



Mark Polak

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BIOGRAPHY

Mark R. Polak, born and raised on music in Cleveland, Ohio U.S.A. Mark began singing four to five part barbershop harmonies at an early age with his brothers, father and grandfather. He grew up performing with his guitar-playing brother as a singing/songwriting Duo for school and community functions. At age twelve he bought a super-8 movie camera and became script-writer/camera-man/director/editor of his own movies using family members and neighbors as actors and extras. In collaboration with his Uncle Kevin as co-writer/co-director and Lead actor he spoofed such films as **Jaws**, **Rocky**, **Dirty Harry**, and **The Exorcist**.

From grade school on till junior high, he played keyboards and sang in cover bands formed by his brother Chris. Eventually they formed the band **Prankster** evolving to the locally recognized band **ROC**. Mark played the local music scene as lead singer throughout his college years.

At **Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music** he studied voice and graduated with honors(cum Laude) from **Cleveland State University** with a double major: **Dramatic Arts** and **Communications**. Mark first discovered his talent for acting in college, where he immediately landed lead roles in regional productions of "**The Fantasticks**", "**Godspell**", "**Guys and Dolls**" among others and could be seen on TV and in various Industrial-films.

To better further his education, he moved to the 'Big Apple', **New York City**. In the first couple of months he was under contract with one of the big four agencies, **Wilhelmina** for commercials and TV. His Rock-n-roll roots urged him on to found the Original-Rock Band **GRIN & BARE IT**, rocking such clubs as **CBGBs**, **The China Club**, **The Ritz**, **The Capitol Theatre**(Broadway)etc. After years of playing the New York Club circuit, Mark landed the leading role, **Claude**, in the European Musical Tour "**HAIR**". Directly following, he was asked to star in yet another European Tour as **Elvis** in the Musical "**ELVIS: THE LEGEND**".

Due to his success, Mark moved to Europe and has been performing consistently as one of Europe's most successful Elvis-imitators with his tribute show **ELVIS at his Best**. In between show-dates, Mark has enjoyed singing in various Soul-, Rock- and Big-Bands all over Europe, Africa, Middle East and U.S.A.



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In march 1997 he was invited to perform the 1997/98 Season **"JOKER"** as Soloist in the largest Revue theatre in Europe: the **Friedrichstadtpalast** in Berlin, Germany.

Between Theatre and Gala venues, Mark had always found time for his music. In April 2001 he toured the US with his original rock band **DRAMAROCK**. Later that year Mark took over the lead role of **MONTY** in the hit Musical **"SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER"** in Cologne, Germany. He would eventually return to finish the European tour in the **Frankfurt Alte Oper** in 2006.

Mark has worked alongside **VANNESSA WILLIAMS, THE OHIO EXPRESS** and has performed as opening act for such performers as **RAY CHARLES, THE PLATTERS, SUZI QUATRO, The SWEET, POISON, HUEY LEWIS** and the **NEWS, ANASTASIA** and many others.

Mark has been seen on **NBC, ARD, ZDF, WDR, N3, RTL, RTL2, SAT.1, SFB, Arte, VIVA, VH-1** and **MTV** continues to perform on the most prestigious stages throughout Europe.

Since 2003 Mark has been 'The **VOICE** of the **SYMPHONIC LOUNGE ORCHESTRA**' under the alias **Mark Monroe** recording **"THE CHRISTMAS LOUNGE"** (2005 Sony/BMG) for which he wrote the lyrics to the title track, **"THE MOZART LOUNGE"** (2006 Sony/BMG), and the highly praised tribute to Elvis Presley **"THE KING'S LOUNGE"** (2007 Sony/BMG), his third SLO production as singer and lyricist.

HOLLYWOOD called . . . and asked him to for his song **"Life Tastes Good"**(vocals and lyrics) to be part of the Hollywood Film **"House of the Dead - Directors Cut"**. Word travels fast in tinsel-town. He has just finished production of the soundtracks(vocals and lyrics) including the **title tracks** for 2 new Hollywood productions **"POSTAL"** and **"SEED"**, filmed in 2007 and premiering the end of 2008.

Mark has been kept busy with his one man Gala Show **"EVENING OF STARS"** and as Soloist in the highly acclaimed international Musical Tour **"MUSICALS IN CONCERT"**. Between tour dates he is presently in the studio with his progressive rock project, **GIFTED GAMBLER** working on an album planned for release late 2008.