

# Press Release

For Immediate Release

**Contact:**

Lisa Flemming  
Press@slot-1.com  
215-643-1313

**"PRODIGAL SON" RICK DENZIEN RETURNS TO BUFFALO WITH MICHAEL RONSTADT FOR AN APPEARANCE AT NIETZSCHE'S AND SPRINGVILLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS APRIL 28 & 30, 2011.**

Rick Denzien will appear in concert at Nietzsche's on April 28<sup>th</sup> and Springville Center for the Arts April 30<sup>th</sup>, performing award winning music written, recorded and performed worldwide, along with Michael Ronstadt backing him on cello.

With deep family ties in the area, Rick is a native son, graduated from Griffith Institute at a time when the home of the SCA was still the First Baptist Church. Music is in his DNA, his maternal Uncle the late Charles Pierce, a jazz musician, and his mother Carole who sings and plays piano (and has performed with the Dallas Symphony Choral).

In addition, Rick Denzien may be the first, or at least one of the only, performers appearing to have been baptized in the SCA, which is comforting.

Denzien remembers that he spent his last summer, before college, scraping & burning off 100 years of paint from the old church's stained window trim, and then carefully painting them again. "My buddy Danny Crocker and I listened to *Yes* and *Pink Floyd* doing that job. To this day when I hear the song 'Round About' I can smell burning paint in my nose", said Denzien.

But, he confesses, he was no angel. When the original GI building between Main & Franklin Streets had been closed, condemned and scheduled for demolition, he along with life-long friend Don Cooley, as high school freshmen, climbed undercover one night to the top and broke into their 4 story Jr. High Alma Matter - through a roof top skylight.

"We didn't bring flashlights because we didn't want to draw attention to ourselves," he explained. "So we hung there in the darkness and then just let go. It was like falling into an unknown abyss and then BANG we crashed into the floor - I call it the drop of faith".

As Jr. High students the top floor (4<sup>th</sup>) had been strictly forbidden, fenced and lock gated off, condemned as unsafe. "Why that made the rest of the building safe we could never figure out," Denzien laughed.

"Our plan was to steal all the PA speakers, but along the way we grabbed a lot of other stuff too, including a really cool 3 foot miniature human skeleton from the science class room - I thought it would go nicely with the coffin I built in shop class". They got out of the building through the old boys locker room below the gym.

But a couple of days later, tormented by a guilty conscience, the pair were back on the roof top, ready to do the right thing and put back all the stolen loot. Only one problem, their night time gym exit and roof top entry point had not only been repaired but re-enforced.

"We had to break in again, but being inside this time was different," he said, "we thought we were hearing voices, it was very, very Stephen King kind of creepy. Every single stolen item was put back in place and we high tailed it out of there as fast as we could. We didn't know the building was actually occupied by others and just moments after we were gone some sort of police raid descended, people were arrested for having some sort of drug party and b&e. That could have been us."

Weeks later the building was demolished along with the speakers & skeleton.

Nearly every school period of his senior year was spent in the music rooms, in chorus and studying music theory with teacher and choir director-- and Denzien's early mentor -- the late Nick Arbore. Rick was already writing songs of spirit & life and wanted to study more, Nick helped him to see a larger future. "Nick was a true guide for a lot of us", said Rick.

Denzien earned his BA degree not in music but in Religion / Philosophy and Psychology which "profoundly matured me as a lyricist and songwriter. "Could have been a doctor", one song on his Exit 21 CD laments and indeed his sister Darlene is an MD. "Nietzsche's is the perfect place for me I feel right at home", said Denzien.

"I hit the road after college," he added. His music career took him to Atlanta, GA, then to Philadelphia, where he continues pursuing his music career.

Ricks' musical influences reflect his unique style, a blending of his early classical training, with a variety of Rock stylings both "hard" and "soft", including Alternative, Modern and Electric Rock, Christian and Alt-Pop Rock, and even a little jazz & folk. His songs cover a wide range of topics, connecting him with the humanity of his fans and audience -- from love songs, to issues of social justice, as he offers an insightful spiritual tip, or thought provoking perspective, to current events of our time.

In 2007 Rick was nominated Best New Recording Artist was flown to Hollywood to hear his song entitled TSAI, receive the nomination. He is currently producing his next CD, RADIATE.

Rick built, owns and operates [www.BoffoStudio.com](http://www.BoffoStudio.com) - Boffo Recording Studio in Ambler, PA, and independently writes, records, markets and distributes his material through the Slot-1 independent recording label. He also presents educational songwriting workshops, hosts concerts and radio shows at his studio.

As a music producer and engineer, he's worked with major labels like Columbia Records, and mixed many of the songs on the Blood Hound Gang's "Use Your Fingers" CD, which helped propel the band to fame and fortune.

He co-produced, recorded, mixed and was one of the trumpet players on a new single "What You Won't Do For Love" which showcases the American Idol talent of Justin Guarini as

the featured singer for the Drivetime band on the Slot-1 label currently climbing the jazz radio charts.

Most recently, he met Michael Ronstadt a world-class cellist and also singer-songwriter. Rick didn't know he was the nephew of the famous 70-80s singer and top-of-charts recording artist, Linda Ronstadt. "I just thought it was sort of odd that the last name was the same." But when Nashville hit-songwriter and performer Craig Bickhardt introduced them, he said "yep it's 'that' Ronstadt."

Michael asked Rick to co-produce, record and mix his new solo CD called BRIDGING THE GAP. "The CD is getting great reviews, and we're just starting to get the word out," said Rick.

Michael also writes and performs as part of Ronstadt Generations with his dad, brother and occasionally his aunt performing a mix of original songs and traditional Southwestern Music that has been in the Ronstadt family 4 generations. His other musical entity is called LOST IN HOLLAND, with Josh Hisle (Neil Young recording artist), who will join Rick and Michael in performances in Buffalo [Nietzsche's] before and Ithaca after the SCA concert, then home to Philadelphia.

Rick provides back up vocal harmonies on BRIDGING THE GAP, along with Debra Lee, who will also appear as featured and back up vocalist at the SCA Concert. Debra Lee fronts the award songwriting duo, LyRA PROJECT, also produced by Denzien at Boffo Studio.

Come hear Rick Denzien, Michael Ronstadt and Debra Lee. Drift on their harmonies, their music and anecdotes of their many experiences.

April 28<sup>th</sup> - Nietzsche's - \$5.00 cover 248 Allen Street Buffalo NY 14201

April 30<sup>th</sup> - Springville Center for the Arts 37 North Buffalo Street Springville NY 14141

Tickets are \$12. Call SCA at 716-592-9038 for more information.

Refreshments will be served at intermission.

Hear their music now:

[www.youtube.com/rickdenzien](http://www.youtube.com/rickdenzien)

[www.RickDenzien.com](http://www.RickDenzien.com)

[www.LyraProject.com](http://www.LyraProject.com)

[www.MichaelRonstadt.com](http://www.MichaelRonstadt.com)

Critics have tagged the Rick Denzien artist as:

One of the best of the modern-day writers -- utilizing the driving beat of rock music -- and makes it work like a charm! His overall sound evokes the edgy tension of Jackson Browne (lyrically) and a hint of the vocals of James Taylor and David Wilcox  
- Les Reynolds - IndyMusic.com

Just by giving a listen, you'll see that Rick needs little hype... He is in control, writing great music...

- Ben Ohmart - musesmuse.com

His songs are personal slices of life and observation that work on a cerebral as well as

visceral level. Whether it's an acoustic - based ballad or an up tempo rocker, Denzien and company maintain a commanding presence that really draws you in.

- Vic Gemmingen - Geoff Wilbur's Renegade Newsletter - Industry Edition

**Similar Artists:**

Blues Traveler, Bruce Cockburn, Counting Crows, Dave Matthews, Gordon Lightfoot, Hootie & the Blowfish, Nick Lowe, Ron Sexsmith and Stone Gossard.

**# # #**

Based in Ambler, Penn., Slot One Entertainment, Inc. is a record label (Slot-1) and publishing house that represents artists from Slot-1 Studios in musical genres including: Singer / Songwriter, rock, pop and alternative. Boffo Studio is located in suburban Philadelphia in the Rose Creek Valley - surrounded by nature it is the perfect place for creativity. Designed for acoustic recording, impeccable recording environment, using the latest equipment and technology. We are known for our expert ability to capture the acoustic moment. Take our online studio tour: [http://www.slot-1.com/studio\\_tour](http://www.slot-1.com/studio_tour)

**Memberships:**

**(NERFA) Philadelphia Folk Song Society, Folk Alliance, voting member of NARAS (National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, the Grammy People) NARAS Producers Wing, NSAI (Nashville Songwriters Association International) Host NSAI Eastern PA Chapter ASCAP – American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers**

Logo: [http://www.slot-1.com/Logo\\_Guitar\\_DSCN0486\\_small.JPG](http://www.slot-1.com/Logo_Guitar_DSCN0486_small.JPG)

For more information visit: <http://www.slot-1.com/Press>