

The World 'A-Chording' to Mark Nadler

Sun | West Sound A & E

By Paul Niemi, For The Sun — Mar 4th, 2005



NADLER

Bremerton residents will be treated to a performance of the hilarious musical antics of New York song and dance man Mark Nadler when he plays the Admiral Theatre on March 11. In a recent interview, Nadler gave insight into the personality of the man behind the piano.

Nadler arrived in New York City at the age of 17. He came with the intent of becoming a musical theatre performer. He quickly discovered that most people wanted him to play and entertain from the piano. It was a logical progression for the boy who started playing piano at age 4 and who landed his first professional gig at 10.

Nadler is known for his versatility. When asked if there was anything he couldn't do, Nadler proudly responded, "I have no falsetto and I am the worst football player in the world." He can't rap or sing anything by the Beatles or the Beach Boys, but this hasn't seemed to hold him back. Recently deemed "a modern-day vaudevillian," Nadler is proud to entertain the masses.

Nadler spends two to three weeks per month on the road touring. He loves when he can spend time with his dogs in New York City, but his bread and butter is made on the road. Though he performs occasionally in New York for a following of fans, there is only an audience to do a month or two of engagements a year. The rest of time, he plays for appreciative audiences in places like Montana, Idaho and Oregon.

Nadler loves performing in the Northwest and says that it is his new favorite place. Apparently Whitefish, Mont. was the best audience he's ever had.

Consistently delighted by the sophistication of audiences everywhere he goes, the beauty of Newport, Ore., mesmerized him, and Billings "was fabulous."

To Nadler's surprise, many people under the age of 20 attend his concerts. Experience has shown him that, in general, people are amazed that they can be so entertained without the use of an orchestra or a huge sound system. In his touring show, "Mark Nadler in a Nutshell," there are no set or costume changes. Nadler says, "It's just me and a piano."

It might only be he tickling those ivories, but he insists that what he does onstage is not a cabaret show, but akin to cabaret. His act is more like going to the "funnest piano bar" imaginable in New York City.

Nadler's hope for his audiences is that they "come away with huge smiles." His show is not intended to change the world with life lessons, although he does talk about his life in his act.

"This is far from a lecture series," he said. "It's more like I am hosting a big party"— a party filled with lots of Gershwin, as well as a repertoire that runs the gamut from Kander and Ebb to the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

Nadler likes to get to know his audience "literally by name." His goal is to get them involved in the show, as much as one can do without actually bringing them up onstage to sing with him.

Highlights of the show include songs like "Stardust," "Rhapsody in Blue," "All That Jazz," and "I Love a Piano"—"Songs that I do better than anyone in the world!" Nadler mused.

One can't help sense a mischievous streak in this guy, which is sure to surface in his show. When asked, "What is something that most people don't know about Mark Nadler that he would want them to know?" his response was, "Who he is! That he exists!"

Could it be that, as funny as self-deprecation can be, Nadler still thinks he needs to make it, even though he already has? After all, he's been on Broadway and performed at Carnegie Hall. With a slew of awards to his name, including the MAC (Manhattan Association of Cabarets) and Bistro, as well as nominations for the prestigious Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Awards, Nadler still asks himself, "Why do people not know who the hell I am?" The reality is that people do, and the reason is clear.

Paul Niemi is an entertainment and lifestyle writer and publicist working in New York City and the Pacific Northwest. He can be contacted at paulniemi@hotmail.com.

@ae Text - Stories:

THE DETAILS:

WHO: Song-and-dance man Mark Nadler

WHERE: The Admiral Theatre, 515 Pacific Ave., Bremerton

WHEN: March 11, dinner 6:30 p.m., show 8 p.m.

TICKETS: \$47 main floor dinner show; \$18 main floor show only and loge reserved; \$15 balcony reserved

INFORMATION: (360) 373-6743 or admiraltheatre.org

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Ray Charles was hard to define, easy to appreciate

Jun 11th, 2004

Born in Albany, Ga., in 1930, Ray Charles was blind by age 7. He went on to win 12 Grammy awards. AP file photo BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. Ray Charles, a transcendent talent who erased musical boundaries between the sacred and the secular with hits such as ... [\[Read More...\]](#)

Young violinist developing into superstar

Apr 2nd, 2004

Joshua Bell Photo by Dana Tynan With his boyish good looks and charismatic charm, superstar violinist Joshua Bell has an appeal that goes beyond his superb musical skills. In the past five years, People magazine named the Grammy winner one of the 50 most ... [\[Read More...\]](#)

Piano prodigy leads the way when Northwest Sinfonietta visits The Admiral Theatre

Mar 18th, 2005

JI-YONG KIM Ji-Yong Kim, it seems, made a believer of Christophe Chagnard, music director of Northwest Sinfonietta. The 14-year-old pianist made such an impression, as a matter of fact, that he's ended up performing with the Tacoma-based Sinfonietta in the fourth and final ... [\[Read More...\]](#)

Eroica Trio pianist has close ties to Bremerton

Feb 27th, 2004

The world-renowned Eroica Trio, from left -- pianist Erika Nickrenz, cellist Sara Sant'Ambrogio and violinist Adela PeOa -- will play their distinct, dynamic style of classical music Saturday at downtown Bremerton's Admiral Theatre. Nickrenz's mother grew up in Bremerton. On a recent ... [\[Read More...\]](#)

Chris Rock hip-hops into mainstream Oscar gig

Feb 4th, 2005

BURBANK, Calif. — Chris Rock's eyes darted around the room, studying the chattering group of international print journalists. He licked his lips, clasped his hands ... and only dropped one F-bomb as they questioned him in a variety of accents. "I'm never proper or careful, ... [\[Read More...\]](#)

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