

## 'Fusion' runs gamut of magic styles

Grand illusionist Alexander knew what he wanted to do with his life from the moment he saw his first grand-scale magic trick.

The single-named magician from Los Angeles is one of three acts that create "Fusion" at the Horizon Casino Resort.

"When I saw that first magic trick at 13, it hooked me so heavily," he said. "We all want to have magical powers. I want to fly, walk through walls, make money appear. But none of that is possible. Reality sucks. It's so cold. And since we'll never be able to do those things, at least in this dimension, imitating those things, creating the illusion of doing those things, is like the closest you can get, and it gives you a high to experience it like the audience does."

"Fusion," combines the grand illusions of Alexander with the con-man antics of close-up specialist Gregory Wilson and the unusual stylings of juggler Bryson Lang. The show is directed by magician Tony Clark, who

### SHOW INFO:

**What:** "Fusion"

**When:** 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Wednesday through Monday with a "kids free" matinee at 3 p.m. Sundays (restrictions apply)

**Where:** Horizon Hotel Casino, Golden Cabaret

**Cost:** \$19.95 midweek and \$24.95 on weekends

**Details:** 588-6211

appeared in "Phantasy" at the Horizon for four years in the late 1990s. The show is produced by Paul Reder, president of PR Entertainment.

"I custom-designed the show for this room," Clark said. "I know the room's strengths and its limitations, and that's just a huge advantage."

The show isn't like Clark's "Phantasy," however.

"This has more actual acts in it as opposed to dancing," he said. "This is more

hardcore magic, comedy and illusions. I wanted to have a variety of different types of personalities and interlink them all together. Fuse the acts together, if you will. I didn't want an on-off atmosphere like in a variety show because I'm a stickler for high energy."

Clark achieves this with seamless transitions between acts, such as when Lang starts his set by magically being transformed on stage by Alexander, who is joined by his assistant, Pamela Najera.

He procured talent such as close-up specialist Wilson, who has finished third in the 2000 World Magic Championships and second in 2003.

Wilson is an impromptu comedy magician, which means he uses other people's objects as his props. Somehow, he's gained the reputation of being dishonest. To combat this, Wilson uses a lie detector on stage so the audience knows when he's telling the truth.



Marilyn Newton/Reno Gazette-Journal file

"Fusion"

"He's more of the talking con-artist type guy," Clark said. "You can't trust him. You can't trust what he says, you can't really trust what he does. He kind of plays with your head a little bit, between his comedy and his sleight-of-hand technique. But he's really a very successful and accomplished close-up

performer."

Then there's Lang, who juggles mini-swords much to the unease of the audience member who stands on stage as he does this. Lang also juggles beach balls while standing on a balance board and spinning a ball from a straw in his mouth.

Neil Baron