



FRINGE

VIVA HAN VEGAS

Adelaide's favourite hot pants-wearing accordion-playing German, Hans, is launching a new Vegas style show for the Adelaide Fringe. He reveals all to Ron Hughes.

"Vegas" makes people think sequins, feathers, tits and teeth. Also crooners and magicians and cheap, nasty quickie weddings. But what does it mean for Hans?

"All of the above and more darling. You can see Celine Dion singing on one side of the strip and Britney Spears lip syncing to a CD on the other. Vegas is a smorgasbord of entertainment and there really is something for everyone. I wanted a show that would show that off. So in many ways it's like a big variety show, but instead of

different acts, I'm going for broke and doing it all myself. I'm singing, dancing, accordion-ing, tapping, piano-ing, circus-ing and then somehow, looking brilliant at the same time."

And of course, being brilliantly tacky is the key. "Being tacky is going to be a REAL stretch for me, obviously my shows are renowned for being pretty high brow and very artistic, but I promise to give the tackiness a red hot crack! Hopefully the next morning the audience wake up with that feeling of regret thinking *what the hell did I do last night?*"

And of course, what would Hans be without his accordion? "Oh of course there's accordion honey! It's what's made me who I am in this town. I still feel like the young boy busking in Rundle Mall... Probably because I still look like a 19 year old. The accordion is my trademark and it's just about the only thing all those other cabaret performers can't do, so it's here to stay. But I'm also branching out a little this year. I think I am actually playing four instruments in this show."

Hans will be accompanied by his high rolling, five-piece band The Ungrateful Bastards and two dancers who represent no gamble whatsoever, The Lucky Bitches. "Let's face it, they're all VERY lucky to be working with me, but I look at it as an act of charity. Plus in the spirit of all things Vegas, there will be some surprise performers throughout the night."

Hans promises this show makes all his others look like a Sunday stroll in the park. "I'm not holding back honey. I don't want to say too much because I want there to be a few surprises, but I've been going to classes three times a week to learn something new especially for this show, I have some surprised performers, and you know the audience is never really safe in my shows."

Hans is performing in the fabulous Spiegelentent once again, which is one of his most favourite venues to perform in. "I mean, how could I not love a room that's covered in mirrors? What a view! Finally I get to enjoy the show just as much as the audience!"

Hans' creator Matt Gilbertson is one of Adelaide's hardest-working performers, balancing radio and newspaper commitments with rehearsing and performing. But how does he do it?

"Like any good manager or CEO, I have managed to out-source my media commitments to a local named Matt Gilbertson, but I feel like it is starting to backfire on me," Hans replies. "For some reason, people seem to think Matt and I are related, or friends, or god forbid the rumour that is going around that we are actually the same person. How absurd! I have never even been in the same room as that boy and I vow never to! What an embarrassment Matt Gilbertson is, no wonder he can't get a girlfriend!" Not only is Hans doing his Vegas show for Fringe, he's also teamed up with Adelaide icon Anne "Willisy" Wills to perform a separate show, *Twins*.

"That woman is becoming my shadow... Not that I mind," Hans says. "Between us, we have 400 years in showbiz (most of them Willisy's) and of course we also have 19 Logies (Ok... fine. They're *all* Willisy's). Our show is *Twins* because, despite the height difference, we're very similar. It's an hour of Willisy and I forgetting the words to the world's most loved duets. There'll be more drive than Thelma and Louise, more lycra than Batman and Robin and more hairspray than Bert and Patti. We'll be at my spiritual home The German Club for two nights and then we're taking the Fringe to the people, playing one night only in Salisbury."

A somewhat aggrieved Hans has one final thing to say to the punters of Adelaide. "In the past people have accused me of being trashy and over the top. But let me tell you this... You bitches haven't seen anything yet! Fasten your seat belts!"

Viva Hans Vegas three performances only, spread across the Fringe period. Check the Fringe Guide for session details adelaidefringe.com.au