

THE NEW BESS HOUDINI VISITS THE CASTLE

- by John Cox

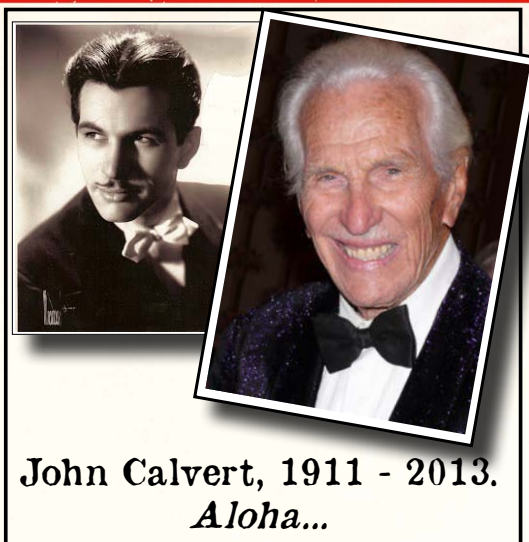
Actress Kristen Connolly (*House of Cards*) visited the Magic Castle with members Tom Interval and me on Saturday, September 21. Kristen has been cast as Bess Houdini in a new 4-hour miniseries about the great escapist which stars Oscar winner Adrien Brody as Houdini.



John Cox, Kristen Connolly, Tom Interval

Kristen came to the Castle to consult with us about the life and times of Bess and Harry Houdini; Bess was close friends William and Gerri Larsen. She was also shown some Bess Houdini items by librarian Lisa Cousins, and took in a Palace show. She's now off to Budapest where filming is scheduled to start in October.

Watch for Kristen Connolly as Bess Houdini when *Houdini* airs on History in 2014. 🐼



Our members were sorry to hear of the death of John Calvert, a legend in our world of magic. Of course, John and Tammy were longtime friends of the Academy of Magical Arts, as award winners and returning performers at the Magic Castle. John had a long and remarkable career.

As so many members remember his skills and friendship, they have asked about donations to Tammy Calvert, in John's honor.

The Academy of Magical Arts is accepting donations. They will be forwarded to Tammy with our sympathy.

Please contact Trish Alaskey, Member Services Director at (323) 851-3313 ext. 301 or you can mail cash or check to:
The Academy of Magical Arts
Attention: Calvert Donation
7001 Franklin Ave.
Hollywood, CA 90028.

Please make the checks out to "The Academy of Magical Arts."

**"WHAT'S A GRECIAN URN?
OH, ABOUT TWO BUCKS A WEEK."**

- by *Milt Larsen*

Across from the Palace Bar you'll notice a very interesting new display. Bob Hope's daughter Linda invited a few friends to the late comedian's home in Toluca Lake to have first choice of many of Bob's personal items prior to the recent public auction sale of item from his estate. Milt spotted a really fascinating Grecian Urn. He mentioned one of the world corniest old jokes. Linda said Bob loved that joke and mentioned it when anyone asked about the urn. She said it was actually presented to Bob on one of his tours to entertain the troops. We mounted it on a platform with a little statue of Bob in his military fatigues as a tribute to Bob Hope. There is also an interesting poster of him headlining a bill in London. One of the supporting acts was our own Billy McComb.

That innocent-looking tribute display also has a practical function. It is the key to a secret known only to magicians who have been wondering where all the caricatures of them have gone. After the fire remodeling the caricatures in the close-up waiting area were restricted to winners of AMA Awards. Now, if a magician member has ever had a caricature on the walls of the Magic Castle chances are that it will re-appear on demand.

Like our "Wall of Fake" in the art gallery it will be a fun gag.

[Editor's Note: See next month's newsletter for details on how this gag will work.]

