



JAMES GALEA

.....BY KELLY GRIFFIN

HEY JAMES, JUST WHY EXACTLY DO YOU HATE RABBITS?

"Hahah! I don't hate them at all. I called the show *I Hate Rabbits* so people would know from the outset that this wasn't going to be like any other cliché rabbit-out-of-hat magic shows they may have seen before.

Also, years ago I used to use rabbits and other animals in the show. Because I can't *actually* make them appear and disappear, travelling with them was a nightmare. I'd have rabbits, ducks and doves staying in my hotel rooms cooing and quacking all through the night, and going through customs certainly wasn't easy (cleaning up after them wasn't fun at all either). Now I travel with a deck of cards."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE PERFORMING IN THE FLAMINGO CASINO IN LAS VEGAS?

"It had always been a dream of mine to perform in Vegas so it was an absolute trip! It was everything I thought it would be and more. My dressing room was bigger than any hotel I'd ever stayed in and they looked after me very well.

The day before I opened in Vegas I was performing in the Caribbean where my dressing room door had my name written with texta on a ripped piece of paper stuck on with blu-tac, at the Flamingo they had a wooden plaque with my name engraved in gold screwed on the door. I choose Vegas!"

WHY DID YOU WANT TO BECOME A MAGICIAN?

"I thought it would be less work than a labourer and more fun than owning a fruit shop.

I learnt my magic from what I thought was a magician who I later learned was actually a card shark who used to cheat in high stakes poker games. Looking back, it was a great way to learn - while my friends were learning to make hankies disappear from dorky magicians, I was learning to deal aces from the bottom of the deck from a professional con man."

WHAT CAN AUDIENCES EXPECT IN YOUR SHOW THIS YEAR?

"This is a hard question to answer without sounding like a tool. Basically, it's my job to blow your mind and make you laugh, so that's what you can expect - and we'll have a lot of fun together along the way.



It's a pretty unique show in that we utilise a live video feed which stays right on my hands and projects the magic onto a massive screen so there is no way to hide. It's a really interesting way to see magic."

WHAT'S THE FUNNIEST THING TO HAPPEN AT ONE OF YOUR SHOWS?

"I have weird things happen every time I'm on stage cause each show is always different. I've set myself on fire, nearly set a whole theatre on fire, I've had a guy almost die when I nearly chopped his head in a guillotine and I did have a guy die on stage. Actually, this really doesn't sound funny at all..."

WHAT'S THE FUNNIEST HECKLE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

"It's up your sleeve'...I don't wear any!"

JAMES GALEA'S LATEST SHOW *I HATE RABBITS* IS ON AT THE FORUM THEATRE, LIPSTAIRS APRIL 2-26, TUES - SAT AT 9.15PM, SUNDAY AT 8.15PM.