

Seek Wonder

By Mary Shen Barnidge

Grand-scale Hollywood illusions have their place, of course, but nothing compares to magic tricks performed right before our very eyes. Supposedly taking his cue from Dutch prestidigitator Rednow Kees--whose name is "seek wonder" spelled backward--Sean Masterson delivers legerdemain all the more impressive for being low-tech. Assisted at this family-oriented show by eager audience volunteers (and a puppet or two), our boyish, bantamweight host alternates juvenile-appeal patter with straightforward lessons on the history of his craft. Manipulating commonplace objects--wineglasses, cell phones, paper cups--he does produce wonder, investing them with a sense of fresh possibility. Through 11/28: Sat 4 PM, Sun 2:30 PM. Actors Gymnasium, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes, Evanston, 773-769-1904. \$10-\$12.