

# S.A.M. CONVENTION NEWS



The Society of American Magicians Annual Convention Newsletter

July 2023

## Laissez les bons magie rouler

### Let the Good Magic Roll at the S.A.M. Convention: July 23-26, 2020

Hello Compeers and Conventioneers!

Less than 4 weeks to the amazing SAM New Orleans Convention (July 23 – 26, 2023). Here are some updates and reminders:

**HARRAH'S HOTEL:** If you have not made your room reservations, the SAM discounted room rate is only available until July 7. We already have very limited (if any) rooms at the convention rate on Saturday night. Let me know if you have any issues. Register for your Harrah's Room at the convention rate at [www.samconvention.com](http://www.samconvention.com).

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION:** Registration prices will increase on July 1. Register today to save \$70 for members, \$80 for non-members and \$50 for family members. The banquet is still included with your registration, but we are close to maximizing the banquet hall. Register for the convention at [www.samconvention.com](http://www.samconvention.com)

**SCHEDULE:** The convention schedule has been posted (subject to change) at [https://www.magicsam.com/Annual\\_Convention](https://www.magicsam.com/Annual_Convention)

**4 PARTIES, 7 SHOWS, 6 LECTURES, 7 SAM EVENTS, and 4 DAYS OF EXHIBITORS:** Show Producer Mike Miller has gathered talent from all over the world.

- SHOWS:
  - International Pro-Close up show with R. Paul Wilson and friends. Featuring Jason England (USA), Paul Nardini (Scotland), Giancarlo Scalia (Spain/Italy), Dante (USA), R. Paul Wilson (Scotland), and more
  - Gala Show featuring SAM Convention Honoree Tina Lenert and Friends. Featuring Ardan James, Mike Caveney, Jorge Blass, Christopher Hart, and Tina Lenert.
  - 2023 Stars of Tomorrow show featuring the best young performers, produced by Marlene Clarke (stage) and Arlen Solomon (close-up).
  - S.A.M. Contest Experience. Who will win the coveted S.A.M. gold and silver medals?

- The S.A.M. Exhibitors' Showcase show: See the latest and hottest magic tricks and purchase them from our exquisite lineup of exhibitors. Sunday only, all purchases will enter you into our prize giveaway later that night.
  - S.A.M. Late Night: Masquarade Magic with magic by Michael Dardant and Dante; Minx Burlesque with Trixie Minx, Madame Mystere, and Mamie Dame; and guest starring Meadow Perry.
  - Banquet comedy show with a N'awlins flavor: Cajun Cooking Show with Joe Dalgo, Westley Annis, and Cousin Cajun Mike.
- LECTURES
    - Bruce Kalver Tech-Tricks Live
    - Barry Mitchell Focus on Funny for Kids
    - Doug Conn Social Media Expert
    - R. Paul Wilson and friends
    - David Charvet on the Classics
    - R. Paul Wilson's friends
- SAM EVENTS
    - Youth Protection Training with Dan Rodriguez
    - S.A.M. Life Members morning reception and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Magic Castle
    - Convention Honoree Tina Lenert and Friends Panel Discussion on creativity with Ardan James, Mike Caveney, Jorge Blass, Christopher Hart, and Tina Lenert.
    - MAGIC in AMERICA: The Story of the Society of American Magicians by David Goodsell, PNP and M-U-M Editor Emeritus. Discussion with book editor, David Charvet.
    - SAM 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet and installation of officers (black tie optional).
    - Basic Training Boot Camp is an opportunity for you to polish up on the basics of magic.
    - The SAM King Cake Surprise Bonus Event. It will not be a surprise if we tell you. Who will get the baby?
- PARTIES – 1 every day
    - Mardi Gras Welcome Parade! It is N'awlins, so join the parade or throw beads from the balcony. An evening of entertainment with the Crecent City Conjurers (Warpo, Doug Conn, Devon Faul, Steve Reynolds, Winston Helling Jr, Michael Dardant) and Variety Talent by Frenchman Street Productions.

- Movie Night at the SAM will feature Jon Racherbaumer's little seen movie with discussion by Stave Reynolds.
- Pre-Banquet Reception and Book Release Party. This is the first chance to receive David Goodsell's Magic in American: the Story of the Society of American Magicians. David Charvet, Editor and Goodsell family members will be on hand to sign your copy along with many of the Past National Presidents of the S.A.M.
- S.A.M Finale offers an opportunity to say farewell till next year at the Dallas joint TAOM/SAM/FISMNA convention, and offer congratulations to the new S.A.M. officers.

NEW ORLEANS: there is so much to see and do, make sure you have some time set aside to taste the food, hear the jazz, smell the chicory coffee and beignets, see the sites and feel all that is New Orleans. Some local information can be found here [sam2023 \(neworleans.com\)](http://sam2023(neworleans.com)). If you arrive early, on Saturday we have the following suggestions:

- On your own and very close to the hotel (check with hotel concierge):
  - Hop-on-Hop-off Bus tour of the French Quarter
  - WWII museum
  - Mardis Gras World with free shuttle from hotel
- Join other SAM members on these yours, subject to reaching the minimum. Email [Mark@magicsam.com](mailto:Mark@magicsam.com) to let me know your interest by July 12.
  - Steamboat Natchez River Cruise, 11:00 – 1:30. \$35 cost
  - Private SAM Ghost Tour of the French Quarter, 8:00 – 10:00. \$43 cost

LUNCH with the EXHIBITORS: this was popular in the past, and we are offering it again. The hotel can accommodate a lunch to be picked up next to the Exhibitors Hall each day. Cost is \$30, but you need to let us know if interested. Please email [samadministrator@magicsam.com](mailto:samadministrator@magicsam.com) by July 14.

HOTEL and NEW ORLEANS: The hotel has on property restaurants Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Gordon Biersch brewpub and Grand Isle seafood. Within the Casino next door, is Bobby's Burgers by Bobby Flay, Pizza Cake (pizza and cake!), Nina's Creole Cottage, Lucky Dog and a pho bar. Note: must be 21+ to enter the casino. Riverwalk, 2 blocks from the hotel, has multi-restaurant food court. There are multiple, additional options within 2-3 block radius of the hotel (Mother's Restaurant is 2 blocks away. Just get in line, you won't be disappointed).

Explore the French Quarter. Step into a bar to hear the live music and enjoy a hurricane (the drink). Street Cars are only \$1.25. Download the app Le Pass! to your phone for touch free

payment.

WEATHER: End of July will be hot and humid. Fortunately, you can stay within the hotel confines and enjoy the air conditioning. Exhibitors and Ballroom are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. There will be some activities on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Manning's Bar, just down the promenade. And the Monday night Contest and Wednesday night Gala show will be at the Jesuit prep-school Theater. The theater is not in walking distance. Bus service will be provided for registrants. A map will be available when you pick up your packet.

Common Sense – at the last SAM Convention, my fondest memory was welcoming you all tongue-in-cheek by saying “It is so nice to see all your smiling faces!” when you were all wearing face coverings. We look forward to seeing your smiles for real this year. But, please feel free to wear your face covering if you feel safer. And if you feel ill, please get tested and avoid the convention until a negative result is confirmed.

Yours in M-U-M,

Mark and Anne Weidhaas, SAM Convention Chair/Registrar

Questions: Text Mark 719-338-2054 “You Have a Friend in the S.A.M.” Info subject to change