



J. SCHEIDECKER CENTER  
LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY

# TERRY FATOR

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It's a long journey from the small town of Corsicana, Texas to the Las Vegas stage...with a lot of detours on the way to becoming a superstar... but with the combination of his one-in-a-million talent and the help of the millions of fans who chose him as the winner of *America's Got Talent*, **Terry Fator** made it to the top.

But *America's Got Talent* almost didn't happen for Terry. After two decades on the road performing at county fairs, kids' birthday parties and oddball venues, he truly thought his lifelong dream of being on the Vegas stage might never come true. But in 2007, he finally got the chance to audition for *America's Got Talent* and became the Season 2 champ, taking home the \$1 million prize and title of "Best New Act in America."

"It was the big break I had worked for my entire life," Terry says. Soon he began performing to sellout crowds at the Las Vegas Hilton and by the following year he signed what has been described as "one of the largest entertainment deals in Las Vegas history" to headline his own show at The Mirage Hotel & Casino.

During the 10 years he was the headliner at the Mirage Hotel, Terry won the coveted awards of Las Vegas's best show, best impressionist, best all-around performer, best family show and best overall show; and year after year he has been ranked in the top 3 on *Forbes*' list of the top-earning comics just behind comic legend Jerry Seinfeld.

Terry has often spoken about his long time on the road. "I'm grateful that I didn't find success until my 40s. I'm not sure I could've handled all this success at a younger age. It can screw your brain up. Just look at a lot of today's young stars. But if you're in your 40s, you have perspective and you're more grounded so that the fame doesn't go to your head too much."

Perhaps the world's most gifted singing ventriloquist, Terry can impersonate more than 200 unique celebrity voices, including Elton John, Garth Brooks, Karen Carpenter, Justin Timberlake, Elvis, Meghan Trainor and Bruno Mars. His cast of puppet characters includes: Winston the Impersonating Turtle; Maynard, the World's Greatest Elvis Impersonator; Elton John; Vicki the Cougar; and Duggie, the annoying neighbor.

In addition to his legendary stage performances, Terry has multi-platinum selling DVDs and numerous memorable television appearances including getting a standing ovation on *Showtime at the Apollo*. But even with all his time performing, he always finds time to enjoy life with his beautiful wife Angie, to visit his favorite vacation spot, Disneyland, and to give of his time and talent to the cause he passionately believes in, helping America's veterans.

[www.terryfator.com](http://www.terryfator.com)