

COMING SOON TO A ~~THEATRE~~ *Museum* NEAR YOU!

Presenting an Illustrated Lecture, Performance, & Exhibition

A Vaudeville Retrospective

The Living History Museum
of Early 20th Century Popular Entertainment

A Literate, Informative Interpretation of the Theatrical Phenomenon
at the Forefront of American Leisure 1880-1930

Historical Insights & Cultural Connections
by a Veteran Performing Artist, Author, & Historian

PLUS Scintillating Selections from the Repertoire – with Your Presenter,

R.W. BACON –AS– “The Last Living Vaudevillian”

**WHO KNEW?! ... That a program for adults – and one so packed
with intellectual richness – could be so much FUN?!**





Leisure Communication Transportation Radio Business
 Tycoons & Tyranants Ragtime Theatres Giant
 Industrialization & Jazz Immigration
 Circus The Automobile Gender, Motion
 1950s TV Advertising Race, & Class Pictures
 The Phonograph 21st Century Labor & Electric
 Population Shift Influences Management Lights

... and thousands of performing artists whose talent, drive, & spirit made Vaudeville a constant on the cultural landscape from 1880-1930.

It all comes together in ... **A Vaudeville Retrospective**

An Illustrated Lecture, Performance, ... & Exhibition



Red Hot Ragtime & Jazz



A Man of Many Hats



The Banjo-Uke: The iPod of the 1920s



Eccentric Comedy Dance

Photos by L.J. Newton

Some 80 years after Vaudeville's decline, misconceptions abound. Many people confuse Vaudeville with burlesque or minstrelsy ... or even try to find "Vaudeville" by using their GPS locator. But taking a fresh look back, it was a simple concept: a respectable general audience variety show consisting of a dozen "acts" unconnected by plot. Yet it grew into a dominant form of leisure in America, a giant coast-to-coast industry that flourished for 50 years. The 1880-1930 period was one of rapid change on many fronts, and *A Vaudeville Retrospective* places the story of Vaudeville within the context of the times.

The illustrated lecture tells engaging stories of (1) the technological & social forces that set the stage for Vaudeville, (2) the leadership that built the genre into a big business, and (3) the economics – and backstage machinations – of Vaudeville's decline. Live performance segments by R.W. Bacon as "*The Last Living Vaudevillian*" reprise the virtuosity and spirit of the touring artists who "packed 'em in" at theatres across the U.S.

Created expressly for museums, historical societies, college theatre departments, & libraries, *A Vaudeville Retrospective* is fascinating "under-the-radar" history that illuminates a nearly forgotten institution in early 20th-century American life.

Visit www.VarietyArtsEnterprises.com for further information, consult your copy of *A Curator's Primer on American Vaudeville*, then call or e-mail today to discuss how *A Vaudeville Retrospective* can augment your programs, events, fund-raising, or interpretation of early 20th-century history.

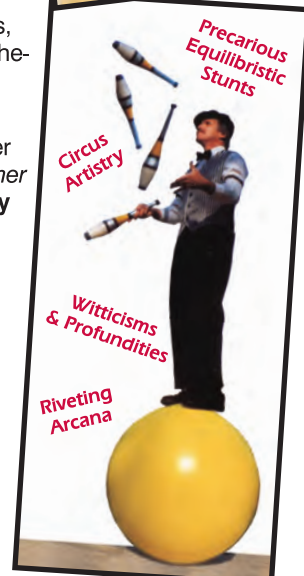
About the Presenter: R.W. Bacon is an all-but-retired acrobatic juggler, comic dancer, & jazz banjoist – and a nowhere-near-retired historian & museum professional. A graduate of Syracuse University and the Harvard Museum Studies graduate program, Bacon was a journalist/editor before embarking on a 30-year career to tour nationally with his wife, L.J. Newton, in their now-retired theatrical show. *A Vaudeville Retrospective* is a culmination of the presenter's parallel careers in performance, research, and museum interpretation.



Dazzling Juggling



The Singing Saw



Precarious Equilibristic Stunts

Circus Artistry

Witticisms & Profundities

Riveting Arcana

WHO KNEW?! ... That a program about middlebrow leisure could be packed with such INTELLECTUAL RICHNESS?!

Lobby Exhibition: American Vaudeville 1880-1930

A *Vaudeville Retrospective* also offers a lobby exhibition that amplifies on material covered in the illustrated lecture/performance. (Five hinged exhibit panels, each 7' high x 2' wide.)



Programs: A *Vaudeville Retrospective* is available as a 2-hour program with intermission, and also as an abbreviated 1-hour program. Attendees receive informative program notes with bibliography and resources for further study. Visit www.VarietyArtsEnterprises.com for details on related programs: *Coast Defenders: Vaudeville & Vaudevillians in New England*; *Vaudeville & the New England Trolley Park Era*; and *Tracking Your Vaudeville & Circus Ancestors*.

For Booking Information: www.VarietyArtsEnterprises.com

Please feel free to contact the presenter directly: **R.W. Bacon, Variety Arts Enterprises, P. O. Box 489, Newburyport, MA 01950 • 978-462-4407 • varietyarts@comcast.net**

Lobby Exhibition: The 'Hands-On' Component



A Vaudevillian's wardrobe trunk is a "please touch" display, full of props, wardrobe, artifacts, & printed ephemera, all safe for handling and close inspection. (Some museum artifacts are secure under plexiglass. The giraffe unicycle is securely bolted in place!)

