

Highlights

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What a Pro Knows

BUBBLE SCIENCE

By Carly Schuna
Photos by Chermaine Cho

Fan Yang may be the world's only bubble artist and scientist.

"I saw another world in bubbles."

As a kid, Fan Yang was fascinated by bubbles. A waterfall at a river near his childhood home in Vietnam created hundreds of tiny bubbles that gurgled along in the rushing water. But Fan never wanted to pop them.

"I used to watch them and admire their beauty," he says. "I saw another world in bubbles, and I imagined how nice it would be if I could create a big bubble and be inside it."

Many years later, Fan has fulfilled that dream and broken more than 10 world records with his bubble performances. He has formed bubbles around hundreds of people, made large bubble domes that his daughter

can walk through, and even made square bubbles. Fan calls himself a "bubble artist" and "bubble scientist," and he may be the only person in the world with those titles. "So far, I haven't met any other bubble scientists!" he says.

Bubble Dreams

Fan didn't set out to break world records or make a career out of his interest. He just loves

bubbles. "I experimented with liquid [bubble] solutions because I love it," he says. "I never thought that one day I would be a bubble artist and scientist."

To achieve what he wanted, Fan worked hard for years. He had a lot of unsuccessful experiments, but he kept trying. "After many years of failure, I finally came out with a bubble solution that made big bubbles with beautiful colors," he says. Fan used that solution to break his first world record. Five years later, after lots more practice and experimentation, he created the world's largest bubble. It was 156 feet long—that's as long as three semitrailers!

Fan wanted to share the joy he finds in bubbles with other people, so he designed a program of his best bubble stunts that he performs all over the world. He calls his act the Gazillion Bubble Show.

Fan has many performance tips to offer. He says it's good to make the audience feel tension so that they are surprised at the end of a trick. He also recommends doing performances that are fun to watch, like his bubble shows, so that audiences will stay interested the whole time.

To perform his tricks, Fan uses bubble props and equipment that he creates himself. No one else had ever done what he wanted to do with bubbles, so he had to make all of his own material.

He wants kids to know that they're not limited by anything except their imaginations, and

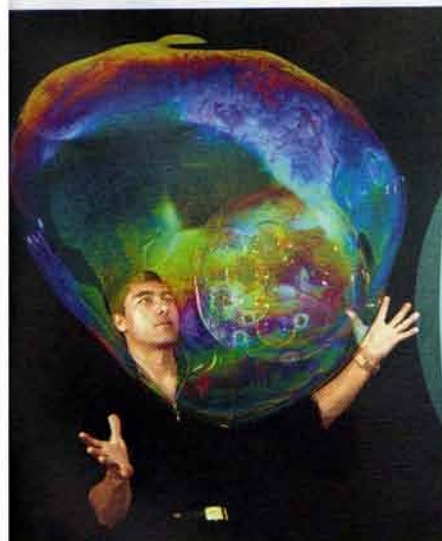


At his Gazillion Bubble Show, Fan Yang creates bubble walls with people inside the bubbles.

they can create whatever they want to help them follow their interests.

"Use your own imagination and creativity to make art," he says. "You need time, passion, love, and

dedication. These elements guided my life and made me successful. I am proud to say that I used something simple—bubbles—and brought it to a completely new dimension." **H**



Fan has broken more than 10 world records with his bubble performances.

Make Your Own Bubble Solution

It took Fan many years to come up with a bubble solution that was sturdy enough to break world records. His recipe is top secret, but he said there are many ways for kids to experiment with making their own solutions. Fan recommends that kids use "soft" water such as distilled water to make their bubble solutions.

Fan's Bubble Solution for Kids

30 ml (2 tablespoons) dishwashing liquid
20 ml (1½ tablespoons) glycerin or corn syrup
900 ml (3¾ cups) soft water such as distilled water

Stir the ingredients together in an open container. Let the mixture sit for a few hours, then make bubbles!