

MAGIC CABARET CASTLE

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018

WAITING IN THE WINGS

With the unexpected closing of the cabaret we had to unbook a number of performers on very short notice.

Once the Cabaret is fully open these talented magicians are ready to amaze and mystify us...



PHIL VAN TEE
"EL ROPO"



GEORGE TOVAR



TERRY LUNCFORD

THE MAGIC CASTLE CABARET IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**THE MILLION DOLLAR WINNER
OF *AMERICA'S GOT TALENT* WAS
A CLOSE-UP MAGICIAN**

**THE MAGIC CASTLE CABARET
WILL FEATURE THE STARS OF
CLOSE-UP MAGIC FROM THE FAMOUS
MAGIC CASTLE IN HOLLYWOOD**

THE OPEN & SHUT STORY

In our preview open houses and soft opening test runs of the Cabaret we introduced a number of the world's finest strolling and close-up magicians to our members and their guests. These magicians all belong to the Academy of Magical Arts, whose clubhouse is the Magic Castle in Hollywood, the home for the most famous names in magic for more than a half-century.

The stage was set to bring the world champions of close-up magic to our

friends and neighbors in the central coast.

I booked four fantastic close-up entertainers for our September soft openings with the idea of opening by the end of October when we felt we would be ready for full operation. A great deal of technical and décor work needed to be done but our plans came to an abrupt end on August 31 when our club was "red-tagged" by order of the Santa Barbara Building and Safety Department.

Continued on page 2



MAGIC CABARET CASTLE

Continued from page 1

When a building is “red tagged” by the Santa Barbara Department of Building and Safety it is usually because the property is “unsafe to enter”. After earthquakes, floods, mudslides, fires and faulty construction, it is justified to order immediate closure and no further work until inspections could be made.

Our building was “red tagged” because we lacked a proper building permit. We had elected to rebuild our non-compliant front deck to give us a requested fire exit and provide an exit ramp for convenience and for those with special needs.

**WATCH FOR THE
GRAND OPENING.
THE BEST IS YET
TO COME.**

Our hearing with the Architectural Review Board was very positive and with their suggestions in mind we simplified our plan by not adding all the exterior trim and by eliminating the roof over the deck. We thought by doing this we would not need a permit to bring the deck to ADA code.

Arlene and I are very proud of what we have accomplished over the past year, improving our old building with landscaping, painting, wallpapering, more painting, more wallpapering and, oh yes, lots and lots of gold trim.

TO OUR MEMBERS

At this point we are closed. We have cancelled all events through the end of October. Our grand opening is yet to come.

THAT’S GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

The bad news is we’ll have to wait a little longer to enjoy the club. (What’s new about that?)

The good news is that pre-opening charter memberships of \$1,250 initiation fee and one year annual dues are still being offered until we are officially open.

Pre-opening charter members at the reduced rate of \$1,250, are available until we are officially open. After opening, the dues will be \$1,500 per year.

We appreciate your patience and support during this unexpected delay. Our architect William Wolf is working with city and county agencies to turn that “red tag” into a green light and to creating our dream of the Magic Castle Cabaret.

As thirty years residents of Montecito and Santa

Barbara Arlene and I wanted to invest in the community. We were looking for a home for an intimate private club based on close-up magic as performed at the clubhouse the Larsen Brothers created, the internationally famous Magic Castle.

We bought the Café del Sol with the intention of turning it into that clubhouse, the Magic Castle Cabaret, a home for close-up magic and variety entertainment for our friends and neighbors in Montecito.



MAGIC
CABARET
CASTLE

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM MILT LARSEN

I get a lot of mileage out of a line I use when somebody asked where were you born? I answer: “Believe it or not I was born in the Far – East – and then after a dramatic pause – Pasadena California!” But the fact of the matter is that I was born in Pasadena, California and our magic family moved to Los Angeles when I was 10 years old. I’ve always lived in Hollywood and had property on the beach and at the last 30 years in the Montecito and Santa Barbara.

In addition to my being a successful TV writer and producer I have always had a passion for giving new life old buildings. As an Octogenarian my restoration projects included three that achieved Cultural Heritage Landmark designation due to my efforts; The Victorian Mayfair Music Hall in Santa Monica (1910), the Variety Arts Center in downtown Los Angeles (1926) and the Magic Castle in Hollywood (1910).

All three had one thing in common: I saved old landmarks by using building materials from grand mansions and buildings that were being torn down. My work has been rewarded with many awards in the field of “Adaptive Re-use. They were all accomplished by studio professional visionaries who could build dreams without formal road maps.

I only mention this because of our current situation of being out of business due to not having a building permit for a roof addition we decided not to the build for economic and aesthetic reasons. We were wrong in not following the process that has made Santa Barbara an oasis of non-metropolis living being spoiled by following Frank Sinatra’s advice over my 60 years of creativity. “I Did It My Way.”



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Daniel Aleksander

Barry Kemp

Ralph MacFarlane

Ken Boxer

David Lovering

Martin Tucker

Andrea Hutton

Leon Lunt

Gerald Velasco

Your Hosts



Milt and Arlene Larsen