

They say that dying is easy, but comedy is hard. Well, Ring 244 put that to the test in October. Our topic for the evening was Comedy Magic and the results were, as they say, comical.

Zack Mandel was our host for the evening and he got things started by introducing Don Engstrand. Don demonstrated a couple of Larry Becker items, Minding the Store, a kind of psychic shopping item and Reflecta-Thot, which is a prediction of one word out of a thousand. Good magic, absolutely. Funny, a few chuckles. One of our junior members, TJ Tana was next. TJ can be a pretty funny and he demonstrated Martin Lewis', sketchpad rising picture of a predicted four-legged animal. Pretty funny. Ed Hass, who has a very dry sense of humor, was next with Whit (Pop) Haydn's linking ring routine. Wayne Haarhaus was next and he started out by tap dancing. Now that was funny! During the magic portion, he successfully predicted that the funny joke would be selected from a bag of groaners. He then drew a picture depicting what a spectator was just thinking about. He followed that with another card prediction item. Got some laughs.

Ziggy was next and he performed a Bruce Kalver item where the two random cards that he uses to cover his eyes with so he can do the trick blindfolded turn into the selected cards. He then performed a really good item by Paul Green, but I can't read my notes so I'm unable to describe it to you. Ziggy always gets laughs. Zack's Dad, Harry Mandel followed with vanishing and reappearing salt after which he demonstrated an item using loose beads and a string of beads and based his patter on that New Orleans tradition of men giving strings of beads to women. I'll say no more. Bill White performed his thumb cuff routine which always gets laughs in the right places. Our final performer of the evening was junior ring member and senior ring candidate, Josh Kurzban. Josh has a somewhat strange sense of humor and it showed. He had a nice 10-12 minute act based on the Rubik's Cube. He produced them, split them in two and solved them extremely fast. He then danced in his underwear while he solved more cubes and while he was

doing that, the pictures of unsolved Rubik's Cubes on his underwear suddenly became solved. As I said earlier, Josh has a strange sense of humor.

By the way, we just co-sponsored a Gregory Wilson lecture with the Long Island Mystics of the SAM and our annual shindig is scheduled for January 15th with Marc DeSouza as our headliner. Should be a great night! Enjoy the upcoming holiday season.

Bill Krupskas