



AFTERNOON DELIGHT

Get tricks and humorous kicks at *The Mac King Comedy Magic Show* BY KIKO MIYASATO | PHOTO BY BEVERLY POPPE

When a show opens with the tune "If You're Happy and You Know It" blasting through the showroom speakers—and the audience is merrily clapping their hands, stomping their feet and shouting "Hooray!"—there's a certain silliness that takes over. And this silliness is a high that lasts throughout *The Mac King Comedy Magic Show* ... along with feelings of amazement and surprise, and joyous fits of laughter, too.

Twice each afternoon, for more than 11 years, magician and comedian Mac King has dressed up in his signature plaid suit and graced the stage at Harrah's. In fact, King announced that his show has been extended till 2015, jokingly telling the audience: "I'm happy that I'm going to still have a job." But, in all seriousness, King shouldn't act so coy—his talents are truly outstanding.

Blending comedy and magic is not something that is the norm, he said; usually a magician has an air of mystery throughout a performance. But for King, a man who came from a family of self-proclaimed comedians, where the dinner table was the platform to see who could be funnier than the next, being funny was ingrained and so was magic.

"The more of me that's in (the show), the better. The magic thing is a part of me, and so is the comedy," he said. Both of his grandfathers dabbled in magic, and it was one of his grandfathers who taught King his first trick involving a rope. Audience members see this trick, and while it requires noth-

ing more than a rope and a pair of scissors, you'll be taken aback by its power to confound the mind.

While King possesses the air of an unassuming magician, looking more like a 1970s car salesman with his plaid suit and briefcase full of tricks, the man truly sets the stage afire with his impressive skills. Whether it's the one where he goes "fishing" and conjures up a real goldfish at the end of his fishing pole or correctly guesses which playing card an audience member picked and then pulls it out of a sealed cereal box, King's tricks constantly leave you scratching your head while saying to yourself, "Just how in the world did that just happen?"

And, unique to King's performance is that with every turn of a trick, comedy ensues, even when it involves his constant affection for Fig Newtons. During another trick, King calls up two audience members to the stage, gives them each a pile of playing cards, puts on his "cloak of invisibility" and proclaims to everyone that he will transfer three cards out of one volunteer's pocket into the other volunteer's pocket using only magic to complete the task. The laughs come in when King is doing the transferring, one card at a time, and asks the volunteer: "Did you feel No. 2 land in your pants?"

So if you're looking for a little afternoon entertainment packed with a whole lot of incredible magic and laugh-out-loud one-liners, King's talents ensure both. He's one of Las Vegas' most pleasant—and unexpected—surprises. ✦

Harrah's 1 & 3 p.m. Tues.-Sat., \$29.95 & \$39.95 VIP plus tax and fee. 702.369.5111