLUBS IN ADDISON AND ARLINGTON

Both comedy clubs periodically host weekend comedy magic shows. For more details go to either www.ImprovArlington.com or www.ImprovAddison.com.

MAGIC IN THE LIVING ROOM

Periodic magic shows every 1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm at The Line Public House, 940 E Beltline in Richardson. See www.MagicLivingRoom.com for more information.



"Honey, did you change the water cooler jug?"