

Dan Padovano
Bureau chief,
north suburbs
470-2259



dpadovano@syracuse.com
northnews@syracuse.com

Mark Brown
Copy editor



John Doherty
Commercial
development,
Clay and Cicero
470-2249



jdoherty@syracuse.com

Ngoc Huynh
Salina, Liverpool
and North
Syracuse
470-2179



nhuynh@syracuse.com

Tom Leo
Lysander,
VanBuren and
Baldwinsville
470-6013



tleo@syracuse.com

Pedro Ramirez III
Public safety and
military affairs
470-2292



pramirez@syracuse.com

Michele Reeves
Education
470-3198



mreeves@syracuse.com

CONTACT US

The North Bureau office is at routes 57 and 31 in Clay.
Mailing address: The Post-Standard North Bureau, 8395 Oswego Road, Baldwinsville 13027
Phone: 470-2259
Fax: 470-2214
E-mail: northnews@syracuse.com
Retail advertising: Meredith Fiorentino, 470-0630
Classified ads: 470-0032
Circulation and customer service: 470-0050

NEWS PROFILE



Gary Walts / Staff photographer

WADE WHITCOMB, of North Syracuse, is a magician. He will use several birds during his performances in Asia.

A youth's magical dream comes true

Contributing writer Catherine Baum recently interviewed Wade Whitcomb, a magician from North Syracuse preparing to perform in Asia this January. He will be in the show "Magical Flight," featuring 150 parakeets, 20 doves, three macaws, two toucans, two tigers, five dancers and a cockatoo. The show will be at the Sandcastle Dinner Theater in Saipan, a U.S. Commonwealth not far from Guam.

Name: Wade Whitcomb
Address: 342 Melrose Drive, North Syracuse

Age: 23
Education: Cicero-North Syracuse High School

How did you get interested in magic?
When I was about 15 my grandfather took me to a David Copperfield show. He disappeared on a Harley on stage and then appeared right in front of us. Ironically, that's one of the illusions that's in the show in Asia.

What did other people say? I knew I wanted to be a magician. Everybody thought I was nuts. It sounds kind of funny, but the difference was I had a dream and a passion for it. While everybody else thought it was silly, I worked at it and now that's what I do for a living.

What is a day in the life of a magician? I wake up early morning and start shooting e-mails back to clients looking to book shows. I get a lot of work off my Web site (www.wadelive.com) and I've got an agent that books college and corporate events. You only get paid when you perform, but as long as you stay busy you're making good money. Right now, I'm actually performing a motivational show for elementary and middle schools all over the state. It's a character education show about following your dreams.

What's in store in your future? The show in Asia starts in January. We're doing a cruise-line show in March. Dave Womach has been performing on ships for about a year and he's actually producing the entire show. On the cruise line I'll perform a 60-minute show every seven to 10 days. The rest of the time you get to do everything a passenger would do. You get to see the world and you get paid to have a good time. This is my big break.

Have you ever been to Asia? No, it's my first time in Asia. Over in Asia they really like an American magician. Magic over there is a lot different than it is here. They're more of the celebrities over

there. Asians love it. They love to see the visuals and all the pretty birds. I'm not too concerned about the language barrier because the show in Saipan is a tourist draw. It's where they come to experience the American culture. They call Saipan "the Las Vegas of Asia."

How did you come across this opportunity? My buddy Dave Womach is one of my best friends in magic. I found him while searching the Web for different kinds of magicians. I came across his site. I just picked up the phone and gave him a call. We were the same age, kind of looked alike and we had the same goals. So we met in Boston three years ago and we came up with this plan of doing a double dove act. We had some really cool ideas but our own schedules were too busy then. So that went on hold. Then three months ago he asked me to be his understudy in Asia.

How are you and Dave redefining magic? We kind of throw out the whole stereotypical idea of what a magician is by our image, our personalities and the stuff that we perform. I think it says that magic is cool and it's not corny.

Any last comments? Be careful what you wish for . . . it could come true.