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Wizard of Oz wows Smith

By MICHAEL SCHNEIDER

"Hell's Kitchen" producer A. Smith and Co. is developing a reality show starring Australian magician James Galea.

According to the non-fiction shingle, Galea mixes his sleight-of-hand and illusion skills with acting and comedy for a project that's about to be pitched to networks.

A. Smith founders Arthur Smith and Kent Weed will executive produce the project.

"We have seen magic shows before," Smith said, "but James has this incredible way of leaving his audiences questioning reality for days after seeing it."

Galea is said to have learned magic from a con man and pro-



Galea

fessional card shark, and eventually attracted notice in his native Australia. His live show "I Hate Rabbits" eventually led to the 2009 play "Lying Cheating Bastard," in which Galea both starred and co-wrote.

Galea is also gaining a following on YouTube, where his videos have received more than a million views.

A. Smith and Co.'s credits include "Kitchen Nightmares," "I Survived a Japanese Game Show," "American Gangster" and "Pros vs. Joes."