

# MAGI-GRAM

Official Newsletter of IBM Ring 50 --The National Capital Ring Volume 59 No. 12 December 2005

## Chuck Hickok's lecture "for magicians"

Our calendar year will end on a high note on Dec. 7 with a lecture by Chuck Hickok. He is a widely known corporate entertainer, mentalist and author.

"My lecture is for magicians," Hickok says. "The routines I teach are easy to learn and very strong. I share what I now do in my corporate act...not what I no longer present.

"If a person wants to gain more information on how to present mentalism in a fun, fast-paced and entertaining manner, my lecture is one of the best resources available," he says.

"I claim no supernatural powers," he adds. "I am comfortable explaining, after my performance, that what I accomplished was done by carefully combining principles of psychology, communications and magic to create a series of mental 'special effects'."

This will be the first lecture with Chuck's new book, "Mentalism Incorporated, Vol. 2". If you are a Ring 50 member, the lecture is free. Others who attend will be charged \$10.

"Chuck's lecture was the most organized lecture I have ever seen," says

veteran magic dealer and performer Denny Haney. "He knows his subject and fooled people with his simple but strong mentalism. What is unique is that everything in his lecture is material he uses in his current show. This is rare. His explanations were amazingly clear and easy to understand. Everyone thought his lecture was one of the best in months.



**Chuck Hickok**

Chuck Hickok's 30-year business career is characterized by leadership, creativity and self-motivation. Before initiating the speaking profession, he operated several successful businesses. He is the founder and president of

Developmental Productions, a firm dedicated to making meetings and events more exciting, inspirational and memorable. He also is the founder and president of Managerial Awareness Inc., a firm that for 25 years has specialized in the development of leadership, supervisory, and communication skills training programs. During this time, he has designed and presented leadership training to more than 50,000 people from a variety of organizations.

Chuck has lectured worldwide. This fall he did four lectures in Australia and New Zealand.

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**International Brotherhood  
Of Magicians Ring 50  
The National Capital Ring**

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### Videotapes being processed for World Magic Summit

Dr. Bill Wells, a former president of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and a lifetime member of IBM's Ring 50, is busy processing videotapes for the World Magic Summit to be held Feb. 19-22 in the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas. The categories are Adult Closeup, International Stage and Teen Stage. His address is 1105 Potomac Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308. His email is [rbwells@erols.com](mailto:rbwells@erols.com).

### DECEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2005

HOLIDAY INN  
IN ALEXANDRIA

2460 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, VA

6:00 Cocktails

6:45 Dinner

8:00 Meeting

**Happy Holidays!**

*Wishing You a Magical Season*

# Coming Events

## The 75th annual Columbus Magi-Fest

Dates: Feb. 2-4, 2006, Columbus, Ohio  
Cost: \$100 for adults and \$80 for youths plus \$15 for Headliner Show and \$3 for transportation to performance.

Place: Columbus Marriott North, phone 614-885-1885.

Contact: Register with Jep Hostetler, 193 Frambes, Columbus, OH 43201-1409 or register on line at <http://www.magifest.org/>.

Features: Rich Bloch will be the master of ceremonies for the Friday night headliner show. Featured performers will include Greg Frewin, Junge-Junge, Kohl & Company, Dale Salwak and Mark Wade. Among close-up performers are John Carney, Tim Conover, Paul Gertner, Patrick Przysiecki and David Williamson.

## SAM Meeting

Date: Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.

Place: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C.

Theme: Holiday Magic

Contact: Ray Eyley at (410) 798-0176 [ceyley1026@aol.com](mailto:ceyley1026@aol.com) or Dwight Redman at (301) 927-7717 or [dredman@comcast.net](mailto:dredman@comcast.net).

**Magic Collectors Association Convention** featuring a flea market, lectures, dealers, tours.

Date: March 30 - April 1, 2006

Place: Holiday Inn in Rosslyn, VA

Cost: Approximately \$200.

Registration fee still not announced.

Attendees must be members of the MCA. The fee to join is only \$25. A membership form is available through <http://www.magicposters.com/images/strobridge/>

[Preview%20of%20ApplicationMCA.cwk\\_.pdf](http://www.magicposters.com/images/strobridge/Preview%20of%20ApplicationMCA.cwk_.pdf).

Contact: Ken Trombly at [ken.trombly@comcast.net](mailto:ken.trombly@comcast.net) or 202-887-5000.

## IBM ranks spread across the world

The International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM) is the world's largest organization for magicians boasting nearly 15,000 members worldwide. It has more than 300 local groups, called Rings, in more than 73 countries.



## Psychic Ghost Theatre with Barry Taylor and Suzanne Kang.

This three-act show, which recently resumed shows after a three-year break, is being extended by popular demand for more limited performances through New Year's Eve.

Dates: Nov. 25-26 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 27 at 5 p.m.; Dec. 26-30 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 31 at 5:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Place: Psychic Ghost Theatre above Barry's Magic Shop in Wheaton, Md.

Cost: \$38.50 for all performances except additional cost with the New Year's Night late show when champagne and snacks will be served "to ring in the new year spirit."

## Free Monday night concert series at National Theater in Washington

with a Renaissance music and magic theme. Mike Taggart will perform his new levitation illusion.

Date: Dec. 12 at 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Place: National Theatre, 1321 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

Cost: The concert is free but tickets are required.

Contact: 202-628-6161.

## Denny & Lee Magic Studio Lecture by Francis Menotti

Francis offers a magic lecture that incorporates exciting new sleights and effects with fun and entertaining exercises that will empower you, the magician, with the ability to create genuinely new magic of your own. He begins by performing the first several pieces that he is going to teach as an example of how to apply the tools he will be discussing.

Date: Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20

Place: 325 South Marlyn Avenue, Baltimore

Contact: 410-686-3914

## 4 new members inducted into ranks of Ring 50

Four new members were inducted into Ring 50's ranks at the November meeting.

They are:

### Kevin Sievers

7409 Scarborough St.

Springfield, VA 22153

703 451 4619

703 614 5292

[kksievers@verizon.net](mailto:kksievers@verizon.net)

### Bob Patterson

3450 Wainscott Place

Woodbridge, VA 22192

703 490 1222

[r.patterson99@comcast.net](mailto:r.patterson99@comcast.net)

### Sam Brothers

6643 Patent Parish Lane

Alexandria, VA 22315-6067

703 550 9153

[sam.brothers@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:sam.brothers@associates.dhs.gov)

[samb@clark.net](mailto:samb@clark.net)

### David Juraschek

Address, phone number and email not immediately available.

*If you want to begin receiving this newsletter by E-mail only, please let Editor Jim Flanigan know by emailing him at [jflanigan@aol.com](mailto:jflanigan@aol.com).*

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

# Calling all members for dinner, magic

I am constantly amazed by the ingenuity and talent of our Ring 50 members. Nowhere has that been more clearly demonstrated than at our November "Grab Bag Magic" night. For those of you that missed the meeting, hopefully you took the time to read about what our members accomplished.

If you weren't at the November meeting, you missed a great time. The competition was spirited. Almost everyone attending had a chance to demonstrate some magic. Some of our newer members performed for the first time. Considering, that the performers were creating magic effects from scratch and had little time for practice, they all deserved a big round of applause for putting on quite a magic demonstration.

While I considered this event a success, I was disappointed by the attendance. Only 22 people showed up. Many of our regulars were not there. I don't know if it was a schedule conflict problem or the theme is one that didn't interest people. I would like to hear from as many of you as possible about thoughts on this theme and any others we have planned for the year. You can reach me at:

[dfreedman16@yahoo.com](mailto:dfreedman16@yahoo.com)



*Don Freedman*

Another concern I have is that only 10 people showed up for the dinner buffet before the meeting. The people at the Holiday Inn have been very accommodating. We get the meeting room for free. They give it to us in anticipation of getting dining room business. To further meet our needs, they have offered a reasonably priced buffet in addition to the regular menu. This buffet has proven to be popular

with our members. It also allows us to eat and still start our meetings at 8 pm. In fact several of our members arrived as late as 7:30 p.m. and still were able to eat before the meeting.

Unfortunately, the dining room had a lot of food left over because we had so few people eating there at the last meeting. Again, this may have been an unusual happening. Granted, this is the risk in any restaurant. However, I don't want to lose this excellent location and the support from the hotel. If any of you have any problems with the dining arrangement, please let me know. We will see what can be done to make it better.

One final thought. We have a guest lecturer scheduled for our next meeting. The guest lecturer is paid out of your Ring 50 dues. If you have checked around, you know that most lectures cost much more than our annual dues. This is an incredible bargain. Don't miss it. You will learn a great deal about planning a performance as well as seeing a superb mentalist do his thing. As always, you will also learn some of his secrets.

Here is hoping to see you all at our next meeting on Dec. 7.



*Chuck Hickok lectured this fall in Melbourne, Australia*

## Ring 50 Schedule

December 7  
**Lecture by Chuck Hickok**  
January 4  
**TBA**  
February 1  
**What's New At Barry's**  
March 1  
**Lecture TBA**

April 5  
**Auction**  
May 3  
**Dan Lacey Contest**  
**New officers elected**  
Saturday, May 20 (Tent.)  
**MAGI-WHIRL**  
June 7  
**New officers installed, perform**

# Members display creativity at Grab Bag Night

Creativity flowed at the November meeting of Ring 50 as four teams competed in a Grab Bag Night competition to concoct magical effects using kits containing a variety of miscellaneous store-bought items.

The purple team narrowly won first place. **Dwight Redman**, our vice president, fashioned a metal ring out of a coat hanger to perform a slick rope and ring routine. He followed this with a cut-and-restored rope effect. He also used some ESP cards to develop a clever monté sleight-of-hand presentation.

**Jim Flanigan** draped two strands of rope over a wooden stick, which he turned into a wand, and changed four paper napkins into "silk scarves" to do a variation of Grandma's Necklace.

**Michah Goodwin** presented linking rubber bands and changed a \$5 paper bill to \$10 before ending with a professional cups-and-balls sketch using paper cups and wadded up paper balls. **Phillip Thomas** offered some magic rubber bands and a mind reading bit. **Bob Patterson** served as emcee.

Dr. **Bill Wells**, a lifetime member of our group who is a former IBM president, staged an enchanting Indian rope trick as the leader of the green team.

**Jacob Grier** transformed a napkin into a bill. **Chris "The Conjuror" Biegun** found a cache of colorful balloons and cards inside a seemingly empty paper bag. **Marc "The Magnificent" Carrion** did a wonderful torn and restored thread effect. Cassandra concluded with a prediction fantasy in which a chosen letter was found inside one of three colored balloons.

**Steve Javes** of the blue team was recognized with the evening's creativity citation. He cut out foam rabbit and duck figures from a block of sponge. He stuffed the two pliable animals into paper cup containers and they mysteriously switched places. **Sam Brothers**, who led off the blue team, executed a nice money routine using three play \$5 bills and performed a rubber band manipulation to recreate Houdini's handcuff escape. He also caused an ash mark placed on a spectator's right hand to transfer to his left palm. **Scott McDonald** dropped two



**INDIAN ROPE TRICK--***Dr. Bill Wells performed a miniature version of the famous Indian Rope Trick at our Grab Bag Night.*

white silks (paper napkins) into a paper bag that were knotted together when they were pulled back out. Father **Ronald Escalante** startled everyone by coaxing a borrowed ring to climb up an inclined rubber band. He finished by linking together some paper clips and a rubber band that had been placed separately around a bill.

**Greg Clements** of the salmon-colored team earned appreciative applause for a delightful zombi illusion in which he floated a yellow Smiley face ball atop a foulard fashioned from pasted sheets of paper napkins. **Louis Hofheimer** led off the salmon team by causing red crosses displayed on the end of a long stick to change into blue-backed cards on either side. He also

made coins dropped into a bag transform into a bill. He ended with a cut-and-restored rope. **Rucj Uffelman**, the ring's veteran treasurer, tied a knot in a length of rope without letting go of the ends. He concluded by showing how a wooden chopstick can possess magnetic qualities, called on his mentalism expertise with ESP cards and then made sponge-like balls fashioned from napkins flash from his hand to the hand of an audience assistant. **David Juraschek** asked three audience members to randomly choose from envelopes marked 1 through 4. When the messages inside were revealed, each spectator had a card labeled "YOURS" while his read "MINE".



**GRANDMA'S NECKLACE--***Jim Flanigan offered an old reliable with the assistance of Cassandra.*



**CREATIVITY WINNER--***Steve Javes used a pad of green sponge material to create rabbit and duck figures which mysteriously changed places after being placed under cups.*



**SMILING ZOMBI--***Greg Clements fashioned a foulard out of layers of paper napkins and came up with a Zombi routine featuring a ball with a Smiley face on it.*



**William Paul Benninghoven**  
**Former Ring 50**  
**president performed**  
**as Benny The Clown**

Bill Benninghoven, who was elected Ring 50 president in 1966, died on Oct. 21 at age 61 of respiratory failure at Holy Cross Hospital in Maryland. He performed magic as Benny The Magic Clown. "Bill was an old friend and a very good magic clown," said Al Cohen, longtime owner of Al's Magic Shop in downtown Washington. Barry and Susie Taylor of Barry's Magic Shop in Wheaton, Md., also remembered him fondly.

Funeral services for Bill, who was a pastor at Immanuel's Church in Silver Spring, were held Nov. 5. A Ring 50 broken wand ceremony may be performed in the near future. A fan of magic since his teenage years, he turned a hobby into a sideline, entertaining as Benny the Magic Clown at schools and children's hospitals and for soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Benny could be seen on local television programs. He performed for private parties, government functions and much more.

There were several treasured times in his career. The first was in 1968 when he went into the burned out section of DC after the riots to comfort and entertain children. He performed for the Holy Redeemer Day Care in Kensington, Md., for more than 26 years. The school director shared that

# Remembrances

the children had pictures of Benny on the refrigerator and daily would say a prayer for him to get well. He performed for many in the business world including the Washington Post family picnics in the 60's and 70's. He did his last magical performance in May of this year for the Immanuel's Church Nursing Home Ministry.

A native of Washington, Bill was born on Oct. 28, 1943. He attended elementary school in DC before moving to Silver Spring for junior high. He graduated from Montgomery Blair High School in 1961 and from Montgomery College in 1963. He attended American University one year.

Bill lived in Laurel. He is survived by his wife Tootie to whom he was married for 41 years. He is also survived by two sons, William Edward Benninghoven, of Cape Coral, Fla., and Deane Roland Benninghoven, of Seattle, and a daughter, Sandra Dai Avant of Silver Spring as well as a grandson, Henry Louis Benninghoven, and a brother, Joseph Benninghoven.

Bill started working as a part-time

minister in 1992, becoming full time in 2001. Previously, he was a salesman in the wire industry, working for Arcade Electronics in Alexandria and, before that, for Alpha Wire. He and Tootie became involved in a youth ministry at Montrose Baptist Church. During that time, Bill launched an open gym program. They watched as the group swelled from 25 to 125 in just a few weeks. His concept brought fun and activity for the children with a gospel message tucked in. Other organizations picked up on his idea and it spread to become known as Midnight Basketball for inner city teams.

When Bill moved to Immanuel's Church a decade later, Bill and Tootie started a summer mission trip to South Florida for middle school students with some senior high students acting as leaders. A number of the youth who went on Mission Miami were inspired to make the ministry a full-time career.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bill Benninghoven Memorial Gymnasium Fund care of Immanuel Church, 16819 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20905.

## Magic enthusiast Merrill Snyder dies at 86

Merrill J. Snyder, a member of Columbia Conjurers Assembly 141 of the Society of American Magicians (SAM) and Baltimore Ring 179 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM), died of cancer on Nov. 2 at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. A resident of Northwest Baltimore, he was 86. Services were held Nov. 5 at Sol Levinson & Bros. in Pikesville. Interment was in Arlington Cemetery in Baltimore.

A broken wand ceremony was performed during the funeral service by Karen James of Ring 94, who is an IBM territorial vice president, with the assistance of Ken Caplan, president of Ring 179. About 25 magicians representing both IBM and SAM took part in honoring Merrill. SAM Assembly 141 held a second broken wand ceremony later at its regular monthly meeting in November.



**Merrill J. Snyder**

Merrill was affiliated at one time with IBM Ring 50 in Washington. He was a strong supporter of the annual Magi-Whirl one-day conventions sponsored in recent years by Ring 50. In addition to his love of magic, he was an avid amateur photographer. He took thousands of photographs of magicians and many were published in magic magazines. Some of his images

of the Magi-Whirl convention appeared several years ago in Linking Ring magazine.

Merrill became interested in magic as a young man. He later became a serious collector of magic books and memorabilia. He was a member of the Magic Collectors' Association and the Magician's Alliance of Eastern States. He and his wife Muriel were fixtures at magic conventions throughout the U.S. Merrill was devoted to the Society of Young Magicians. He was a mentor to SYM 106 in Columbia, Md. Contributions supporting magic scholarships for young magicians in his memory may be sent to the Society of American Magicians Endowment Fund for the Merrill J. Snyder Scholarship Fund for Junior Magicians, C/o Ellen Miller, 8608 Wandering Fox Trail # 402, Odenton, MD21113.

Merrill was a retired University of Maryland microbiologist and former deputy director of the medical school's division of infectious diseases. Born in McKeesport, Pa., he earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was assigned to Walter Reed Army Hospital, where he studied rickettsial diseases, such as typhus and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. He earned his master's degree and doctorate at the University of Maryland and in 1949 joined its School of Medicine, studying infectious diseases. He was named professor emeritus in 1987.

Merrill was the author of numerous scholarly papers and a book reviewer for The New England Journal of Medicine. He was also a past associate editor of the American Journal of Epidemiology. In 1973, he was awarded the Barnett L. Cohen Award by the

*Between Magi-Gram issues, you can get the latest news on events and restaurant performers at the Ring 50 Web site:*

<http://ibmring50.homestead.com/>

*The site also features Web sites of area performers. Current and past Magi-Grams are readily available as well.*



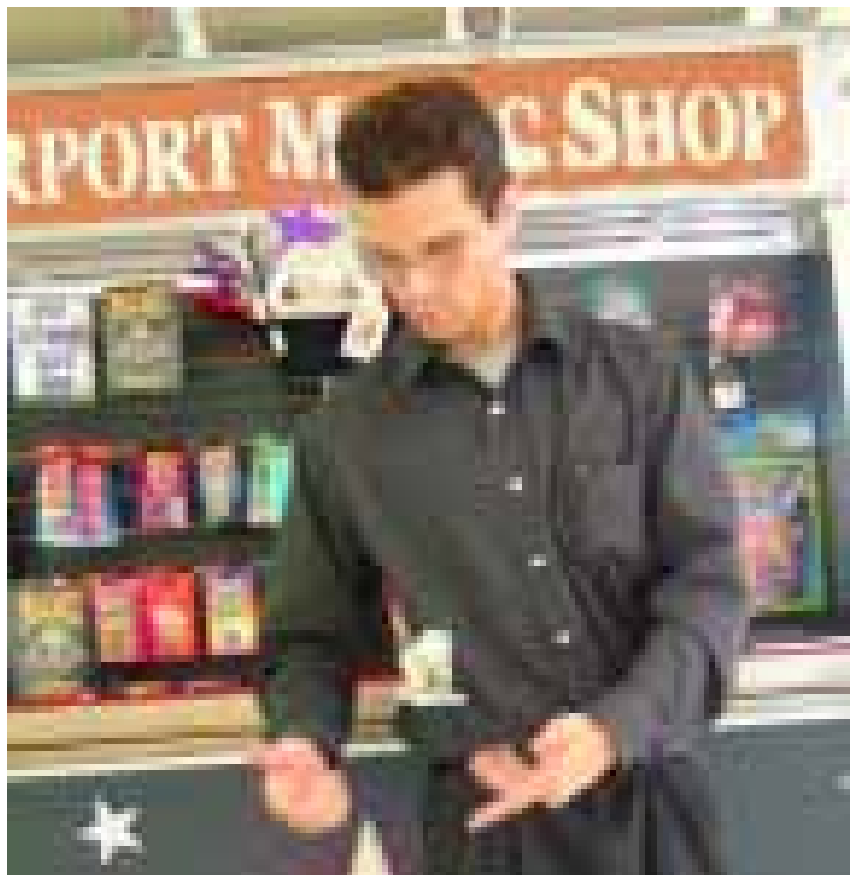
**YOUNG MAGICIANS--Merrill Snyder supported a scholarship fund for junior magicians.**

Maryland Chapter of the American Society for Microbiology "in recognition of his contributions, devotion and interest in promoting the science of microbiology." During

his long scientific career, Merrill also conducted studies in Pakistan, Chile and Mexico. For years, he collaborated with Dr. Theodore E. Woodward, who died this summer, in a study of vaccine efficacy at the Maryland House of Corrections. They researched vaccines for typhoid fever, cholera and malaria.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, the former Muriel Goodwin; three daughters, Sammie Moshenberg of Alexandria, Va., Susan Kamins of Gaithersburg, Md., and Terry Snyder of Sudbury, Mass, and eight grandchildren. A son, Merrill Lawrence Snyder, died in 1949.

Condolences can be sent to Muriel Snyder and Family, 7013 Wallis Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215.



**IT'S MAGIC!--Demonstrator Matt Baysinger floats a dollar at the new Airport Magic Shop kiosk which just opened in Terminal A at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. The firm has an established outlet at the Philadelphia Airport. Several other magic kiosks at the airport here have come and gone. This one includes tricks, videos and DVDs. Check out [www.airportmagicshop.com](http://www.airportmagicshop.com).**

Back by Popular Demand

# Psychic Ghost Theatre



**FEATURED PLAYERS--***Barry Taylor and Suzanne Kang seem to materialize out of thin air in the Psychic Ghost Theatre.*

Nov. 25-26 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 27 at 5 p.m.; Dec. 26-30 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 31 at 5:30 and 9:30 p.m.

*Cross the threshold and enter another world*

Act 1...Can You Believe Your Eyes?

Act 2...Exploring the Spirit Cabinet

Act 3...A Journey to the Other Side

*The building at 11234 Georgia Avenue, which houses Barry's Magic Shop and the Psychic Ghost Theatre, is filled with local legends. Come see why in this limited edition show.*

Phone: 301-933-0373

# “Goblet of Fire” premieres in NYC

Crowds of screaming fans waited in the rain in London’s Leicester Square for the latest Harry Potter film premier and notable Broadway celebrities turned out as well as devotees at New York City’s Ziegfeld Theatre for a preview of the fantasy flick. “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire,” the fourth movie installment in the popular book series, premiered in mid-November in New York City with the young stars showing up for the event. The motion picture since has opened to Washington, D.C., audiences and magic was in the air for opening day Nov. 18.

The story line begins at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry with the Triwizard Tournament, a magical challenge that takes place only once every 100 years. The Goblet of Fire spews out Harry’s name as one of the competitors in a gruelling multischool contest.

This time out our hero Harry, portrayed by 16-year-old Daniel Radcliffe, finally meets his arch nemesis in the flesh—the evil Voldemort. Veteran actor Ralph Fiennes is the wicked warlock.

In the beginning of the current episode, Harry is bothered by mysterious visions and the aching gash on his forehead. The lightning-shaped facial scar he received at birth was the result of a death curse gone awry.

Harry is reunited in this latest adventure with his best buddies Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson). As their study year begins, Harry encounters a new faculty member at the school. He is the latest instructor of the course on Defense of the Dark Arts. A grizzled looking Brendan Gleeson plays Alastor “Mad Dog” Moody. Alan Rickman returns to his role as Professor Snape, Maggie Smith is back as Professor McGonagall and Michael Gambon is in the part of Albus Dumbledore, the school’s headmaster. The school bully, Draco Malfoy (Tom Felton) also returns. Mike Newell, the first British



Warner Bros. Photo

**WHEN HARRY MET HERMIONE** --*Harry Potter, played by Daniel Radcliffe, and Hermione Granger, portrayed by Emma Watson, look dazed in this scene from the new fantasy installment “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire” issued by Warner Bros.*

director to take the helm, is presiding over the darkest Harry Potter film to date. The movie has received a PG-13 rating for sequences of “fantasy violence and frightening images” while the previous three movies each drew a PG score. In Great Britain, “Goblet of Fire” has received a 12A rating for the first time, meaning that kids under 12 must be accompanied by an adult — a tighter restriction than the PG-13 rating, which merely cautions parents. This story also deals with adolescents as hormones kick in at a school dance.

The 157-minute film opened in a

record 72 IMAX theaters with an additional 18 to show it in the near future. The films of the first two J.K. Rowling books grossed more than \$1.7 billion worldwide. The gross for the third film was not available. Advance ticket sales for the fourth picture, however, were reported to be sizzling. The Washington Post proclaimed in a headline preceding the picture’s release that Harry Potter IV is “a bright, steady flame.” The newspaper’s critic, Deeson Thomson, says it is “the most engaging” of the series yet.



*Uptown Theater marquee in Washington touts Harry’s arrival*