

Balloons get kids excited about reading

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One might say Dustin Reudelhuber 'inflates' in others the desire to read.

Unlike thousands of other young men who experimented with magic as a child, Reudelhuber walked away from accomplishments made during four years of architect training to take his top hat and balloons seriously.

Why sit in an office when there's a world to be created with balloons and magic?

Then, he took another important step and started teaching his girlfriend Angela how to make balloon animals, discovering not only does she carry the balloon-animal gifted gene, she is a master of face painting.

They are now partners in marriage and the Tulsa Balloons business where they are well known in the region. They appear weekly at Los Cabos in Jenks and Owasso and have taken on the Warren Summer Cinema Series, all while juggling theme parties, event decor, balloon drops and the list goes on.

Dustin shoulders the library circuit, continuing to encourage children to read.

According to Dustin, he has 20 different summer shows, all which promote reading and magic.

He appeared at both of Broken Arrow's city-county libraries last week, sharing his balloon and magic skills, making the audiences laugh, and bringing across the message "Reading is fun." They were named the 2015 Entertainers of the Year by Tulsa Kids Magazine.

Dustin began his career by working at Top Hat Magic in Tulsa. "I got some books and started practicing," he said. "It's like anything else. You've got to practice."

Part of the job includes attending conventions and meeting balloon experts and magicians from all over the world.

"Balloons have changed a lot in the last 10 years," Dustin said. He may have started out making



poodle dogs, but today he and Angela can put together full-size motorcycles, or basically, life-sized just about anything.

"My wife's personality is very much like mine," Dustin said, which works out great for working together. Their talents complement one another, and they take on some projects together.

Need a tiger? Angela can do the fact painting, and Dustin can take it from there.

The balloons Dustin used at the Broken Arrow downtown library were a cut above the norm, ranging from sharks with

teeth, a polka-dotted octopus, to a chain saw. (He also provided the chain saw noises).

1. Dustin Reudelhuber shows children how strong he is by lifting a barbell. They laugh, recognizing it is made from balloons. 2. Parents and babies alike laugh at Dustin Reudelhuber's antics and balloons. 3. At least one super hero got in on the balloon action at the library last week. He even did a trick! 4. Dustin Reudelhuber asked what he called "big kids" to come up and help with the show. He taught them how to juggle scarves. 5. Dustin Reudelhuber sends out the message "Reading is fun" when he works with children. When there is something to learn, he says, read books and practice. That's how he became a magician.

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