

MIDWEEK

Your Time

Win tickets to see Gary Wilmot in Half a Sixpence
See Friday's Southport Visiter.

All the way from the Big Apple

New York's favourite magician brings his bag of tricks to resort

IF HE'S good enough for Robert De Niro, he's good enough for Southport.

Magic Al is the most sought after magician on the New York birthday party circuit.

As well as the aforementioned Mr De Niro, Magic Al - or Al Garber to his dentist - has played for the offspring of Jerry Seinfeld and shock jock Howard Stern.

His fine-tuned salad of magic and zaniness has been keeping the Big Apple entertained since the late 1970s, so it is a rare treat for Southport that the man brings his children's show to Southport Arts Centre on Saturday, September 15, as part of an international magicians' convention in the resort.

It's A Magic Al World was a massive hit off-Broadway and the show is recreated right here in Southport, featuring Al and other members of the International Brotherhood of Magicians who are in town for their annual get-together.

Speaking in 1998, Al explained the story behind his act: "I think the combination of slapstick, word mix-up and magic is great.

"I act like such a nut to get those belly laughs. I probably am the silliest man in the world.

"I was just a funny kid. My parents told me to disappear, so I became a

By JAMIE MCLOUGHLIN

magician."

As well as the birthday party circuit, Al has performed in New York comedy clubs, and taken his show to the city's hospitals, performing for seriously ill children.

Joining Al for the Southport performance are children's entertainers Richard Stuppel, Tony Rix and Percy Piecrust.

The IBM Clowns will also make an appearance, as will tennis juggler Daniel Hochsteiner.

Tickets for the 2.30pm show are £7.50 for adults and £6 for children.

However, in a magic trick worthy of Al himself, Midweek Visiter has pulled four pairs of tickets out of the hat to give away in this week's competition.

To enter the prize draw, please answer the following question correctly: What is the name of Magic Al's smash hit off Broadway show?

Send entries on a postcard, with full contact details, to: Magic Al Competition, Midweek Visiter, 26-32 Tulketh Street, Southport PR8 1BT.

Closing date is Thursday, September 6.

● Win tickets to see Magic Al at Southport Arts Centre

Code NA

