

CITY BEAT

Robert del Valle

Kevin Lepine

The Magic Man

You can thank the Greeks. They gave us comedy because they figured out that sooner or later audiences would want a break from tragedy and all those dysfunctional families offing themselves. Then they gave us hypnosis (well, the word anyway) because — and yes, here we're being hypothetical — they had the foresight to imagine that funny people “under the influence” just had to be good for the box office.



Zip forward now to the present day and say hello to Kevin Lepine — certified hypnotherapist, comedian and the talented guy that readers named "Best Novelty Act" in our recent Best of Detroit issue. What the fabled talents and lofty geniuses of ancient Hellas proposed indirectly is the chief weapon at his disposal — an uncensored comedy hypnosis show that he's performed all around the world. Word must have gotten out that the mesmerizer's skit was something special, because a June 23 show at the Emerald Ballroom will have several cameras in the audience and this time the stuff ain't going to YouTube. The hip hypnotist took time from his busy schedule to answer a few.

So the show is being taped before a live audience and going where?

After the show is filmed and edited it goes to LA and to Comedy Central and we hope to have it broadcasting in the fall or spring time.

Anything new or different this time? We recall that you promised an audience at the Ridley a bevy of “hand-picked female assistants” the next time the curtain was raised.

Well, for starters, I'm hoping the whole country sees this one! This show will be the “Best of” material. Everything that has worked the best and made people laugh the most all over the country. I still like the idea of “hand-picked” helpers, but I can't afford to share too much of the spotlight this time.

Besides being a hypnotist, you also have a background and an abiding interest in theatrical magic?

It was actually my interest in magical performances that led me to those certification classes I took to become a therapist. I have had mentors from so many different variety arts: Mark Wilson, director of the Magic Castle in California; Dicky Barrett from the BossTones; Mark Ridley here in Michigan; Thom Britton of the Flying Cat Circus; and many, many more.

Hypnosis was once a popular form of entertainment. What happened? Why is it just now making a comeback?

Hypnosis, I think, got over-exposed and "mythified" to the point where it created more misunderstandings and prejudices than acceptance. The medical community now knows a lot more about hypnosis. That's why during my show I also try to briefly explain what the volunteers are experiencing on the stage to further that knowledge.

And after you polish the Emerald?

Then comes the editing, taking it to LA and all the last minute business between here and there. But before that there'll be an after-party in the Rock Room and then — well, maybe a day or two away from the noise would be nice. Hypnos — the Greek word for sleep. | **RDW**

And With MUCH Better Hair Than Kreskin!

So what has our favorite mesmerist Kevin Lepine been up to since he packed his bags and flew out to Vegas? Well, for starters he ensconced himself nicely at the Harmon Theatre where he hosts *Hypnosis Unleashed*, Sin City's longest-running excursion into the world of the spell-casters and the spellbound. The only thing that delights us more than hearing that news is the equally welcome announcement that Kevin is returning home for a one night only engagement at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle on 4/27. *The Uncensored and Unleashed Comedy Hypnosis Show* is Mr. Lepine's signature act – a rollicking, hilarious and illuminating ride for both the audience and those brave, willing souls who go up on the stage. Call the Castle and make reservations right now – or do WE have to break out the shiny watch?