

# Townsville Bulletin

## Having fun with magic

BARBARA LYNCH | July 8th, 2010

"Just seeing people's reactions was great," Galea said.

His CV reads a bit like his play: magician, musician, actor, writer, pick-pocket.

He was working on a cruise ship in Hawaii when he met Nicholas Hammond, his now co-writer in *Lying, Cheating Bastard*, a show about the story of a conman's induction into the murky world of gambling and gangsters.

"There is a good amount of magic in the show ... (But ) we didn't want the magic to take away from the show and vice versa," Galea, 29 said.

He plays conman Jimmy Garcia, aka the Cricket, and the show follows his rapid rise to the position of the most successful conman in Australia by the age of 27.

Garcia encounters a conman who becomes his greatest mentor as well as betrayer and the audience follows the losing bets against Garcia and witnesses the darker side of human nature.

"Jimmy is fun and interesting to play. He's kind of likeable but there are terrible things he does," Galea said.

"The audience decides they really like him ... All great conmen are extremely charming ... They don't steal from anyone, people give them their money."

Galea discovered magic at the age of 14 and in 2000 received the Australian Magician of the Year award.

He created his signature show *Musical Magic* for Princess Cruises before travelling to Japan to take the lead role in *Magic Fantasy 2000*.

He returned to Australia to perform in *Le Dream Magnifique* and continued to headline shows in Hollywood and Las Vegas.

"The Australian audiences are a little more reserved watching the show. Americans have grown up going to shows like this," Galea said.

He shares his time between Sydney and Los Angeles.

*Lying, Cheating Bastard* is a 70 minute, one-man show but there are voiceovers used throughout to give the audience the feeling there are more people on stage.

Galea said he was used to being the only one on stage and didn't find it hard holding the audience's attention.

>>*Lying, Cheating Bastard* is at Townsville Civic Theatre on Tuesday, July 13 and Wednesday, July 14 at 7.30pm. Tickets cost \$45 for adults, \$39.50 for concession and groups of six or more, \$33.50 for tertiary students and \$15.50 for school students. Phone 4727 9797. There are adult themes and some strong language.



James Galea who plays conman Jimmy Garcia in *Lying, Cheating Bastard*