

# AbracaDazzle helps raise funds for WEPA programs

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Children and adults alike filled the stands at the Wainwright Communityplex theatre, Sunday April 25 to be AbracaDazzled, a fundraiser for the Wainwright Elementary Parents Association (WEPA).

John Kaplan's AbracaDazzle wowed the crowd, with his classic illusions and slight of hand, keeping the children glued to the magic he was performing. He included members of the audience to help out with some of the illusions.

Kaplan is known across the country for his magic shows for children and many different groups access him for fundraisers just like WEPA.

Tracey Perkins from WEPA was the lead organizer of the show.

"The show was really good," said Perkins. "Better than I expected. I've never seen him before, but we had lots of comments that people were impressed. John was also really easy to work with."

Perkins noted that WEPA's show had two donations from Wainwright Credit Union and Eastalta Co-op, which helped the bottom line for the event.

"One hundred per cent of the funds go back to the kids," said Perkins.

WEPA's funds go towards programs like snacks for success, which provide nutritious snacks for children that may not get enough to eat.

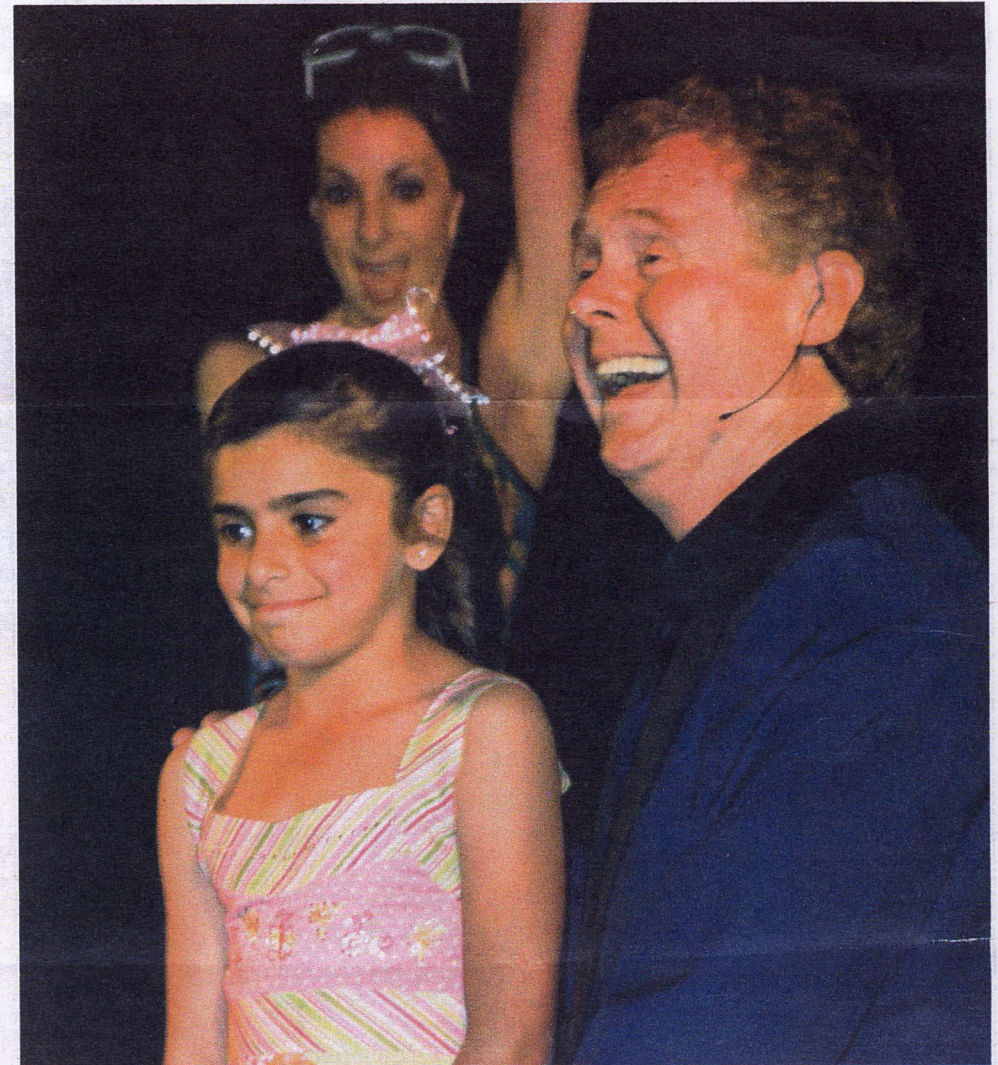
"We also purchased a defibrillator for the school last year," she said, noting that WEPA pays for the parents' school agendas and help with money for field trips. They raise money by doing bake sales, Santa's Workshop, Mom's Pantry sales and other small fundraisers.

Perkins also explained that by joining WEPA, she met lots of people and feel more involved with the school community. "I like the fact that I know the teachers and staff and I think WEPA is a great organization."

Wainwright Elementary School Principal, Bruce Pugh is always impressed with the volunteers with WEPA.

"The funds raised are used to enrich the students' lives here," said Pugh. "They help out so much, from school field trips to anything that the students need."

"They are invaluable, a wonderful group of people and they make a huge difference," said Pugh, who noted the hot lunch program or concession during track meets as projects that WEPA helps out with. "They are a fantastic bunch."



**John Kaplan** and his assistant celebrate an illusion with the help of Rayan Jaber during the AbracaDazzle magic show on Sunday, April 25. Funds raised during the show went towards WEPA's programs, which include the snacking for success program and assistance with field trips for students at Wainwright Elementary School.

Photo: Kelly Clemmer