

entertainment



MORE THAN MAGIC TRICKS: James Galea is in town with his drama *Lying Cheating Bastard*, which is part mystery, part coming-of-age story and part demonstration of the finer arts of trickery.

Galea plays his cards right

MAGIC fanatic James Galea is set to wow local audiences this Saturday.

He is in town with the drama *Lying Cheating Bastard*, a story about the infamous Jimmy Garcia, aka the Cricket, and how he became the most successful con man in Australia by the age of 27.

Featuring close-up projection of Jimmy's card scams live on stage, Galea demonstrates astonishing card skills and trickery as the play unfolds.

Part mystery, part coming-of-age story, part demonstration of the finer arts of trickery, *Lying Cheating Bastard* brings together

Galea's skills as a magician, musician, actor, writer and pickpocket.

Galea was obsessed with magic in his early teens and began training for the profession when he was 14 years old.

A magician took him under his wing, but Galea didn't know until years later that the man, who taught him how to steal watches, was a con man.

Galea went on to be a successful magician, filming his own six-part series for the Nine Network's *Urban Magic* in 2006.

He fought against clichés of smoke and mirrors and donned jeans and a tee-shirt for his

2008 show *I Hate Rabbits*.

The show had two successful seasons in Sydney before going to play strong runs at the 2009 Adelaide Fringe and Melbourne Comedy Festivals and earned him a nomination for the 2009 People's Choice Award at the Fringe.

He made his US television debut on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* last month and will head to Los Angeles for a TV show when his Australian tour ends in two months.

Galea said he was looking forward to the show in Margaret River and although he doesn't want to give away what his favourite, and

closing, trick is, it has received a million hits on YouTube.

"I have no doubt they'll enjoy everything they see," he said.

Lying Cheating Bastard, presented by Arts Margaret River, will be at the Margaret River Cultural Centre at 8pm on Saturday, July 3.

Tickets are \$45 for adults, \$40 for friends of Arts Margaret River and \$15 for youth.

Book online, choose the view from your preferred seat and print out your own tickets at any time at www.artsmargaretriver.com or phone 9758 7316 between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.