

NEWS

Juggler thrills packed Paramount

By Celinda Emison

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Greg Kennedy’s magical juggling skills caused a few jaws to drop Sunday afternoon.

Oohs, ahs and squeals of delight came from the crowd as Kennedy performed before a packed house at the Paramount Theatre.

The show was part of the Children’s Performing Arts Series sponsored by the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council.

“We have been so excited about his coming,” said Jennifer Murphy, who works with the series.

Kennedy’s appearance in Abilene was doubly special because he was on a break from his permanent job touring as a performer with Cirque Du Soleil’s new production “Totem.”

“What you saw here today was my show — this is who I am,” he said after the show. “I have a love for all of the classics of juggling.”

He juggled balls, bean bags and the usual stuff, but kids in the audience screamed when he started juggling butcher knives, kicking one knife up and into the mix with his foot. Next he juggled a hatchet, bowling ball and a beanbag.

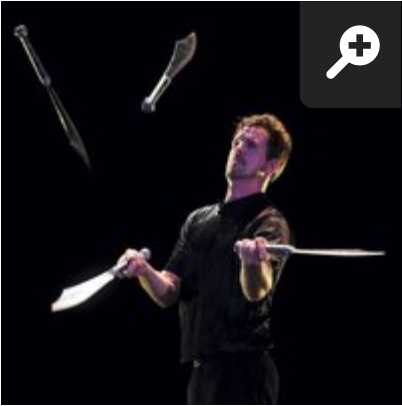
But Kennedy also showed off his flair for the unusual by incorporating boxes that collapsed into one and colorful lit balls and other props.

Each act was meticulously choreographed and set to music.

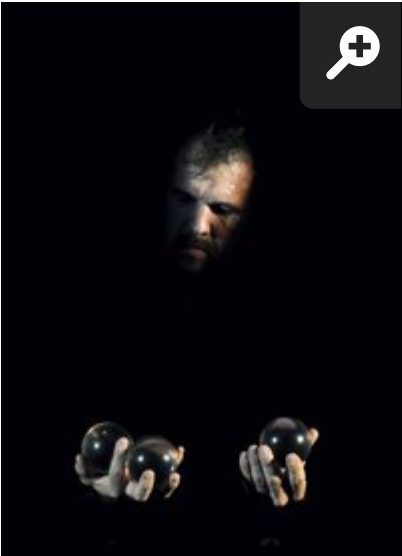
During one portion of the show, he appeared to be manipulating gravity as he moved balls around inside a big clear bowl. He also sat on the stage and began rolling stainless steel bowls on their sides all with perfect rhythm and skill.

A couple of times Kennedy selected kids from the audience to participate.

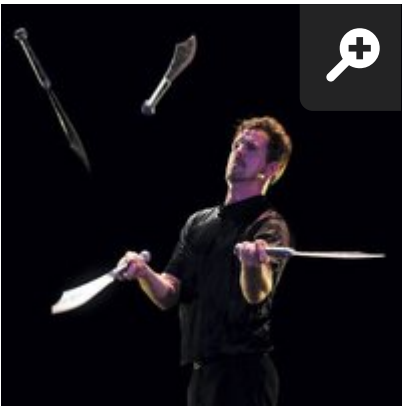
The audience gave Kennedy a standing ovation at the end of the show. Afterward, Kennedy visited and take pictures.



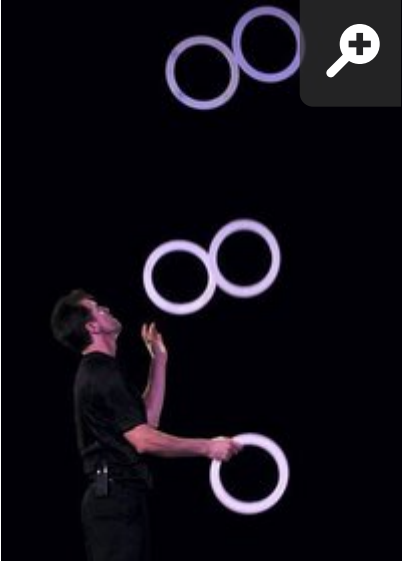
Greg Kennedy juggles knives at the Paramount Theatre as part of the Children’s Performing Arts Series on Sunday.



Nellie Doneva/Reporter-News Greg Kennedy juggles balls at the Paramount Theatre, as part of the Children’s Performing Arts Series Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010.



Nellie Doneva/Reporter-News Greg Kennedy juggles knives at the Paramount Theatre, as part of the Children’s Performing Arts Series Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010.



Greg Kennedy juggles at the Paramount Theatre as part of the Children’s Performing Arts Series.
[photocredit]Nellie Doneva/Reporter-News[/photocredit]

“He was absolutely fantastic,” said David Murphy, 17.

Britton Liming, 10, called the show “really cool” and “awesome.”

Kennedy begins touring with Cirque again in October — and the first stop will be Amsterdam.

“This was a huge success,” Jennifer Murphy said.

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