Magician In Lumsden

Fundraiser For Lumsden Splash Park Project

by Ali Thompson

Magician and Illusionist, John Kaplan took the stage in the Lumsden Centennial Hall recently with his spellbinding show, "AbracaDAZZLE"! Kaplan was brought to Lumsden by the Lumsden Splash Park committee in an effort to raise funds and awareness for their project, and Kaplan and his crew, did just

The scent of freshly popped popcorn greeted over three hundred

bouquets of cotton candy, the crowd buzzed in eager anticipation in the minutes leading up to showtime. Finally, the lights dimmed and Kaplan, with his beautifully costumed dancers and stage-hands made their appearance. From the very beginning of the show he had the audience laughing and in awe of his tricks and illusions. Adults and children joined in laughter as Kaplan pulled magic- audience members up onto the seamlessly.

enthusiasts to Kaplan's show. stage to help him in his Sporting colorful balloon performance. He found a card animals on sticks and large chosen by an audience member in the middle of an orange, and impaled Lumsden Elementary School principal, Connie Fritzler, with several shark spikes. Halfway through his show he pulled a young girl, who was celebrating her birthday, up onto the stage to help him out with a linking of metal rings illusion. Her friends giggled and cheered her on while she assisted Kaplan, who illusion performed the

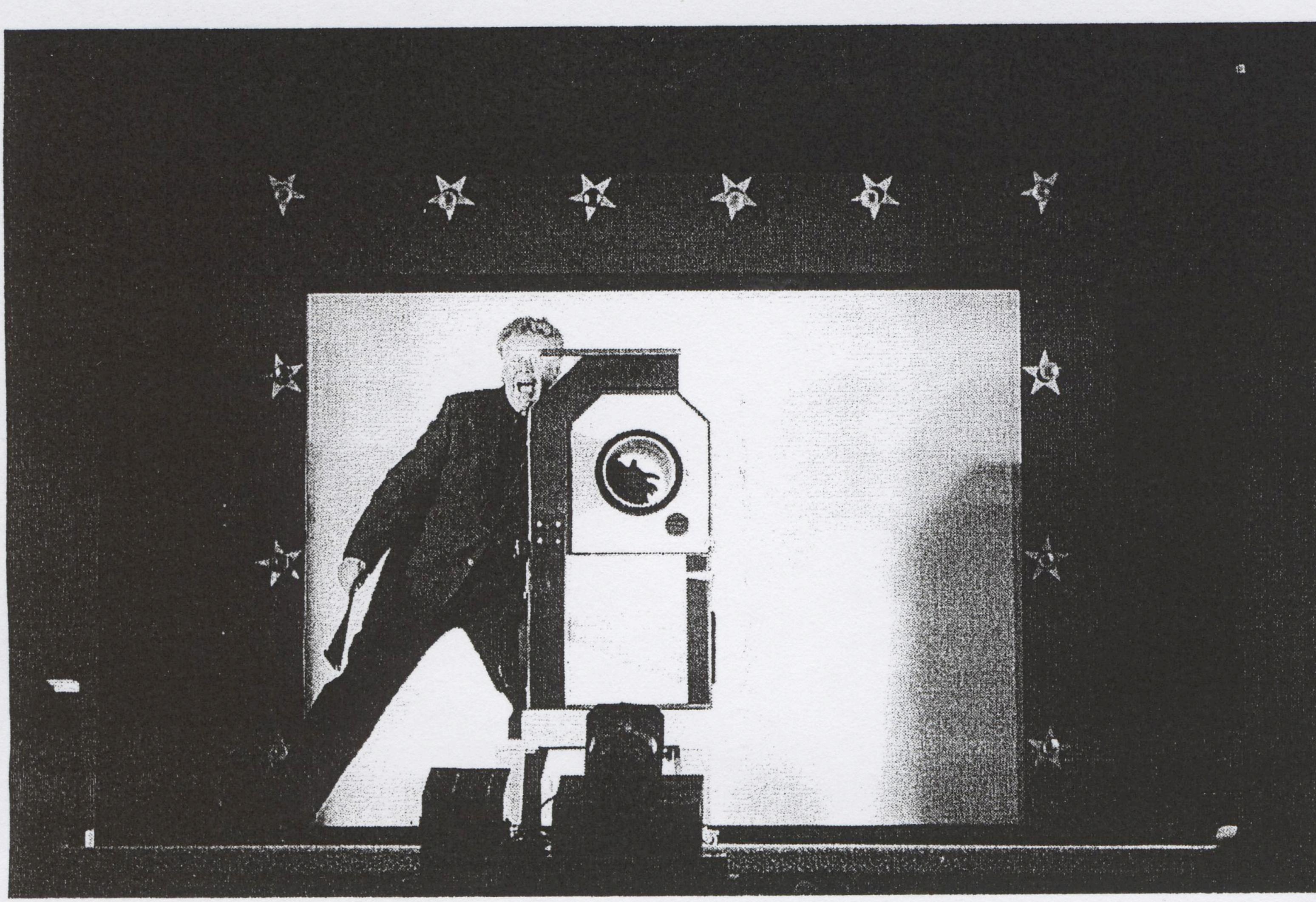
Splash Park committee members planned a surprised spectacle for the intermission. It wasn't until after they dressed the eager volunteers from the crowd in garbage bags that they told them exactly what it was they had just signed up for. Whipped cream pies were placed in front of the four competitors and they were told they had one minute to dig gummy worms from the bottom of the pies. Then, they were also told they were not allowed to use their hands. All four were cheered on by the audience and rewarded with goodie bags filled with candy, a t-shirt, and of course, face Saskatchewan. It fit in perfectly wipes!

Kaplan continued with his he locked his assistants in making them disappear and benches and picnic tables. continued past many little ones' bedtimes, he had their eyes peeled on his variety of dazzling tricks until the very end.

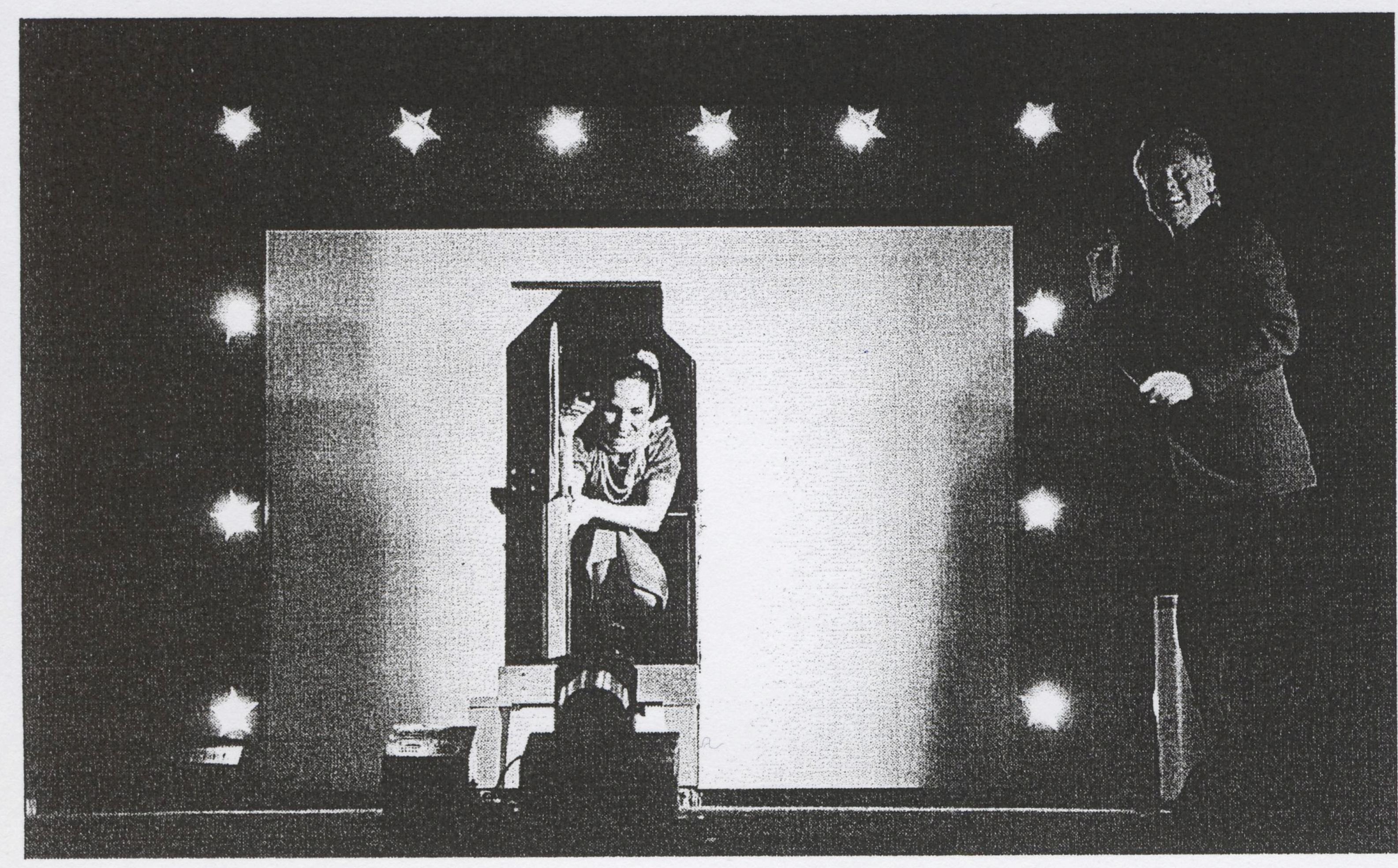
John Kaplan has been 2013.

touring across Canada with "Fundraising Magic" for over thirty years helping communities raise money. He combines magic, illusion, dance, and comedy into a familyfriendly show which encourages much laughter and audience interaction. Kaplan's passion for his job and purpose is apparent in his enthusiastic performance and the Town of Lumsden was fortunate to bear witness to his craft.

The Lumsden Splash Park committee found Kaplan and his show, "AbracaDAZZLE!" on the Internet and noticed he had plans to travel through with their fundraising schedule and immediately contacted him show and throughout the night about coming to Lumsden to help raise funds for the project. boxes, seemingly piercing right On the wish-list for the park is through their bodies with a kidney shaped pad, various blades, twisting their necks ground sprays and structure around countless times, and spray equipment, and a few then reappear. Kaplan Kaplan's show raised captivated his audience and had approximately \$2,400 to go everyone gasping in excitement toward the end goal of and applauding in approval. \$150,000 needed to make the And, while the night's events park a reality. To date, approximately \$30,000 has been raised and they are on their way to having the park constructed by the summer of

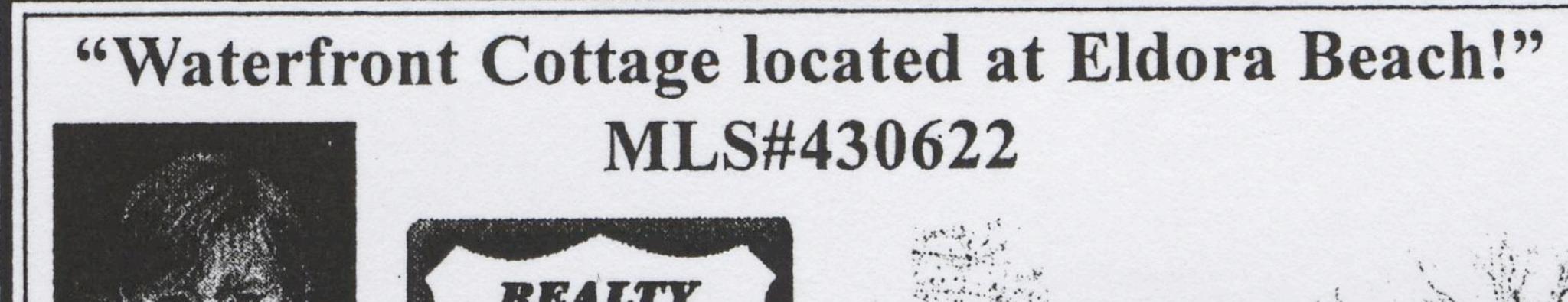


Kaplan performs one of his many illusions during the show.



A performer aids Kaplan in a trick to the delight of the audience.

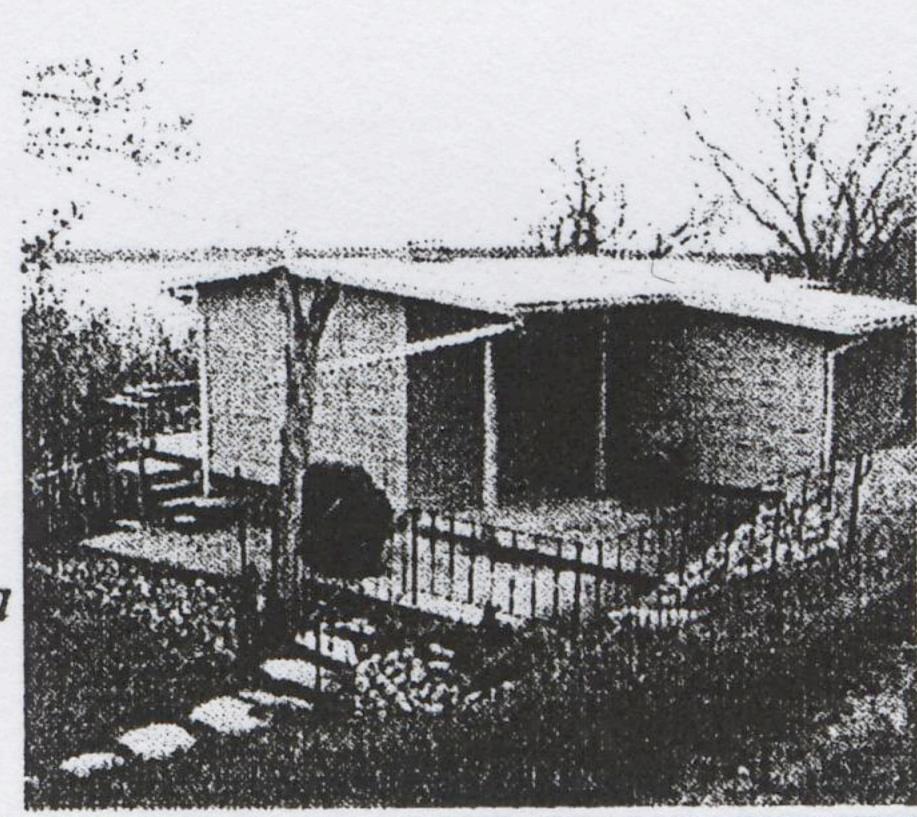
✓ Virtually an endless supply





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