

EVENTS

You'll simply be amazed by this show

Lori Holcomb
The Enquirer



For the Enquirer

The Amazing Clark
If You Go

WHAT: "The Amazing Clark" Magic Show.

WHEN: 8 p.m. Saturday.

WHERE: Franke Center for the Arts, 214 E. Mansion St., Marshall.

COST: \$12 for adults, \$6 students.

INFORMATION: For tickets, call 781-0001 or visit www.frankecenterforthearts.org. For more information about the show, visit www.amazingclark.com.

If Jim Carrey could put a sword through his neck without ending his career, or Robin Williams could pull a 25-foot streamer out of his throat without making the cover of tabloids, "The Amazing Clark" might have a bit more competition when booking shows.

For more than 30 years, Eugene Clark has entertained audiences with illusions, puppet shows and comedy. Under the title "The Amazing Clark," the Detroit native has appeared on "The Late Show with David Letterman," numerous magazines and toured across the country and on foreign soil.

Saturday, he'll bring his show to the Franke Center for the Arts in Marshall for a one-night performance.

"Everyone told me he's very funny — that you're cheeks will hurt from laughing," said Kathie Boyer, Franke Center executive director. Clark's family oriented shows and specialty in illusions were a prime reason the Franke Center wanted to book the magician.

"He's a Jim Carrey-type of guy that just warms your heart," she said.

Clark came from a family of performers and said he began doing cup and ball tricks around the age of 10. From there, he put a few more items in his bag of tricks and it became a way to pay for college, and eventually, a full-time career.

"Even with all of the technology and special effects today, people are still mesmerized by a plain, old-fashioned magic show," Clark said.

The performance will consist of two acts. In the first, Clark is dressed more formally and opens with a visual snowstorm that appears to come out of his hands.

In the second, he "lets his hair down" a bit more with comedy, an "arm chopper" trick and eats fire in his grand finale, he said.

Throughout the show, Clark gives audience members opportunities to be part of tricks such as passing a blade through their arm or pulling a rope through their body. Also, two members will assist Clark in performing "The Houdini Chain Escape" in which he escapes from a locked set of chains. It took Houdini 15 seconds to escape, Clark said he takes only 10.

Unlike Houdini, neither he nor audience volunteers have been injured in a show so far.

"Times have changed where modern technology has worked out the kinks so hopefully that kind of thing doesn't happen," he said.

Lori Holcomb can be reached at 966-0675 or lholcomb@battlecr.gannett.com.