

# Shop

## Saturday shopping with... *Hans Klok*

Shopping

The Netherlands' celebrity illusionist allows Style editor **Karina Hof** a peek behind his cape. Photography by **Karl O'Brien**

Hans Klok may be hailed as 'the fastest magician ever', but his fame wasn't pulled out of thin air. The 40-year-old Purmerend native has practised magic every day since his tenth birthday when, at a local circus, he became mesmerised by American stage magician Harry Blackstone Jr and his levitating light bulb trick.

From his first professional gig as an 18-year-old performer at the old Holland Village theme park in Nagasaki, Japan, to his celeb-studded Las Vegas residency in 2007, Klok has toured the world over. This month the illusionist appears as the star turn in Carré's World Christmas Circus (see Family, page 67).

What makes Klok tick offstage? When not perfecting a new caper at his warehouse studio in IJmuiden or working out at home in Haarlem, he drops in on Amsterdam – just the place to invest in more tricks up his sleeve.

### 10.45 – De Bijenkorf Dam 1 (0900 0919/€0.15/ min)/debijenkorf.nl

'Hallo, alles goed?' Klok beams towards his brandy-haired consultant at the MAC cosmetics counter in De Bijenkorf. Although the performer does his own stage face, make-up artist Veronique Severijn regularly advises him. She intuitively culls his essentials: Bronzing Powder (€21) is 'for a tanning effect' and Studio Fix Powder Plus Foundation (€27.50) in shade NC40 proves 'very good for onstage because it makes the skin matte', plus Large Powder Brush 150 (€47) and two packs of Studio Tech Sponges (€5.50 each). As Severijn adds Mini Shader Brush 228 (€21) to the mix, Klok explains: 'As a magician, you always need eyes. People always think that I hypnotise them.'

### 11.08 – FAME Kalverstraat 2-4 (638 2525/ fame.nl)

A dart across the Dam and we're at mega-multimedia store, aptly named FAME.



**Stage make-up:** Klok works on his tan the safe way, at De Bijenkorf's MAC counter

Before locating the soundtracks section, where Klok often finds music for his live shows, he pauses at



*The Best Of Mel & Kim* (€8). 'I'm a bit '80s,' he grins apologetically, picking up the CD in duplicate (his best friend is also a fan). Downstairs, the fluorescent-lit racks are expertly scanned until he opts for *Film Music Of Hans Zimmer* (€22.99) and the 'Out Of Africa' soundtrack (€9).

On the way out, he stops at the Hitchcock DVDs, marvelling at how, in 'The Birds', the director 'could make something so ordinary so frightening'.

### 11.48 – Bizar Leidsestraat 47 (320 6908/bizarfashion.com)

Bizar's crystal-encrusted dresses – and chandeliers – have attracted showbiz patrons like Chantal Janzen and Trijntje Oosterhuis for nearly a decade. 'Nathalie was here last week,' says the chatty salesman, referring to 'the sexy girl' in Klok's performances. We're ushered down the scrollwork-railed stairs, where Nathalie Hoop's custom-tailored gold sequin

## 'Nathalie was here last week,' says the chatty salesman, referring to 'the sexy girl' in Klok's performances

dress (€1,200) is produced from a curtained backroom. 'Wow, this is great,' says Klok. Does the magician have a say in what his assistants wear? 'I have to pay!' he booms, laughing. 'But they also have very good taste. And they have to move in the boxes, so they know what works.'

### 12.30 – Western House Kalverstraat 154 (622 3329/westernhouse.nl)



Back on Kalverstraat, Klok drops some change into the organ-grinder's cup before ducking into Western House, appealing to this illusionist for its modern-day wrangler wear and authentic Navajo and Zuni jewelry. Also abundant here is Christian Audigier, the brand popular with Klok's most famous Vegas assistant and now friend, the 'very funny' and

'intelligent' Pamela Anderson. A turquoise-tinted Sendra cowboy boot comes off the shelf (€299). Less faded, but the model is identical to the pair he wears today. He momentarily considers black boxer briefs (€45) with Ed Hardy's rocco *tatouage* curlicuing up the crotch. Verdict: uninteresting. Having once called Nevada's Red Rock Canyon home during his stint on The Strip, Klok leaves this Western experience empty handed.

### 12.40 – Free Record Shop Kalverstraat 32 (626 5808/freerecordshop.nl)

'Oh, actually, I have to put photos on a CD,' recalls Klok, prompting our last stop prior to meeting his car service. At the Free Record Shop, a wide-eyed young woman whispers to her fellow blue polo shirt-wearing colleague as Klok approaches. On request, she produces a pack of blank Emtec DVD+Rs (€9). Following a shuffle through cabaret DVDs and rapturous praise for Wentworth Miller of 'Prison Break', Klok's gold American Express card resurfaces at the cashier. Overhead, 'Walk the Line' has segued into David May's 'Superstar'. 'Tot ziens,' Klok calls above the Eurodance hit belting 'You're a superstar, don't forget just who you are.' And with that, he disappears into the weekend traffic.

