

# Tricks make for magic TV

By entertainment writer  
JONATHON MORAN

IS James Galea Australia's answer to the world's most famous magician, David Copperfield?

The Sydney magician has used his bag of tricks to gain the support of Hugh Jackman and his production company, Seed.

Together, they are developing a TV series starring Galea and pitched at US networks.

"Australia has never had its own famous magician," Galea, 26, says.

"Most people have never seen a magician live, and I hope to bring that, so that everyone can see it."

Galea has spent several years in Los Angeles developing concepts for his TV series and performing live.

At 14, he saw his first magic trick performed by a card hustler who taught him the business.

Galea honed his skills on cruise ships before getting his big break — being chosen to perform at James Packer's wedding to Jodhi Meares in 1999.

He then moved to Hollywood, where he met Jackman.

The Wolverine star had an interest in the unknown, having had a starring role in *The Prestige*, where he played a magician alongside Christian Bale and Michael Caine.



Reactions: James Galea shows his hand

Picture: Sam Rutty

"We've come up with a number of TV concepts that haven't been done before," Galea says.

"We're really excited about it. It's going to be a lot of fun."

But Galea won't be pulling rabbits from a hat or sawing someone in half.

He wants to modernise public perceptions of magic, and called

his last tour *I Hate Rabbits*.

Galea's planned TV series will use hidden cameras to capture people's reactions to his magic in real life situations.

"I never wanted the magic to be about the tricks," he says.

"I want it to be more about the people and their reactions — it's great to watch."