

drummer has long been legend, but for a few brilliantly conceived moments, we, of the common herd, saw the light and realized that the music he heard (and made us step to), was neither measured nor far away.



*EVANSVILLE, IN - More Close-up was shown by Tim Conover (top), and Fiablo.
Rick Bamman photos*

Next up was an act that I'd not seen before. As far as Tim Conover is concerned though, I really can't see how he qualifies to work at a National convention. All he has going for him is that he's young, flip, clever, funny and talented. I mean, REALLY, are these the kind of things that you want to see at a convention? You bet your bippy!

As a rule, I don't like to tip off specific effects in a review, but I'm going to make an exception here. In his act, Tim had the gall to Ramsey's Coins and Cylinder. For those not in the know, that trick is a sodbuster to do . . . even to do badly. Certainly to do it well takes at least 25 years of self-denial . . . probably more years than Tim's been around. The only way I can figure it out is that Tim must have skipped puberty entirely. Mayhaps I'm not a great judge, never having seen Johnny Ramsey do it. Howsomever, my new-found friend, Hans Trixer of Zimbabwe, did have the great fortune to see Ramsey do the routine in question and he was impressed with Tim's handling and presentation. That's enough for me . . . it should be for you.

Some folks were disappointed . . . and I for one was glad they were. The "they" in question are those that decided that since they'd seen Paul Gertner before and since the hour was so early, they'd skip the close-up. That was their undoing. For, while Paul opened and closed with what have become signature effects with him, most all the stuff in the middle was new and the usual pure gold . . . which only the inveterate Gertnerites got to see. Hooray for our side!

If I seem prejudiced, that's 'cause I am. In Paul's case, it's always been well-founded. Be that as it may, I've searched for years for some flaw in Paul's magic as well as his persona. This, to little avail. The most heinous thing I've discovered is that he brushes his teeth back and forth rather than up and down. The capper, so far, to the