

It was a warm and sultry night. Those members who were not attending the IBM/SAM convention in St. Louis or on vacation gathered together for an evening of outstanding magic. I say outstanding because Rafael Benatar dropped by for an evening of elegant card magic and a tutorial on the cups and balls before he popped back over the pond to Spain.

He started off with an item called The Favorite Cards of my Friends where after finding his favorite card, the magician gives it to a spectator who sticks it into the deck and finds two previously selected cards. He also demonstrated an item called Fax which is based on Daryl's Out of Body Experience. Rafael also spent a good amount of time demonstrating and discussing his Nail and Edge principle which is his method for tabling doubles. While all this was going on, there was a major thunderstorm going on outside.

After intermission, Rafael spent the majority of the second half performing and then discussing cups and balls. He actually has an entire lecture devoted to the cups and balls so he only scratched the surface here with us. He had performed a couple of card items in the first half, one of which was a card at any number, that are part of his Magic Castle act that he said he would not tip due to extreme difficulty, but the assembled masses convinced him otherwise. I can see why Rafael took that position. I think that the simplest sleight he used was pinky counting twelve cards. Rafael also spent a lot of time discussing performing philosophy and presentation theories. He really had a boatload of information to share with everybody. This was an outstanding lecture from a really nice guy.

Bill Krupskas