

**Sunday**

While the dealer's room again opened at 9 a.m., I was upstairs during a final run-through of my portion of the Close-Up Show, which began at 10 a.m. I structured it as a tribute to my friends and mentors and performed items by Brooke, John Harman, Derek Finkle, Larry Jennings, Dai Vernon, and Cliff Green. After doing my 15 minutes of good-old-fashioned American card tricks, I was followed by "George Magie, Bar," doing cards and coins from his repertoire at the "Rabbit" table, but where he works in Tokyo. Of course they wisely saved the best for last, and FSM winner Harry Evans of Argentina came out and rocked the house. He belted, and rightfully so. A great showman doing great magic. (No silk, cards, or leather flowers seen today.) The Close-Up Show kind fell over at hour.

Time for another trip to the Japanese tables with Jonathan, and yet another night when neither of us ate again.

At 3 p.m., I gave a one-hour lecture—mostly on the magic I'd performed earlier in the day as requested by the audience. Fortunately we had an excellent cameraman and a very large screen so everyone could see clearly, and this enabled me to coach, by request, the Pros. At 4 p.m., Harry Evans lectured for the second hour and really gave the audience its money's worth. From 4 to 6 p.m., sandwiches, small pizzas, and coffee were served in the grand ballroom. I was puzzled as to why they gave everyone dinner the first two nights, but provided only light fare the night of the Cash Show.

The final evening show began at 7 p.m. Emceed by Harry Wong in celebratory and energetic performance from Hong Kong while the several TV news crews, the performers were Jo Masagaki, Kojo Sugaya, Jonathan Neal Brown, Tawada (the second prize winner of the contest—a young manipulator who also did birds, from Thailand), Kiyoko (the first prize winner of the contest, performing a much-improved version of her "Beauty Sleep" act which failed to place at the S.A.M.'s contest in Boston), Kenji Moriyu (a woman from Japan performing a very well done traditional style act, in Japanese, producing fans), and Mikho (from Argentina, performing his fantastic multi-rose act with bubbles where he magically turns into a clown at the end), and Akishi Tawada (from Japan, and quite simply one of the finest card manipulators in the world—see only does the look magnificent in white tie and talks in clean key can make), but his card production, both single and split face, and artistic card handling, as well as his work from time with jumbo cards, were near perfection. And he has a charming personality so you'll all love it. All in all it was one of the best shows I've seen as a magic convention and a terrific way to end the event.

I think everyone was struck by the number of female magicians performing at the convention. There appear to be far more female stage magicians in Asia than in any other part of the world. Next year's Asian Magicians Association convention will be held at in the Happy Valley Amusement Park in Shenzhen, China. I'll be there, too. ■



George Magie, in period costume



Harry Evans



Harry Wong



Kiyoko Sugaya



Kiyoko



Mikho



Tawada



Akishi Tawada



Jonathan Neal Brown



Kenji Moriyu