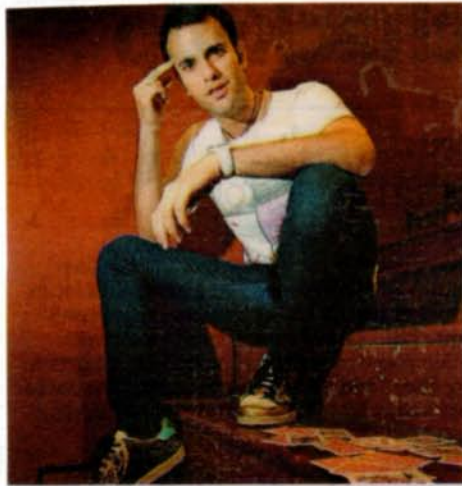


# The Daily Telegraph

November 17, 2008



Just magic: James Galea Picture: Katrina Tepper

You won't  
believe  
your eyes

## illusion *I Hate Rabbits*

Sydney Theatre, Hickson Rd, Walsh Bay:  
December 4, 5 and 6, 8pm, \$50-\$35,  
9250 1777, 132 849, [ticketek.com.au](http://ticketek.com.au)

ILLUSIONIST James Galea would never be caught dead pulling a rabbit out of a hat.

Not that he hates rabbits as his show's name suggests, but he does hate some of the things that have become clichéd about magic acts. That is why he called his show *I Hate Rabbits*.

"I just wanted it to be that the second people walked in the theatre they would know that it wasn't going to be an old magic show with top hats and capes, dancing girls, smoke and mirrors and that kind of stuff," he says.

"It will be something completely different." Galea says that clichés are clichés for a reason, because "most of them are true".

"I don't know if you have seen any magic shows before, but they are exactly that — a guy in a bad suit, who's old and fat and balding, pulling out a scarf from a sleeve," he says.

While some types of performance such as music change over time, magic "seems not to have gone anywhere", Galea says.

"I looked at that and I thought, 'Why?'" So he decided to construct an act that people like his friends would want to see that "was something hopefully cool, that was relevant to what's going on at moment".

It is a sophisticated magic show with humour — "like a cross between stand-up and magic" — and a contemporary soundtrack.

He also guarantees nothing up his sleeve by performing in a sleeveless T-shirt "so there's nowhere to hide anything".

The approach is as if he has just walked into a room and started doing magic, without the aid of special props or fancy lighting.

"We just use things that you could buy at a convenience store," he says.

Troy Lennon