

Bargatze's Boys will be in Louisville

Hold on to the edge of your seats! Stephen Bargatze, renowned for his uncanny ability to combine mirth with mystery, is heading up the lineup of comedy and magic stars who will be appearing on the first gala show of the Louisville convention this summer.

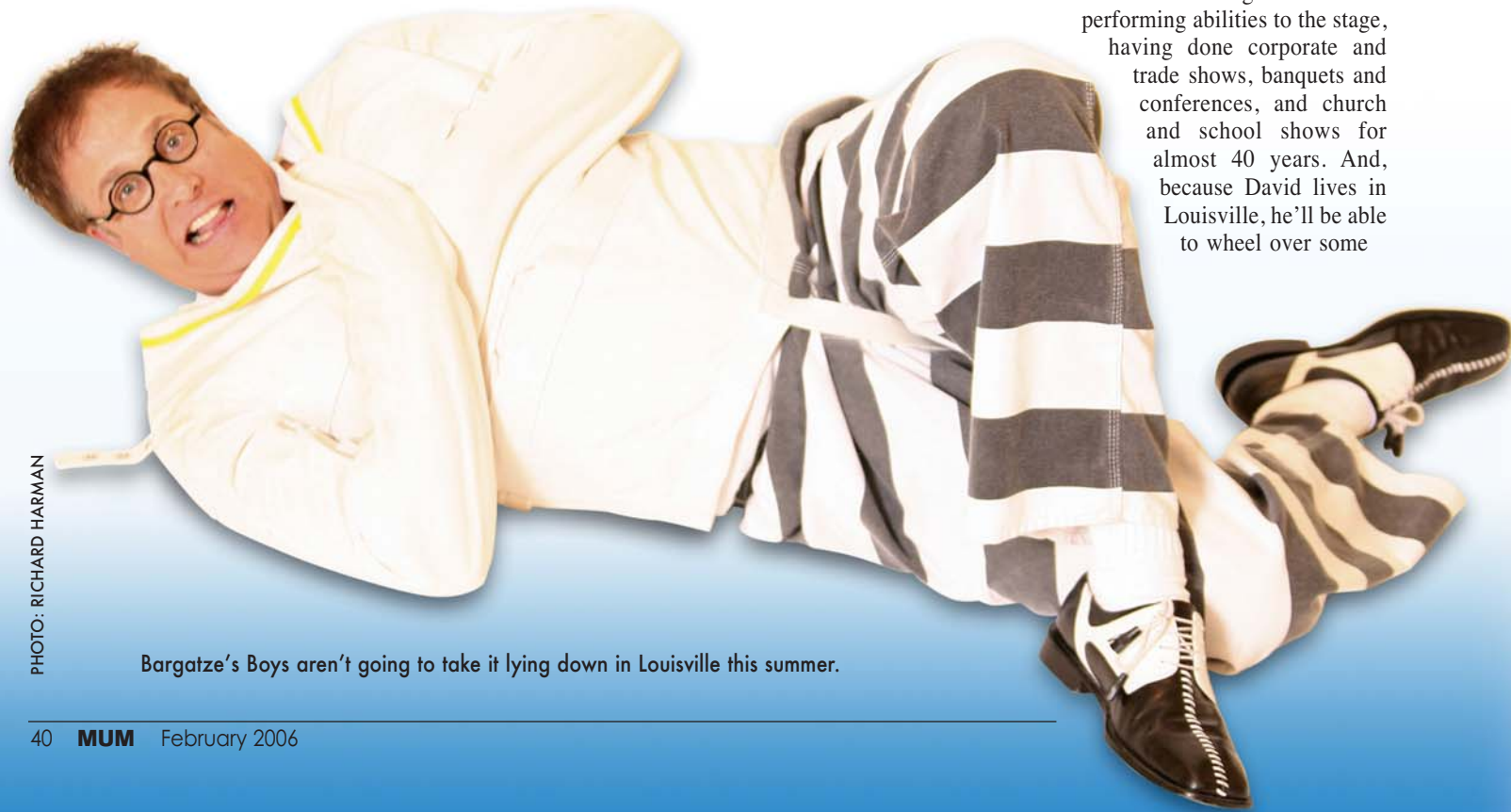
Bargatze's Boys, with its all-male magician cast, is another of S.A.M. Executive Show Producer R.G. Smith's "shows for a reason." It's actually the beginning of a themed two-part spectacle of "friendly competition," as R.G. likes to call it, a light-hearted magical rivalry between the two genders. That's because on the evening following *Bargatze's Boys*, the cast of the *All-Gal Gala* takes to the stage with the opportunity to "one up(wo)manship" the boys. Who'll win? It will be you, the attendees of our July 12-15 bash, who get to make that decision.

This is what makes the shows at a S.A.M. Convention distinctive.

"And this year will be a year like no other," Smith explains. "You'll see acts that are different, as well as acts that are our favorites; the difference is how they are placed and how the shows pace." Helping Stephen Bargatze set the pace and show the lady magicians "how it should be done" on Thursday night are Gene Anderson, Jay Sterling, David Garrard, and The Great Tomsoni, a.k.a. Johnny Thompson.

Gene Anderson, of "Gene Anderson Torn-and-Restored Newspaper" fame, will emcee and guide us through this extravaganza of mayhem and amazing magic. Jay Sterling, the first and only American to win first place in the stage contest at the British Ring Convention, will distort the rules of reality as he presents his act of optical illusions and the magic of science. Those who remember Sterling's act from the convention in Milwaukee several years ago, can look forward to seeing the all-new act that Jay has developed.

David Garrard brings a wealth of performing abilities to the stage, having done corporate and trade shows, banquets and conferences, and church and school shows for almost 40 years. And, because David lives in Louisville, he'll be able to wheel over some



Bargatze's Boys aren't going to take it lying down in Louisville this summer.

of his spectacular illusions and give *Bargatze's Boys* a really big look.

"Stephen and his 'Boys' have been working together to make this gala a great evening of laughter and magic," says R.G. Smith. "We'd tell you what they're up to, but that would ruin Stephen's big surprise." And anybody who's seen Stephen Bargatze's wild-'n'-crazy straitjacket escape, his Chop Cup routine where a spectator is held at gunpoint, or his bamboozling stunt of making a dozen kids from the audience disappear, knows that when Bargatze walks on stage you can always expect the unexpected.

It's been way too many years since Johnny Thompson, "The Godfather of Comedy Magic," appeared on the bill of a S.A.M. Convention show. The classic act of The Great Tomsoni & Company, with wife Pam as the "Company," will close out *Bargatze's Boys* and set up the awesome challenge for the Friday night ladies only show.

But you'll have to wait till next month to hear all about the *All-Gal Gala*, more details on the *Homecoming Celebration with Mac King & Friends* gala, the S.A.M. Contest of Magic with the People's Choice Awards show, the Close-up Gala, the contests, lectures, special sessions, workshops, dealers, and activities for the kids. And don't forget the magical boat trip on the Belle of Louisville — the first 750 people to register for the convention get the cruise for free! For the latest news and event schedule visit www.magicsam.com and click on S.A.M. Convention Update.

Register now and save! This is the last month to take advantage of the early bird discount. The registration fee of \$155 goes up to \$175

after February 28. Use your Visa or MasterCard to register online: www.magicsam.com. Or contact Convention Registrar Virginia Apperson, 2812 Idaho, Granite City, IL 62040, phone (618) 451-9749, email: sam@appsmagic.com.

A special room rate of \$99 single/double has been arranged with the Louisville Marriott Downtown, 290 West Jefferson Street, Louisville, KY 40202. Call the Marriott Hotline: 1-800-533-0127 or use the direct link from the S.A.M. web site.

See you in Louisville July 12-15! ♦

**BE IN LOUISVILLE
JULY 12 - 15!**

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