

BLACK MAGIC READY TO CAST A SPELL ON ALL

By W.G. Ramirez

Sorcery, Voodoo, Witchcraft, Black Magic.

Those different methods of practicing evil magic ways. Only this time Black Magic is being created in a positive and entertaining fashion.

Long-time dancer Mr. Magic has put together a five-member production team that can keep an audience scrutinized and possibly make them disappear.

After spending years on the dance floor, Larry "Magic" Byrd, and his beautiful wife and partner Renee "Mrs. Magic," took their names serious and entered the mystical field of Magic and Illusion.

The couple started dancing together in Phoenix, Arizona before Mr. Magic ventured to Las Vegas. He began his LV career at Paul Anka's Jubilation (now the Shark Club) by doing acts for the crowd.

"I would do two shows and then pick out girls to dance with,



BLACK MAGIC

throughout the night. I 'energized the club'."

Byrd continued to dance in LV at conventions and in talent competitions that were held weekly in different nightclubs.

On several occasions, Byrd was asked to impersonate Michael Jackson but he didn't want to be known as someone else. He wanted to be recognized as Magic and that was it.

Once Byrd and his leading lady danced on a steady basis, it was Dee-Jay Frankie (Anobile) that labeled the two as Mr. & Mrs. Magic.

This attractive dancing team were married January 1, 1987, had a baby boy, Skylar, July 6, 1987 and by 1988 they had captured the Grand Finals of three different talent contests at Tramps, Shark and Botany's.

Rehearsal, a key word in the Byrd household, is a daily ritual for the family. Magic Mann passed his determination and hard work down to his son and has incorporated Skylar into the act.

The four-year-old marvel brings the MC Hammer out of him and moves to the beat with no problem. Skylar is also involved in some of the illusions such as the "Sword Basket" and the "Vanishing Act" in which the young star disappears from a motorcycle.

"Two things that work in Las Vegas is animals and kids, I didn't have any animals at the time so I used Skylar," says Magic.

"Most magic acts you see, the mom or dad wants to be the star. We didn't care that the star would be Skylar," explains the boy's proud mother.

The threesome took their act on the road and toured throughout Canada.

Now back in Las Vegas, Magic says the show is getting bigger and better. He has hired an assistant, Lamar Owensby, to help him out with the "hip-hop" steps that are part of the show. Mr. & Mrs. Magic have even gone as far as getting a dance partner for little Skylar, four-year-old Kaylicia Portee.

Black Magic Production has taken illusion and dance to a new dimension.

"There aren't any Black magicians to my knowledge, we have no competition," states

Magic. "There is no way for us to lose. We can do conventions, shows, be an opening act or I can use my company to book acts and make money."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Magic guarantee that whatever they do, it will be unique and spectacular. They don't want to be compared to Sigfried & Roy or David Copperfield, just recognized as Black Magic.

"What they do is great, but what I'm gonna do is, maybe not greater, but as great and different," added Magic.

Hoping his son may continue the tradition and grow up to be in the entertainment field, Skylar was quick to comment, "I'm gonna be a hockey skater." Maybe he can make the goalie disappear, do the running man on skates and score a goal-all in sequence.

Be careful not to blink your eyes and keep your ears peeled because you never know when you'll be struck by Black Magic!!!

TV 33 TO AIR SHOW FRIDAY EVENING

SOUL TRAIN AWARDS PULLING IN ON TRACK 33 (KFBT)

With the premiere of the weekly music series "Soul Train" in the summer of 1970, a Chicago-based radio news announcer named Don Cornelius saw the result of his one-man effort to put a black-entertainment-oriented television program on the air.

"The entertainment industry has known for a number of years that black music outsells all other

genres worldwide, and we felt it was a little too big a gorilla to just be a part of somebody else's ceremony.

"Also, there was grumbling that never went public about the way black music either was treated or not treated within the context of the established award shows," explained Cornelius.

The latest edition of the annual Soul Train Music Award

airs Friday in national syndication (locally on KFBT, TV33) from Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium.

The sixth annual awards ceremony will be hosted by "Fresh Prince" Will Smith, Patti LaBelle, Vanessa Williams and crooner Luther Vandross.

Honors will be bestowed in the areas of R&B/Soul, Rap, Jazz and Gospel with special presentations slated for two bonafide

superstars of the music field.

The Heritage Award for Career Achievement will be given to Prince while Janet Jackson will accept the Sammy Davis, Jr. Award which goes to the Entertainer of the Year.

The list of scheduled performers includes Boyz II Men, Public Enemy, Naughty By Nature and Heavy D. & the Boyz.

DUKE ELLINGTON REMEMBERED

Former showgirls from all over the country who were privileged to work with the late great composer and band leader, Duke Ellington, will stage a star studded gala in tribute to Ellington and his music on Friday, April 24, 1992 in the Trinanon Ballroom of the Stardust Hotel & Casino at 8:00 p.m.

The occasion marks the second reunion of "The Ladies Who Danced" of whom the Las Vegas contingency is incorporating a non-profit organization to benefit the senior programs of the city of Las Vegas and the economic opportunity Board of Clark County.

It will also celebrate the 93rd anniversary of Duke Ellington's Birthday which occurs on April 29, 1992.

Alice Key, president of The Ladies Who Danced, serves on the advisory board of the city of Las Vegas senior programs. According to Key, the local group of former showgirls, senior citizens themselves, decided on a fund-raiser to assist the senior programs when it was learned that the city's newly-opened satellite center at Doolittle Rec-

reation Center needed financial assistance to successfully provide services to senior who will utilize the center. Tickets, priced at \$40.00 will include a buffet. Additional information and tickets may be obtained by calling any of the following numbers: 733-0139, 386-6131, 458-3444, 451-9827, 898-9091, and 363-8590.

HUNTRIDGE THEATRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS & TRUE RECORD PROMOTIONS

presents

Ichiban Recording Artist

MC BREED

Saturday, March 21st • 8 p.m. • One show only

Welcomed by FM 88

Tickets Available at:

Huntridge Theatre • Sight & Sound • K and G Beauty Supply

Opening Acts: Freeze, Ill the Hard Way, & Simply Oak

GREAT HAIRCUTS AT MILT'S BARBER & STYLE SHOP

Open 9 am 'til 6 pm 1014-B E. Charleston
Tuesday-Saturday Las Vegas, NV 89104

382-0104

A Trace of LA with Las Vegas Taste

LAS VEGAS BLACK TAVERN ASSOCIATION

Thank You
For Your Support In The
Success Of The
Tuesday Round Robin

SEVEN SEAS RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
646-4688
808 W. Lake Mead Bl.
March 10, 1992

FRANK HAWKINS SPORT LOUNGE
647-3350
717 N. Rancho Dr.
March 24, 1992

MOULIN ROUGE
648-5040
900 W. Bonanza Rd.
April 7, 1992

SEVEN SEAS RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
646-4688 • MARCH 10TH, 1992

NEW TOWN TAVERN
647-3995 • MARCH 17TH, 1992

FRANK HAWKINS SPORTS LOUNGE
647-3350 • MARCH 24TH, 1992

OUT OF BOUNDS SPORTS LOUNGE
648-0120 • MARCH 31ST, 1992

MOULIN ROUGE
648-5040 • APRIL 7TH, 1992

HERITAGE LOUNGE
646-6995 • APRIL 14TH, 1992

NEW TOWN TAVERN
647-3995
600 Jackson Ave.
March 17, 1992

OUT OF BOUNDS SPORT LOUNGE
648-0120
901 W. Owens Ave.
March 31, 1992

HERITAGE LOUNGE
646-6995
940 W. Owens Ave.
April 14, 1992