



Review: Band of Magicians, The Palms at Crown

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Band of Magicians ramps up the smile dial.

IT starts with smoke and strobes but, gotcha, this isn't your average razzle-dazzle magic show.

Looking more like Gap models than sparkly Vegas performers, the quartet Band of Magicians is a new breed of abracadabra.

Call them sensitive new-age guys, brainy tech-heads or cornball jokesters, bottom line is they love magic and they use their powers for good, not evil.

Self-professed magic nerds, but also hot enough to get away with describing themselves as a boy band of magicians, Justin Flom, Justin Willman, Nate Staniforth and James Galea have come together in the name of the art form, merging their different styles into an entertaining and accessible show that ramps up the smile dial.

Galea is a Sydney lad; the other three hail from various reaches of the USA. With an Australian production team, the show brings the four solo performers into a convincing ensemble while still allowing each man to shine in his own material. Flom loves the showy illusionist stuff; Willman has the compere schtick down; Staniforth is all earnestness; and Galea has the fast talk of the streets.

There are plenty of nods to familiar magic/illusionist/mind reading territory — all with a fun, boyish twist — and acts that build into fertile comic territory. The lads share a few magic secrets, put a new spin on old magic tropes and generally have a good time, which makes the whole show a very accessible and personable evening.

Add in a rock concert lighting rig, the obligatory audience participation (determined by throwing frisbees with the BoM logo) and a handful of spectacular illusions and everyone leaves happy.

Magic is a tricky beast to put a new spin on. As the boys admit, magicians now have to compete with technology, which is pretty magical itself. Willman performs an act with Siri on the iPhone. But when all is said and done, it's simple things such as playing cards, walnut shells and Coke cans that tick the boxes when it comes to audience delights.