

CONJURING UP COMEDY BY IAN KEABLE

Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, N6

AS IAN Keable strolls onto the stage, he looks more like a businessman than a magical comedian. With his pin-striped suit and bookish face, it is no surprise when Keable reveals that he used to be an accountant, but he uses this as a basis to create some funny and witty stories about his transition into magic and comedy.

His tricks are quite traditional at times, but they are extremely well performed and many are simply mind-boggling. A word predicted from an entire newspaper, slight of hand with a deck of cards and seemingly hypnotising two members of audience are just part of his excellent repertoire. As with any good magician he charms his audience into taking part and manages to handle a reluctant participant in the front row with a lot of observational wit and humour.

Keable's jokes sometimes feel a bit unpolished and even though the show is advertised as suitable for families, it is difficult to see if children would understand anecdotes about his appearance on *New Faces* in 1987 and some of his older memories. But the quality and humour contained in his magic tricks alone, is enough to keep both kids and adults captivated with the show throughout.

GARY SMEE