

Johnathan Neal Brown and Mahka Tendo

Saturday

The day began with the dealers room opening at 9 a.m. There were more dealers than the first day, and despite Asia's reputation for mercilessly pirating DVDs, I didn't see any in the dealer's room, for which the organizers are to be commended. On the other hand, I did

see a pirated copy of Losander's Floating Table on sale.

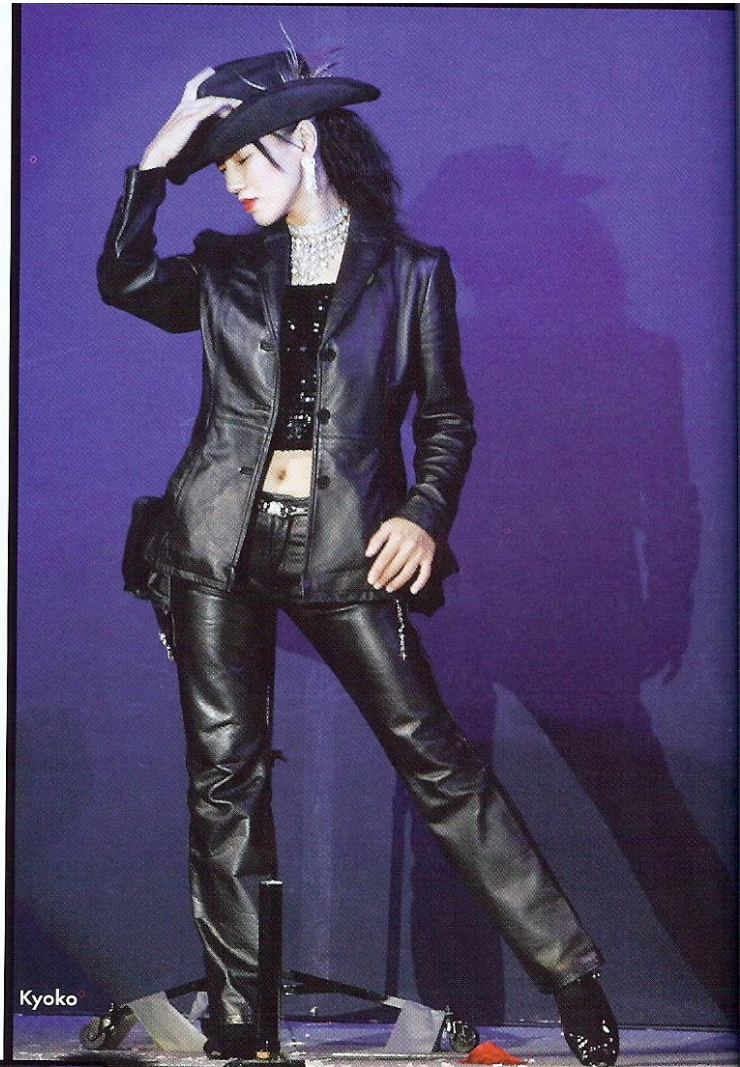
At 10 a.m., Jonathan Neal Brown lectured on silk magic. We really don't hear all that much about Jonathan in the magic world anymore, the main reason being that he's off in the real world working all the time. He's damn smooth, too.

At 11 a.m., Mahka Tendo lectured on magic with canes and silks. (As you may have gathered by now, stage magic with silks, canes, and feather flowers is very popular in this part of the world.)

At 11:30 the second part of the contest, with 13 entrants, began and lasted over three hours. The contestants were: from Korea: Kwang Hyun Jin, Jun Pyo Hong, Dong Hoon Lee, Hyun Kyung Kim, and Se Young Kwon. From Singapore: Jeremy Pei, Jeremy Tan, and Pambudi Soenarsihanto. From Taiwan: Lee Ying Tsung and Ghu Yen Lin. From Thailand: Tuxedo, Lee Ann, and Jo Magic.

Everyone had a late lunch at 2:30. I went back to the Japanese buffet, this time accompanied by Jonathan Neal Brown, and it was great fun watching his eyes bug out as he saw the copious selection of food. Neither of us had dinner that night.

At 7 p.m. an Oriental Buffet dinner was given for the attendees, followed at 8 p.m. by the evening show. It was "Asian Night," emceed by John Teo of Singapore. The performers were Kenneth Chan (last year's AMA first prize winner), Kyoko (who did a rootin' tootin' cowgirl act in tight black leather—this went over well as you might imagine), J Over First, Frankie (an excellent puppeteer who worked with marionettes of his own creation—the juggling clown brought loud applause), Yang Lu Lu (a young Chinese woman, about 17, I think, who did a beautiful traditional Chinese act that she learned from her mother—she was superb and I can't imagine why no one has brought her to the U.S. yet), P.J. Wei (seen as a contestant at the S.A.M. convention in Boston—his act has improved greatly since then and brought cheers from the audience), and Byeong Wook Roh from Korea. Ms. Roh is an undergraduate student from Korea and she performed an absolutely stunning "theme" act as a bride-to-be. I was disappointed not to see any of the folks who book the major American conventions here in Thailand—this is exactly the venue in which to find the type of fresh acts which are so desperately needed at our conventions.



Kyoko



John Teo



Yang Lu Lu