

The longest-running solo show in





Luxor’s Menopause The Musical is the story of four women and “the change.”

and smiles we get and people telling us they can’t remember the last time they laughed so hard.”

All about “the change,” the show follows the story of four women who randomly meet at Bloomingdale’s and think they have nothing in common, but soon realize they’re not all that different from one another. The production became a permanent fixture at Luxor last May and shares the resort’s Atrium Showroom with adult revue FANTASY and Carrot Top.

“I love Carrot Top, and I’m not just saying that because we see him all the time,” Ms. Verdolino said. “He’s really, really great. He’s so much funnier than people realize. Even when he appears on TV, it doesn’t begin to crack how great he is.”

In addition to his trademark red hair, part of Mr. Thompson’s appeal is his ability to come up with and deliver fresh material. The comedian said his material is constantly evolving, and he is proud that no two shows are the same.

“I change things every day. It may be just one joke or a sound effect or lighting cue, but every day it’s different,” said Mr. Thompson, who works through a trunk-full of gag props each show. “It’s always fun to turn people who’ve never seen my show into fans; but for people who have seen it, I want to change things up for them so they can see a different show each time.”

He may like changing things up for his show, but he prefers to keep one thing the same: the location.

“It’s a great gig to not have to travel. I’ve done all that – the buses, the airplanes, the suitcases. After a while, that stuff becomes the hardest part of your job. Your show is the fun part. The traveling is the work,” Mr. Thompson said. “In Vegas, there really isn’t a hard part. You go in, do your show, and go home.”

That’s not the only perk of headlining in Las Vegas, said Mr. Anderson.

“It’s exciting because there’s always a chance that you’re going to get people (in the audience) not just from this country, but every country. I recently had people from the Netherlands, Romania, and England. I like getting a mix of people and seeing how I can entertain them,” he said.

Appropriate for all ages, Mr. Anderson’s Larger Than Life show revolves around the comedian’s personal anecdotes.

“It’s a fun, feel-good, clean, family atmosphere,” he said. “My show is just about giving people an opportunity to forget their troubles for an hour and 15 minutes.”



Kevin Burke is the star of Excalibur’s Defending the Caveman solo Broadway show.

Broadway history, the production since 1991 has not only proven itself, but it’s set out to do the impossible: explain men to women and vice versa.

“For example, if a woman says she’ll call you, she means when she gets home. If a man says he’ll call you, he means before he dies,” said Mr. Burke.

The show, which is performed in 30 countries and 17 languages, joined Excalibur at the end of 2008. Mr. Burke works seven days a week and has performed the show more than 1,500 times.

MIRAGE President of Entertainment and Sports Richard Sturm.

“They’re popular not only here, but across the whole country right now,” Mr. Sturm said. “People are looking to laugh, to escape their lives, to go out and have fun, and comedians provide that.”

Ms. Verdolino, who plays an unassuming housewife in Menopause The Musical, certainly does.

“It’s a party every night,” she said. “I’m shocked at how many hugs



Carrot Top performs six nights a week at Luxor. The entertainer was recently named Best Comedian by Review-Journal readers in “The Best of Las Vegas” poll.

“In Vegas, there really isn’t a hard part. You go in, do your show, and go home.”

And people come for just that – lots of them. So much so that Company leaders often book rotating comedians in venues like The Mirage Terry Fator Theatre, MGM Grand Hollywood Theatre, and Monte Carlo Theatre when headliners aren’t scheduled to perform. This year alone, guests at The Mirage have been able to see the likes of big-name celebrities like Jay Leno, Ray Romano, and Jon Stewart.

“Although we would like to book up-and-coming comedians, it’s a very competitive business. For that reason, we really go after performers we feel confident will be able to sell tickets,” Mr. Sturm said.

One example of such an act is Defending the Caveman. The longest-running solo show in

Broadway history, Defending the Caveman is an insightful play about the ways men and women relate. Since its 1991 debut in San Francisco, the production has been seen by more than 8 million people in 30 countries and 17 languages. Kevin Burke headlines the show at Excalibur.

**Insider’s Tip:** Employees can receive two free tickets through April 30 by presenting their employee ID at an Excalibur box office.

**Tickets:** start at \$34.95

**Show times:** Sunday-Thursday, 3 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 3 and 7 p.m.

## Frank Caliendo

Monte Carlo Theatre

The impressions come fast and the laughter even faster with comedian/impressionist Frank Caliendo. MGM MIRAGE’s newest comedian, he is known by millions for his dead-on impressions of celebrities like Al Pacino, Robert DeNiro, John Madden, former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, Dr. Phil, and Jay Leno, to name a few, as well as a myriad of television appearances and live stage performances.

**Insider’s Tip:** You can go more than once. Frank Caliendo’s current repertoire includes some 60 or 75 usable characters, meaning no two shows are exactly the same.

**Tickets:** start at \$48.64

**Show times:** Sunday and Monday, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 9:30 p.m.

## Louie Anderson

Excalibur Thunder From Down Under Showroom

Louie Anderson’s Larger Than Life show features the comedian’s stories and evolving material.

**Insider’s Tip:** Meet Louie himself. Meet and greets are held on show days from 6:15 to 6:30 p.m. in the Thunder From Down Under Showroom lobby.

**Tickets:** start at \$54

**Show times:** Sunday-Thursday, 7 p.m.

## Menopause The Musical

Luxor Atrium Showroom

A celebration of women and “the change,” Menopause The Musical includes parodies from the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s, including "Puff, My God I'm Draggin" and "Stayin' Awake, Stayin' Awake." The Las Vegas cast includes Queen Emily, an America’s Got Talent finalist, and Paige O'Hara, the voice of Belle in Disney’s Beauty and the Beast.

**Insider’s Tip:** Employees can take advantage of a 2-for-1 ticket offer through April 30 by presenting their employee ID at a Luxor box office.

**Tickets:** start at \$49.95

**Show times:** Wednesday-Monday, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 5 and 8:30 p.m.

## Terry Fator

The Mirage Terry Fator Theatre

With celebrity singing impressions and unparalleled ventriloquism, America’s

“It’s literally the fulfillment of a lifelong dream,” he said. “I’ve worked in Las Vegas several times in the past at comedy clubs; but having my own show, this is it. This is what I’ve always wanted.”

# Comedian cuts cake

EXCALIBUR – Louie Anderson knows being a headlining comedian at an MGM MIRAGE resort is a sweet gig. Literally.

Mr. Anderson celebrated his birthday earlier this month with an elaborate birthday cake created by Excalibur’s bakery team. Featuring images used to advertise the Larger Than Life show, the cake was complete with golden Excalibur turrets.

Luxor and Excalibur President Felix Rappaport joined Mr. Anderson on stage inside the Thunder From Down Under Showroom to wish him a happy birthday.



Got Talent winner Terry Fator brings to life his puppet co-stars, including Winston the Impersonating Turtle, the lovable Emma Taylor, and Vikki “The Cougar” through takes on music stars like Cher, Elvis Presley, and Garth Brooks.

**Insider’s Tip:** For his one-year anniversary, Terry Fator earlier this month introduced a new puppet to his Cast of Thousands – a crash-test dummy named Wrex.

**Tickets:** start at \$59

**Show times:** Tuesday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.



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