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Mario Manzini



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Mario Manzini Fan Reviews - Ticketmaster



Mario Manzini Show "Thumbs Up"

Genesee Theatre

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/10/2013

by **ApplePieandcoffee**

Mario Manzini deserves a "Thumbs Up" for his show. In spite of some weird lady who came out of nowhere trying to mess up his show, he pulled it off and did a Great show! He held the audience in the palm of his hand through out the show. He worked great with the children and the adults from the audience.

His escapes were the best. Like Houdini, he escaped from a straight jacket, 100 feet of rope tied to a chair, tied inside a canvas bag, wrist chain escape, and lots more. His finale was the Houdini water tank escape and he used volunteers from the audience to put him into everything that he escaped from.

His Phantom floating illusion was unbelievable. Dressed as the Phantom of the Opera with cape, mask, etc, he had his female assistant float way up in the air as he passed a hoop over her to prove that there was nothing holding her up in the air. We were seated on the side so we could see that there was nothing holding her in the air. Truly amazing. I never saw a floating illusion done like that. Really unique!

There was so much variety in the show besides his escapes. He did some as a mentalist, some magic with simple props like salt vanishing and reappearing from his hands with a lady from the audience. One that I liked was when some people were invited on stage. He asked the audience which one of them should be put into a straight jacket. He had the audience vote on it. Then the one chosen was put in the straight jacket by the other three and asked to try to escape which he couldn't do. It was hilarious to watch the man's face and movements trying to get out. Lots of fun!

Then he gave up and was taken out of it and then the four people from the audience, there were 2 women and two men, strapped him in as tight as they could. One man even put his knee in Manzini's back to get the straps extra tight. Manzini then escaped in less than a minute without undoing any of the straps and buckles. Truly amazing. I guess this is what audiences witnessed when they saw the original Houdini in Vaudeville. I'm glad that I had a chance to see Manzini's stage show. I've seen many of the Houdini movies which were all great, but to actually see it live on stage in person. It was something that 'll always remember.

He even had a child from the audience float in the air as he passed a hoop over him. I have never seen this done with some one from the audience instead of an assistant.

Also a policeman came up on stage and challenged Manzini to escape from his own handcuffs which he double locked on him and Manzini escaped in 2 seconds with everyone in the audience seeing how he did it. Amazing. Great show. Manzini was fabulous!

Favorite moment: The policeman's handcuff challenge.

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Review 2 for Mario Manzini



Manzini was unforgettable!

Gennessee Theatre

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/10/2013

by **Grapejuice1977**

Mario Manzini's show was great. So much fun and excitement for the kids and adults. It was so much fun to see him performing all of his escapes and illusions.

Some of the best was when he invited lots of children and some adults to come up on stage so he could do some magic effects for them with them all assisting him.

He even had one of the children float in the air as he passed a hoop back and forth over him. That went over really good as he did it with a child from the audience and not using his assistant to float as most all magicians do.

One trick that he did which was amazing. he had one of the adults on stage from the audience. He asked her to pick up a salt shaker from the table and unscrew the cover which she did. He then asked her to pour the salt from the shaker into his hand which she did. He closed his hand and opened it and all of the salt was gone. Vanished? Then he closed his hand again and opened it and the salt reappeared as he poured it into her hand? He did that

several times and she was right next to him and couldn't believe her eyes and neither could the audience. Great trick!

Another effect that he did was asking one of the adults on stage to think of a number, color, name or place. They wrote it down on a board with his back towards them. He then called out the name that they wrote down. He guessed it! That was mind boggling.

He had a great personality and it came across to the audience. For some of his magic he came off the stage and walked through the audience doing the magic with ropes and coins right in the audience close up.

One was where he was taking coins from children's ears while they were in their seats. Amazing.

He did several illusions. One was with a basket with a girl inside as he thrust lots of swords into the basket without harming her. Another was a large glass box that was empty and he made a girl appear in an instant. The floating illusion as the phantom of the opera was the best illusion in the show. Breathtaking with the fog, dungeon backdrop and colored lighting.

My real favorites though was all of his escapes which was what Houdini was known for. His publicity says that he is a Guinness World Record holder and we could see why. It was unbelievable the way he escaped from a very long rope tie to a chair put on him by adults from the audience. They got it as tight as they could and he escaped in less than a minute. Lots of excitement.

Other escapes were from a strait-jacket that they put on one of the adults from the audience. When he couldn't get out, they removed it and 4 adults from the audience strapped him in tightly. Again he escaped in less than 40 seconds.

The police officer's handcuff challenge was one of the best things in his show where a local police officer came up on stage during his show and challenged him to escape from his own personal handcuffs which he locked on him and Manzini escaped in a few seconds. That brought the house down as the audience cheered and many people even stood up and gave him a standing ovation for that.

There were many other escapes and magic, but these were the ones that I liked the best. We would very much like to see his show again. Very satisfied with him.

Favorite moment: Floating Illusion

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Review 3 for Mario Manzini



Mario Manzini Show was Fantastic!

Genesee Theater

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/09/2013

by **CivilWarFan1234**

I saw the Mario Manzini stage show at the Genesee Theatre some time ago and didn't realize that I could write a review about it. Here it is.

He was Fantastic. He has a great personality on and off the stage. Very funny at times and very charismatic! He used almost total audience participation through out his show which was in 2 parts with an intermission.

There was a lot of comedy, magic tricks & illusions but the high lights were his Escapes.

His show is called a tribute to Houdini and it was.

We saw the Houdini mini series on TNT TV in Sept last year and Manzini recreated many of the escapes that we saw in the Houdini movie. But this was live on stage. Not TV or a movie. So it was really impressive to watch all of that from our seats in the theatre.

By the way the Genesee theatre was one of the most beautiful theatres that we have ever been in. I found out that it was built in the 1930s as a vaudeville-movie palace.

Manzini used old time vaudeville style back drops to enhance his show. With the stage colored lighting, fog machines, strobe lights and music it was really something to see.

Lots of the different illusions that he performed had different colored lights and he wore different changes of costumes. My favorite illusion was his floating lady done as the phantom of the opera with the costume, mask, green stage lighting, fog and music from the phantom show. It was breathtaking the way he had the girl dressed in the old fashioned white wedding gown and he wearing the mask & cloak. He hypnotized her and had her lay on a

red couch. She then began to raise up off the couch about 6 feet in the air. He passed a hoop back & forth over her that was handed to him by an assistant wearing a skeleton mask. Really Gothic looking and a great effect. We never saw any other magician present that illusion in that way. Unforgettable! The fog really added so much to that. It covered the entire stage and drifted off the front of the stage into the audience. Really great effect!

The rest of the show was great. More Illusions. Having many children and adults come up on stage to assist him. He made those kids feel so happy as he worked with them. Very friendly.

One thing we couldn't understand was some woman kept running out on stage grabbing props. She didn't belong on stage and Manzini tried several times to have her removed but no one did. That was even very funny. Like Hellzapopin with Olsen & Johnson. My Grandparents told me that they saw that show on Broadway in NYC in the 1940's and I have a video of the movie.

His mentalism effects were amazing with people from the audience but his escapes were the best. Straightjacket, handcuffs, rope tying and a sack escape all put on him by people from the audience on stage.

One escape was a handcuff challenge by a local police officer who locked his own handcuffs on Manzini. Manzini escaped in 2 seconds and gave the policeman back his handcuffs. The entire audience cheered Manzini as soon as he escaped. This was really unbelievable.

Anyhow I just wanted to give a review on Ticketmasters about Mario Manzini's show. We would like to see it again when he returns to the Genesee Theatre. Great family show for kids and adults.

Favorite moment: Manzini escaping from the Policeman's own handcuffs

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Review 4 for Mario Manzini



Mario Manzini magic show

Genessee Theatre

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2015

Posted 11/09/2013

by **Zeta1977**

Mario Manzini's stage show at the Genesee Theatre was great. I took my wife and 3 children to see it. We all loved it. We were told my some friends that also saw it that night that they just were notified by their friends that reviews could be written on here for anyone who saw his shows. They wrote one recently

Some people didn't like it and wrote some bad reviews, but the show was not bad at all. It was some weird lady that kept running out on stage many times trying to take over Manzini's acts. We could tell that there was something wrong with her as she wasn't wearing any costume and didn't know what she was doing. It seemed that she some how got back stage from the street. It was funny what she was trying to do many times but Manzini although he tried many times to get her off the stage without being able to, he still went on and did a great show. We liked his opening with the Snake Basket Illusion. The basket was on a base raised off the ground about 4 feet. He reached inside and grabbed 2 large very long snakes each about 8 feet long that were wiggling. They looked so real but I think they were rubber.

He ran down to the front of the stage and into the audience with a snake in each hand. All the women and children were screaming, but it was all in fun.

He then ran up on stage and dropped the 2 snakes into the basket as his girl assistant came out and got into the basket with the snakes.

He put the lid on the basket and then began to thrust 5 or 6 long swords into the basket from each side and then shoved a long broad sword about 6 feet long into the basket from the top to the bottom.

We could see the tip of the sword coming out of the bottom. Great reaction from the audience.

Then he removed the swords and removed the lid and the girl stood up and got out of the basket unharmed.

Amazing trick. We couldn't figure out how she could be in that tiny basket all cramped down with out getting stuck by any or all of the swords.

Also the way Manzini did it. He was moving all over the stage as he shoved the swords into the basket like a bull fighter or flamingo dancer. Very graceful.

Another great Illusion was when he was handcuffed and tied in a bag and locked inside a wooden box by his girl assistant. She then started to tie the box up with rope as this crazy lady again came running out and grabbed the

rope from his assistant and started to try to tie the box up. She didn't know what she was doing and got the rope all tangled up.

Manzin's wife I believe grabbed the rope away from this lady and tied the box up herself as the crazy lady was trying to fight or push his wife away and finish it.

Manzini's girl assistant got on top of the box and pulled up a curtain in front of her and then dropped it to the ground revealing not her but Manzini free of the handcuffs, sack and locked box.

He quickly untied the rope, unlocked the locks and opened the lid. Up popped his assistant tied inside the sack wearing his handcuffs. We've seen this Illusion many times with other magicians and never get tired of seeing it again. But Manzini's presentation was exciting to watch.

Manzini did a lot of comedy magic with children and adults from the audience on stage and this went over really good.

The second act was even better with the Phantom floating illusion and all of his escapes from a straightjacket, rope ties handcuffs and chains.

The end of the show was the water tank escape. This was the big finish. Manzini was locked into handcuffs & chains and got inside the tank. As his wife started to lock the lid on the tank again this crazy lady came running out to the tank and grabbed some locks and started to lock him in the tank as his wife was doing that.

She was getting the lid on crooked and I could see that Manzini was choking on water as she was forcing his head down into the tank before he could hold his breath. He had to push up on the lid a few times to get air and then went all the way down in the tank as the locks were locked on.

Manzini's wife dropped the front curtain and took her place on the side. Right away this crazy lady ran over and pulled the curtain up all the way as Manzini was getting out of the tank so the entire audience saw him getting out and how he was doing it.

His wife grabbed the curtain and pulled it back down but it was too late. She yelled at the lady to get off the stage but she wouldn't.

That ended the show and when Manzini came out on stage we could all see that he was really upset and hurt for what this woman did to him.

But in spite of that he held the show together and did a great show. The audience all liked it and were talking with him after he came out off the stage. Everyone was asking him who that lady was and why she was doing that?

We really enjoyed Manzini's show and look forward to seeing it again without that lady around.

This was so crazy as Manzini many times yelled back stage for some one to take this woman off the stage but no one ever did. It was almost comical at times.

Manzini then did a great show!

Favorite moment: Sword Basket Illusion

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Review 5 for Mario Manzini



Mario Manzini Show was great!

Genesee Theatre

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/09/2013

by **Lovemagicshows**

I just learned of the reviews on Mario Manzini's show. I was at the Genesee Theatre on Nov 1, 2013. I just want to say that my wife and I really enjoyed his show that night.

There was some woman who kept running out on stage doing stupid things but we thought that maybe he added that as comedy to his show. It was funny and we didn't think that she spoiled the show. He just went on with the show and did some amazing acts.

He had many people from the audience up on stage through out his show and that added so much to his show.

He did some Illusions with a girl appearing from a glass fish tank. Changing places with a girl inside a locked box.

A girl getting inside a basket and he pushed swords through it and then she reappeared.

He did some mentalist acts where he walked out into the audience and asked for 3 finger rings from 3 different people. They put them in his hand. He closed it and opened it and all the rings were joined together. He let people examine them. Then he closed his hand and they were separated again. No damage to the rings. Amazing. He did some more mental acts that were great. Then he had children come up on stage. He had one float in the air and passed a hoop over him. That went over great as I never seen any magician do that with a child from the audience. They always use their own helper.

He also did a floating illusion as the phantom of the opera which was beautiful to watch with the music and fog. His escapes were the best. He had a police officer from the audience come up on stage and lock him in his own handcuffs. Manzini escaped in a few seconds which brought the house down. People were cheering him. He then got locked into a lot of different handcuffs and chains and was locked inside a sack and escaped. He had people from the audience tie him to a chair with long rope and he escaped faster than it took to tie him up. One of the best and entertaining was strapping some one from the audience into a straitjacket and have them try to get out. When they couldn't and gave up, they took it off him and put Manzini in. He escaped real fast. Again amazing. Every one cheered him.

The theatre was beautiful. One of the best I have ever seen. It looked like it was built in the 1920's. A few people were in the balcony but the downstairs main floor was packed.

It was a very entertaining show and we can't wait to see him again.

Favorite moment: When Manzini worked with the children on stage and in the audience. Also walking through the audience doing funny magic and of course his escapes.

Share this review:



Review 6 for Mario Manzini



Manzini Rocks

Genesee Theatre

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/07/2013

by **KrazyKat123**

Mario Manzini presented a great thrilling show. In spite of some one running on stage and grabbing props, Manzini still delivered. His personality came across to the audience. Lots of audience participation with the kids and adults from the audience on stage.

His show had comedy magic, mentalism, Illusions and incredible escapes. We had a group of 8 of us from Missouri and Illinois. I've followed Manzini for the past 4 years and we try to catch his shows within the tri state area when ever we can.

I myself never get tired of seeing his shows because his presentations, special effects, stage scenery and his personality make his shows very dramatic and entertaining.

Our favorites are of course his escapes from straitjackets, police handcuff challenge, 100 foot rope tie to a chair and all the others featuring the water tank escape at the end.

We also saw his show at the historic Missouri Theatre in Columbia, MO and also at the Royal Theatre since.

In spite of all of the distractions which were not any of his fault, he still did a fantastic show. Can't wait to see his next show.

Favorite moment: The straitjacket escape

Share this review:



Review 7 for Mario Manzini



Outstanding show!!!

Genesee Theater

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/07/2013

by **Lynn1231**

Mario Manzini never disappoints. Mario was able to give us a great show that was outstanding!

I enjoyed every escape Mario performed. He was able to deliver an excellent show.

Keep going Mario you are a class act!

Favorite moment: The milk can escape!

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Review 8 for Mario Manzini



Mario Manzini puts on a unforgettable show!!

Genesee Theatre

- Waukegan

, IL

Posted 11/07/2013

by **JoeVal1**

We were very lucky to experience Mario Manzini deliver his "Tribute of Houdini" performance at the beautiful Genesee Theater in Waukegan.

When we heard Mr. Manzini would be performing in Waukegan we were waiting at the box office for tickets. We purchased 5 front row tickets for our family, and anxiously awaited the month until his performance date. During that month we watched countless videos of his incredible escapes. Do you know he has performed in Tokyo, Japan?

The day of the show arrived and we were beyond thrilled. We arrived at the theater an hour prior to show time. Each child received a magic wand to help participate in the show. The show opened with his wife giving a amazing electric violin performance which got the crowd going. Once Mario came on to stage his escape acts were performed flawlessly and left the crowd stunned. Just when you thought you had seen the ultimate escape, he delivered one that was even bigger and better.

During the whole performance he was lively, friendly, humorous, and interactive with the crowd. During several of the acts he brought up members from the audience to help. During one of the acts he had members of the audience tie him to a chair the best they could. I kid you not he escaped in less then 5 seconds. I think he was still talking to the crowd and he was out. It was mind blowing.

I would highly recommend taking your family, friends, neighbors, lost cousins, coworkers, or anyone you know to see one of his performances. You will not be disappointed and will have a lifetime memory. I am so thankful we went, our children still talk about it and ask when they can see him again. I hope we are lucky enough to get that opportunity. Thank you Mr. Manzini!

If you don't believe my review just search youtube for him. Proof is on there. He really is one in a million.

Favorite moment: How can I pick just one. It was an amazing show. Probably him escaping from the sack?? They were all so good I really can't pick just one.

Share this review:



Review 9 for Mario Manzini



Mario Manzini. Great Show !!!

Genesee Theatre

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/06/2013

by **Dean12**

We saw the Mario Manzini show at the Genesee Theatre here in town on Nov 1st. It was very entertaining. We bought tickets and brought our children and friends with their children. We were seated pretty much close to each other and we all really enjoyed the show. This was the first time that we have ever seen an escape artist show live on stage.

We saw the TV Houdini movie on the History channel and we were amazed at the escapes that Houdini did in his time. But Mario Manzini recreated just about all of Houdini's amazing escapes right there on the stage.

He invited people from the audience to come up on stage to put him into everything that he escaped from. A straightjacket, handcuffs, chains, locked in a mail bag, 100 foot rope tie to a chair and much more. The finale was the water tank escape where he was locked inside the tank and escaped.

There was some confusion during the show with some woman who kept running on stage from back stage and trying to mess up his show. We couldn't understand why no one pulled her off?

But in spite of that Manzini did a terrific show and we will want to go see him when he comes back to the Genesee Theatre again, hopefully this year. Maybe on Halloween again.

The Genesee theatre is one of the most beautiful theatres that we have ever been to. We attend many shows and concerts there many times.

I didn't know that we were able to write a review on here about his show. A friend of mine told me that anyone who saw his show could still write a review saying how we felt about it and Mario Manzini.

Manzini is the New Houdini! He was Fantastic !!!!

Favorite moment: Audience participation on stage

Share this review:



Review 10 for Mario Manzini



Mario Manzini: A Must See Living Legend

Genesee Theatre

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/06/2013

by **WichitaJim**

If you want a must see show you can't do any better than attending Mario Manzini's "Tribute To Houdini" show. Mario opened the show with a challenge from the Genesee Police Dept. to escape from handcuffs and leg irons while secured in a thick, canvas sack. Mario escaped in record time and proceeded to entertain the audience for the next 2 hrs. with comedy magic and escapes (including an all leather straight jacket escape, ending the show being shackled with multiple handcuffs, leg irons and tied in a sack), all using members of the audience as volunteers.

The audience was made up of people ages from toddler to grandparents and by the end of the show everyone was standing and applauding Mario's expert performance.

Anyone who gets the opportunity to see this very talented entertainer should do so at their earliest convenience.

Favorite moment: Police Challenge Handcuff/Leg Iron Escape

Share this review:



Review 11 for Mario Manzini



Best Magic Show Ever!

Genesee Theatre

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/05/2013

by **MimiLynn67**

I saw my first Mario Manzini magic show two weeks ago in Warren, IL. and was very impressed. I now saw him again at the Genesee Theatre in Waukegan, Illinois. His show is for the entire family.

He opened his show with a some great Illusions and then got a challenge from the police department to escape from their police handcuffs and leg restraints, which he did successfully while tied inside a cloth bag.

Mario then started his comedy magic show. He invited both adults and children onstage to assist him. In one trick he began pulling coins out of thin air and from children's ears. By the end of the trick he had a bucket full of coins. In another effect he levitated a young girl while her parents stood on both sides of Mario watching everything.

After the comedy magic portion of the show there was a brief intermission where both adults and children were able to purchase some of the magic tricks Mario performed.

Next came the escape act. During the next 45 minutes Mario successfully escaped from ropes, chains handcuffs, leg irons, and a leather straight jacket all in record time.

Mario Manzini's "Tribute To Houdini" show was wonderful and I would see it again. I suggest to anyone that if they are fortunate enough to find this entertainer performing in their area to go see his show.

You will not be disappointed.

Favorite moment: All of the escapes.

Share this review:



Review 12 for Mario Manzini



Mario Manzini is #1

Genesee Theatre

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/05/2013

by **BigJohn57**

I don't normally write reviews but I decided after reading some of the others I would add my two cents.

Mario Manzini's "Tribute To Houdini" show is a must see. Mr. Manzini is a wonderful magician and an escape artist of remarkable talent.

Mario uses audience participation in every effect and escape, including a police challenge where an officer locks Mario in a pair of police handcuffs, leg irons and then secures him in a cloth bag. The escape is made in record time and gets a great reaction from the audience.

During the magic portion of the show Mario again uses plenty of audience volunteers and comedy in his illusions. Coins are taken from thin air, chosen cards are found, thoughts are read, and an audience member is levitated while completely surrounded.

During the intermission Mario and his wife/assistant mingle with the audience and even offer some of the effects that have been seen for purchase as souvenirs.

Next is the Escape part of the show. This is where Mario shines. After several decades of performing Mr. Manzini has honed his skills at escape to a level most performers will never attain. His escapes from handcuffs, leg irons, chains, tied to a chair with 100 feet of rope, a straight jacket and last but certainly not least a large Milk Can filled with water and padlocked shut conjure up visions of Houdini himself.

To any and all people wanting to see a good, family friendly show or thinking of hiring some quality family entertainment take my advice and look no further than Mario Manzini.

The memories will last a lifetime.

Favorite moment: The entire show

Share this review:



Review 13 for Mario Manzini



Great magic show

Genesee Theater

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/05/2013

by **MarySue 007**

I took my grandchildren to see the Mario Manzini "Tribute To Houdini" magic show and we loved it.

Mr. Manzini is a great performer. His comedy magic is very good. He uses members of the audience throughout his show as volunteers and even levitates an audience member while completely surrounded.

Mr. Manzini is also a great escape artist. He is tied to a chair with 100 feet of rope, secured in a leather straight jacket, shackled with multiple handcuffs and leg irons, tied into a giant bag, and is locked/sealed in a large milk can filled with water.

He escapes them all and in record time.

I read some of the reviews here and have to disagree with the bad ones. Mario had some issues but all things considered I believe he put on a wonderful show and would take my grandchildren to see it again.

Favorite moment: We all enjoyed the entire show.

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Review 14 for Mario Manzini



Tribute To Houdini show is Must See

Genesee Theater

- Waukegan

, IL

- 11/01/2013

Posted 11/2/2013

by **IllinoisJim**

Mario Manzini is a world traveled, highly entertaining performer who excelled once again.

His escape work is flawless and his comedy magic portion of the show is very funny and uses audience participation in every effect.

Mario is challenged by local police to escape their own handcuffs. Mario is then put into a set of leg shackles and thrown into a large bag which is then tied tight with thick rope. His escape is made in record time.

Mario continues by escaping from 100 feet of rope, multiple sets of handcuffs, a straight jacket and closes with Houdini's Milk Can Escape.

In my opinion if/when anyone gets the opportunity to see Mario Manzini's "Tribute To Houdini Show" you will not be disappointed.

Favorite moment: Police Challenge escape

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