

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics

Meets 4th Thursday at 6:45 PM each month

Messiah Lutheran Church

6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

TIM PRESSLEY, President

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For our September meeting, we had a fantastic lecture offer from Houston-based magician, Jamie Salinas. We went back to virtual, and ten members and one guest were online to watch and learn. But first, a little business...the Winter Carnival is being planned full-steam ahead! Mark your calendars for March 10-12, 2022 at the Country Tonite Theatre; we have been reassured that all of the Covid surges will be gone by March (according to one of our members who is married to a pharmacist extraordinaire!). Our website is being redesigned, and a four-person committee of our nerdiest-but-proud members are on top of it. Now on to the lecture...

Jamie Salinas promised us some bizarre magic, even though another hat that he wears is as a children's performer. So, his first effect combined the best of both worlds as he correctly predicted the first five M&Ms out of a sealed pack. He also went into enthralling detail about his commercial effect, Lotto Fever, and showed exactly why it is his closer for all of his performances. Jamie also talked a great deal about how he gets inspired for ideas, like his Invisible Bullet Catch and how he cold reads by using parallels to friends that people remind him of.

The second half of the lecture focused on his spooky and bizarre show that he has put together and offers at haunted establishment two-nights a week in Houston. It was a brilliant combination of storytelling, magic, and the bizarre...everything from a "ghost detector" and haunted key to a flashlight that goes on and off on its own and a few commercial effects by some great minds in the world of mentalism and the bizarre.

As we wound down the 2½ hour lecture, Jamie showed the work on his Personality Test using a color, a couple animals, some water, and a hole in the wall. It sounds funny, but the way that he does these for hundreds and hundreds of people is a true piece of magic and a bit of ballsy BS all rolled together to the absolute entertainment and mesmerizing of his subjects. As Jamie said, "You use flattery – flattery is your friend." It was a great lecture, and it was an awesome way to meet Jamie without him having to come to Knoxville.

Tom Vorjohan