

Jokes up his sleeve

BY ADAM ULLIAN

Special to amNewYork

Harrison Greenbaum has taken a different path from most summa cum laude Harvard graduates: He's a comedy magician.

Like many Harvard grads, however, he has found some success. The native New Yorker writes for *Mad* magazine and was a semifinalist in both this year's Boston Comedy Festival and the New York Comedy Contest.

How did you get into comedy?

I have a weird journey into that. I was trained as a magician at age 5. I did that all throughout high school, and then sort of the end of high school, beginning of college I started shifting gears into stand-up and I've stayed there ever since.

Part of your routine features a gag where you ask members of the audience to name a celebrity, and you then show a picture of that star. How did you come up with that?

I'd been working for five years on developing a trick that involved asking audi-

Harrison Greenbaum



ON STAGE

Harrison Greenbaum performs as part of the All Star Comedy Show at the Times Square Arts Center.

- Times: Thu., 10 p.m.; Fri., 11:30 p.m.; Sat., 12:30 a.m.; Sun., 12:30 a.m. & 11 p.m.
- Tickets: \$20
- 669 Eighth Ave., timesquareartscenter.com

ence members for something random and being able to predict it. Other people had different methods. I decided in the end

to invent my own method designed for comedy clubs. It needs to be something that I can repeat over and over again.

Does performing comedy and magic give you an advantage?

I feel like magic is a big part of my life. I've been doing it since I can remember. But I like to think of myself primarily as a stand-up comedian; the little twist of magic at the end is just part of a sort of Andy Kaufman-esque reality questioning thing. I think jokes and magic are very connected.