

July 2009

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Buffalo
NY



The Gustafsons "Magic by Candlelight"



*Classic Conjuring of
Eric DeCamps*



The Best of Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolics



*Shawn Farquhar and
Best of Canada Gala Show*



Beyond Belief at the Greg Frewin Theatre

Society of American Magicians Convention

July 15 - 18, 2009

S A M

CONVENTION

Crossing the Line in '09

For the first time in its 80-year history of convening annually, the Society of American Magicians will be holding its first "international" convention. All of the conferences to date have been "intranational" (held within one nation), and that includes that 1956 out-of-the-country national conference held in Havana, Cuba. While the majority of the events for the July 15-18 convention will be staged in Buffalo, New York, attendees will be crossing the Canadian border for some of the activities and shows. So we are truly going international in 2009, which means — if you want to participate in the activities on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, it is absolutely necessary that you bring your passport.

The 2009 Buffalo convention will be dedicated to that international star of magic Norm Nielsen. For over four decades, Norm's immaculate manipulative act has been one of the most sought after variety acts around the world, having performed extensive engagements in Paris, London, Helsinki, Istanbul, Tokyo, Caracas, Santiago, Sydney, Monte Carlo, Mexico City and, of course, Las Vegas. Norm Nielsen was named Stage Magician of the Year by the Magic Castle in 1970, Magician of the Year in 1978, and was awarded a Performing Fellowship by the Academy of Magical Arts in 1991. Norm will be honored with a special tribute, "The Conjuror, Craftsman, and Collector as Well," during the first-day opening ceremonies at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

A highlight of the convention will be a 25-mile scenic bus trip to the Greg Frewin Theatre in Niagara Falls in Canada, where attendees will be treated to a special performance of *Beyond Belief*, Greg's award-winning Las Vegas-style magic and illusion revue that features rare and majestic tigers.

Niagara Falls, Ontario is located just across the river from Niagara Falls, New York, with the great waterfall situated

right between the twin cities. The Canadian side offers the best views of Niagara Falls and has a very different character than its counterpart in the U.S.A. So, some "tourist time" has also been allotted during the day trip to Canada.

The legendary by-invitation-only Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolics convention, which originated at The Forks Hotel in Buffalo, celebrates its 39th anniversary in 2009. And Head Forker Obie O'Brien has put together a special show for the S.A.M. that stars the greatest guests of honor to ever perform at 4F conventions over the years. *The Best of Fechter's* show staged at the Buffalo convention promises to be a chance-of-a-lifetime event.

While it's early to reveal the names of talent on the big evening shows (You know how our convention show producer R.G. Smith likes to delight us with surprises), there is one act booked for the opening night show that we just have to mention here. Past National President Richard Gustafson will be joined by wife Joanne as they present their "Magic by Candlelight," the act that made them globally famous overnight when it was performed on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in 1966.

The theme of the magic will be chic and sophisticated when New York society magician and sleight-of-hand expert Eric DeCamps brings the latest version of his acclaimed parlor magic show to Niagara Falls. After the successes of *An Evening of Intimate Magic with Eric DeCamps* at the Lincoln Room in Rockefeller Center, and *Eric DeCamps Pure Magic* at the elegant Metropolitan Room in New York City, Eric has enlisted the talents of Bob Fitch to direct his newest *Performance of Contemporary Conjuring*.

In keeping with the "international" aspect of the convention, the Saturday night show, *The Best of Canada*, will be performed in a theater in America. Buses



The 2009 S.A.M. Conference will be officially dedicated to international star of magic Norm Nielsen.

SPOTLIGHT

will transport conventioners to Rockwell Hall, located in the Buffalo State College Performing Arts Center, where they will witness an all-star revue of Canadian headliners, with one of them being none other than two-time 2006 F.I.S.M. award winner Shawn Farquhar. (Oops, just spilled a few more of R.G.'s beans.)

Convention chair John Apperson and his committee are working to make the Buffalo convention a non-stop experience of magic, magic, magic, and more magic. In addition to the shows mentioned here, there will be the *People's Choice Contest* show, the *Stars of Tomorrow* show, the International Banquet (hosted this year by the madcap Denny Haney), a full schedule of lectures and teach-ins by the pros, the S.A.M. University Classes, the extremely popular S.A.M. Sessions and, of course, the place where you'll see all the latest wonders, the Dealers Room.

Dealers interested in exhibiting at Buffalo should contact S.A.M. Dealer Chairman Rob Stewart: (863) 205-6122 or rob@robmagic.com. All other matters concerning convention logistics should be addressed to Convention Chairman John Apperson: sam@appsmagic.com or (618) 451-9749.



A highlight of the Buffalo convention will be an excursion to Niagara Falls, Canada for a special performance of *Beyond Belief* at the Greg Frewin Theatre.

Why not register now and save some money? Also, remember that the earlier you sign up, the closer your seats will be to the stage. Registration fees are \$210 for S.A.M. members or spouses, and \$275 for non-members (and includes a one-year membership in the S.A.M.); after March 1, 2009 the registration goes up to \$250 for members and \$315 for non-members. Registration fees for S.Y.M. and youth 17 and under, as well as information on refund policies, and hotel registration information are on the back page.

With the emphasis that is being placed on the Canadian/American international theme it's easy to see that the summer of 2009 marks a new era in redefining the S.A.M. annual conference. Come, join in the fun, and see what other surprises are in store for you!

And a final reminder... If you want to take part in all the convention activities that are being planned be sure to have your passport in order. Government regulations currently state that anyone crossing the Canadian border must have a valid passport. Children 15 and under crossing into Canada may still use a certified copy of their birth certificates in lieu of a passport. See the back page for U.S. passport application information.

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION MAKE CHECKS FOR FULL AMOUNT (NO DEPOSITS ACCEPTED) PAYABLE TO THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MAGICIANS. FILL OUT THIS FORM AND SEND WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION FOR EACH REGISTRANT TO: Anne and Mark Weidhaas 15225 Pleasant View Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80921 Email: samregistrar@yahoo.com Phone: (303) 586-1960		
REGISTER NOW AND PAY FEES ONLINE www.magicsam.com/samshop/convreg.asp REGISTRATION FEES AND HOTEL INFORMATION ON BACK.		
ADDITIONAL NOTES: _____ _____		

BUFFALO

JULY 15 - 18, 2009

Registration Fees

	Before March 1	After
S.A.M. Member/spouse	\$210	\$250
Non-member	\$275	\$315
(Non-member registration includes 1-year S.A.M. membership)		
S.Y.M. Member	\$125	\$150
S.Y.M. Parent	\$210	\$250
S.A.M. Member sibling (7-17)	\$125	\$150
Youth non-member (17 under)	\$140	\$165
International Banquet & Officers Installation	\$55	

REGISTER ONLINE AND PAY FEES

with VISA OR MASTERCARD at:

www.magicsam.com/samshop/convreg.asp

Send application and checks payable to
"S.A.M. 2009 Convention" to:

Anne and Mark Weidhaas
15225 Pleasant View Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Email: samregistrar@yahoo.com
Phone: (303) 586-1960

Registration refunds will be made only if the convention registrar is notified in writing before July 1, 2009.

A cancellation fee of \$20 will be charged for each registration cancelled. There will be no refunds after July 1.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Convention rate of \$109 single/double, triple \$119, quadruple \$129, and suites \$259. Make reservations directly with Adam's Mark Buffalo/Niagara, 120 Church St., Buffalo, NY 14202.
(716) 845-5100 or (800) 444-2326.

PASSPORT REMINDER: To cross the U.S./Canadian border to attend the show and activities scheduled at the Greg Frewin Theatre in Niagara Falls, Canada you must possess a valid passport. U.S. Passport and U.S. Passport Card Application Form DS-82 (mail-in or electronic) can be downloaded at www.travel.state.gov/passport/