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# CONVENTION SPOTLIGHT

## Expect the Unexpected in Big D

One of the galas at the Majestic Theater will feature a strange onstage encounter with a UFO that turns into a most unusual magical experience. It's the astonishing act that garnered Argentinean Hugo Valenzuela the "Most Original Act" award, as well as second place in the "Illusions" category, at the recent F.I.S.M. World Championships of Magic in Sweden. An alien intruder wreaks havoc on Hugo's living room set, until he discovers a mysterious "black hole" that has magical powers to erase all evil.

Hugo Valenzuela is but one of the four F.I.S.M. performers that S.A.M. executive show producer R.G. Smith has recruited to appear on Saturday night's all-Latin magic revue, *Viva la Magia!* Brando & Silvana is a charming team of street hustlers from a bygone era, who turn deception into a delightful experience. Senko performs a dove act, but it's definitely not your typical doves-from-silks act, as illuminated light bulbs transform to doves, and bright colored bulbs multiply as do the doves, which for his finale are transformed into dazzling strands of light bulbs. Juan Ordeix, the mentalist whose incredible predictions completely bamboozled the judges and won him a second place for "Mentalism" at F.I.S.M., will be making his U.S. debut on the stage of the Majestic.

Also from South America is Gustavo Raley, an innovative performer who in addition to performing his stage act, will be presenting an act of the rarely seen art of shadowgraphy. And David Sousa, the suave manipulator from Portugal who placed second in the "Manipulation" category, will fill out the bill for this truly international gala. *Viva la Magia!* is a gala show that you will not see the likes of at any other convention this summer.

Equally as impressive will be *Oceans 7*, the Friday night gala at the Majestic that's been dubbed, "The Magicruise Experience." If you take a cruise nowadays, chances are there'll be a magician on the ship, but come to Dallas July 4-7th and you'll see a stage production showcasing seven of the top performers sailing the seven seas today. Chris Mitchell, a busy cruise ship worker when he's not pursuing his film and television career in Hollywood, will be serving as our comical cruise director and emceeing the show.

John Shyrock and Mari Lynn who have traveled from the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas to the Caribbean and Mexican Riviera will be aboard to mix grand illusion with skillful sleight of



Hugo Valenzuela's close encounter of the third kind is a dream sequence that becomes a magical reality.



Fred Becker, author of the *Cruise Magicians' Handbook*, will not only show but tell — along with the *Oceans 7* cast — what works best on cruise ships.

# The S.A.M. Contest of Magic in Dallas

Most magic conventions have things that stand out. Maybe it's the shows or the lectures or the dealers. The S.A.M. National Convention has it all, plus something no other convention has, the S.A.M. Contest of Magic. This event has become a true highlight, and we have a few surprises that we are working on for Dallas. The performers will be ready to share their best with you... Wait a second... Why don't *you* think about being a performer in the Contest of Magic! Of course, the selection is much tougher than other contests, but if you don't submit an application, you'll never know!

If you would like to apply, just mail a request for an application packet to:

**Paul Critelli, 858 Iroquois SE, Grand Rapids MI 49506**

Include your full name, full address, and phone number. Please print all information. Only mailed requests will be honored. No emails. No faxes. No phone calls. Do not send any video until you have received your application packet, as this will delay your application from being processed. The deadline for requesting applications is May 1, 2007.

If you have already requested an application, it will be sent on January 8. After that date, if you do not receive anything from Paul within 10 days after you requested it, call him at (616) 245-6835.

All requests for Application Packets must be in Paul's possession by May 1.

All completed applications and videos or DVDs for the 2007 S.A.M.

Contest of Magic must be in Paul's possession by May 18.

**See you in Dallas for "Magic's Friendliest Convention"**

hand. Chip Romero, who works 44 weeks a year sailing with lines such as Royal Viking, Princess, Royal Caribbean, Norwegian Caribbean, and Celebrity Cruise Lines, will present his special brand of high-seas hi-jinx. The Gleasons, Greg and Kristi, who have attained renown for bringing their Las Vegas style show to the ships, will be performing. And Fred Becker, the man who wrote the *Cruise Magicians' Handbook*, will be practicing what he preaches, showcasing the material he performs when sailing around the Hawaiian Islands aboard the *Pride of Aloha*.

But wait, there's more. In addition to *Oceans 7* becoming a gala show that will be long remembered by convention attendees, "The Magicruise Experience" continues throughout the convention, as our talented cruise ship workers conduct a panel discussion on the lucrative cruise industry, and talks on the joys of working the luxury liners, as well as sessions sharing the secrets of getting booked as a cruise act. These events and the two shows *Oceans 7* and *Viva la Magic!* are reason enough to make the Dallas S.A.M. National Convention your convention of choice for this summer. So register now to ensure that you have the very best seats at the beautiful Majestic Theater, which by the way is only one block away from the convention hotel.

And remember you only have two months to take advantage of the early-bird registration discount of \$40. If you sign up prior to March 1 registration is \$159 for S.A.M. members or spouse, \$199 for non-members, \$95 for children under 15. After March 1, pay \$199 for members or spouse, \$229 for non-members, \$120 for children. So don't wait another minute. Call our friendly registrars Virginia or John Apperson at (618) 451-9749. Or find out how easy it is to register online by going to [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com).

And don't wait till it's too late to make your hotel reservation at the Adams Mark, 400 N. Olive Street, Dallas TX 75201. Our special convention rate is \$95 single/double, and \$135 triple/quad. Call the hotel directly: (214) 922-8000 or (800) 444-2326.

See you in Dallas for "Magic's Friendliest Convention." ❖

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Be a part of the  
**Dallas Convention!**

Place an ad in the 2007  
S.A.M. National Convention Program.



The S.A.M. is pleased to announce that the 2007 National Convention will be dedicated to our Dean, George Schindler. This is your opportunity to let George and Nina know how much we appreciate all that they have done for magic and our Society

For information on placing an ad contact:  
**Dave Goodsell or Jann Goodsell**  
**SuperG13@comcast.net**  
**(801) 724-9758**