

More than 20 Animal Puppets Join Ranger Jack for another year of fun, fun, fun!

posted on February 28th, 2016

I am so excited about the new year. I spent much of my winter break making puppets. I went from having 8 to now almost 30 plush animal puppets. Well, besides "Fire Chief", a funny baby and a monster that go back to my early days, they are all animals; if you include my new dragon, that is. So besides my monkey, lion, tiger, coyote and frog, I now have 4 dogs, a pig, a giraffe and her baby, a polar bear, a porcupine, a horse, a bunny, a duck, and a giant caterpillar. One of the dogs is even larger; it's a St. Bernard but it's as big as a bear,

Now I still live in Fullerton and I still am so proud to have 4 steady music jobs, three of which are as a teacher. I conduct 6 interactive music classes in the Montessori's of Newport Beach and Costa Mesa; I teach interactive music classes in the Fullerton School District for the wonderful All the Arts for All the Kids, Foundation: grades pre-K thru 2nd; I teach private piano in Costa Mesa and Fullerton; and the mind blowing part is my fourth job, as Ranger Jack, actually keeps me the busiest!

Now it's time to book my summer gigs, and if I'm as lucky as I was the last two years, besides birthday gigs, I will have more than sixty library and preschool summer shows lined up by Memorial Day, before I go on an intriguing adventure to Lake Tahoe with my brother, Joe. When I return I will rock the town. Just me and my Trooper! I can't wait. Meanwhile come see me at libraries in Irvine and Burbank and the malls of Huntington Beach and Lake Elsinore. My show schedule can be found at the bottom/left corner of my site. And don't forget to pick up your copy of my children's CD "Animals Are Happy" on my music page. TAKE CARE :)

Marty the Monkey Joins Ranger Jack

posted on April 6th, 2014

"A hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in the bank...but the world may be a better place because I made a difference in the life of a child." -- Forest Witcraft

Hey everyone!

First of all, I'd like to thank three Cub Scout packs for February 2014 as well as the many parents of birthday celebrations, the libraries, and the shopping malls for hiring me in 2013/14. Bringing song and joy (and puppets) to their events was an indescribable pleasure. The past 20 months since my debut performance as Ranger Jack (Huntington Beach Central Library Park on August 18th, 2012) have been the most fun of my entire life. I'd also like to thank my mentors Jules, Ken, Gary, and all my storyteller friends like Dave and Debra for sharing their experiences and guiding me through unknown territory as a professional entertainer. Most days, I am exploding with energy with the excitement of an upcoming performance or because my day began with the joy of causing kids to laugh and dance to my songs. I feel like I'm in a dream that just keeps getting better. Thank goodness I found my niche in 2011. I don't regret the prior years as a piano teacher and composer of my original sci-fi rock opera; but in truth I was training for an unimaginable future as a kids musician. I had no idea. LOL Now I am getting ready for another amazing summer of shows. And in August I will begin my new career as a music teacher, K-6, in the Fullerton School District. I so wish my mom could be here to see me now. I miss her dearly.

So yes, Marty the Monkey (puppet) has joined my act. When I show up for my weekly classes in preschools, he is the number one requested thing that I do. Besides educating the differences between apes and monkeys, Marty helps me sing Five Monkeys Jumping on a Bed. However, he thinks it makes more sense to sing about jumping in a tree. (Thanks Ken). So we argue it until we compromise and finally we sing about 5 monkeys jumping in a bed, 4 jumping in a tree, 3 jumping on a boulder, 2 on the sand, and 1 on a pier. The kids are greatly involved singing along and deciding what body parts rhyme with bed, tree, boulder, sand and pier. I'm also excited to say that I have taken many past songs from my album, Animals Are Happy and turned them into interactive songs. By changing the chorus in Animals Do Most Anything from "Animals Speak. Animals Sing. Animals Do Most Anything" to "Animals SIT! Animals Sing. Animals Do Most Anything", the kids go from standing and acting like any animal mentioned in the song to sitting and singing along. So much fun!

Well, I gotta go for now. Time to work on my springtime songs.

God bless and take care.

Ranger Jack :)

PAST NEWS

01-20-14 News updates coming soon. I finally posted half the pics on [facebook.com/rangerjackforest](https://www.facebook.com/rangerjackforest) from the last 6 or so months of shows. So more to come... :)

07-13-13: Last week was a blast as I performed for two libraries in Anaheim. Canyon Hills surprised me afterwards with a long line of kids wanting autographs and CDs. One mom wrote a review for me saying "My Daughter Won't Stop Talking About Ranger Jack". Five days later, at East Anaheim, I could not have asked for a better group of kids. During my new song, "Set the table", one little girl said she set the best imaginary table because she put flowers in the middle. I still perform weekly at preschools and I'm having a blast. The kids learn so quickly! One of my schools...

05-25-13: So much has happened in the last month. I now perform for preschools every week, ages 1-6. Sometimes I perform 30 minutes for babies, then I go to another classroom and do the same but for toddlers, and by the 5th or 6th class in a row I'm with the older kids. We play games, sing songs together; I hand out scarfs and we scarf dance; shakers and we jam together. And of course I always pull out Foofnic or Baby Burp or another puppet & the kids just go crazy. Monthly, I've been performing at the Orange

Wood Children's Home and do I have a heartwarming story...

(5/25/13 cont'd: ...and the kids...) just go crazy. Once a month I've been performing at the Orangewood Children's Home in Orange and boy do I have a heartwarming story. There is this one little girl that is blind. And the first time I performed, she just sat on the floor, in the back row, and listened but did not join the other children, participate in the activities. For example there's this one song I do called Sleeping Bunnies where the kids go from taking a nap in an imaginary park and hopping like a bunny, back and forth, etc.. Well she just sat there. Then, a month later, I show up and she's sitting in the front row, and the moment they announced me she sat up, raised her hand high and said "Oh could you do the bunny song, and also the one about the birds!" I do Black Bird by the Beatles. Then lo and beho she totally participated. She was jumping up and down and dancing with the other children the entire half hour. And at the end she really touched my heart when she said to me, "I like you."

In other recent events: I performed for the Bower's Kidseum in Santa Ana as well as the South Coast Plaza Spring Garden Show in Costa Mesa. What a fantastic experience they both were. The kids made me feel like a rock star in fact. Performing for kids is so much fun. I am now addicted and cannot wait for my next show. I love to make them laugh.

PREVIOUS NEWS:

04-04-13: Performed at the Orangewood Children's Home in Orange yesterday, and what a beautiful experience it was. I now belong to the Orange Coast Storyteller's Guild and once a month we volunteer at this wonderful home for kids. This time they got a musical treat and I was privileged to be a part of their lives. I look forward to doing it again.

03-31-13: 1st of two FREE Ranger Jack shows this week! Tomorrow morning, at the Bella Terra Mall in Huntington Beach, Monday April 1st at 10:25 AM. I am the Kids Club act for April. Performing outside for kids and families, I'll bring my piano and guitar. So come and sing along on April Fool's Day. I'll be performing in the amphitheater right in front of the Bella Terra Century movies. See you there.

2nd of two FREE Ranger Jack shows this week! This coming Saturday at the Kidseum in Santa Ana. There will be four hours of storytelling from 11-3. I will perform at least one half-hour music show, starting at 12 Noon, Sat.

April 6th. See you there. 03-30-13: I now have weekly accounts/performances every Tuesday and Thursday, thru Jules Music for Kids, performing at nursery schools in Orange County, CA. Having a blast!!!

03-29-13: Corona Library gig last week was the best of my life. What a fun and enriching experience! 02-11-13 Whoo hoo. I am scheduled as Ranger Jack for two performances between

March 19th and April 1st. Corona Library March 19th at 7pm and I am the kids act for the month of April at the Bella Terra Mall.

02-01-13: The last two months have been a great ride. So busy! Yesterday was my 2nd library showcase in January and it went fantastic. I've been hired as Ranger Jack for the Corona, Anaheim and Torrance Public libraries for 2013 and was approached by more than a dozen more libraries enthusiastically asking for my flyers and prices, from LA County to the Inland Empire, to Orange County (especially) and even San Diego. So like one of my new songs goes: "Ranger Jack's Back". (Besides the fact that I must move in the next 30 days--arrrrhr LOL). Also, I am now officially hired by Jules of Jules Children's Music to be his number two for teaching pre-school thru kindergarden at schools throughout orange county. For this the kids are already getting to know me as "Mr. Jack". I just sat in on 5 classes and performed a song per class. The kids are apparently now asking Jules if I will

be back. He said yes! :) For now, I will sub and take on new accounts. Eventually he plans to only over-see and I may someday take over all Jules/OC school accounts and private parties.

So that's an update other than I cannot wait to record all my new songs (after I move and get settled again in Orange County). I have enough material for my 2nd and 3rd album not to mention my six programs: "Animals Are Happy" and "My Mama's Kitchen" (a version of each for preschoolers, children K-6 and families). Check out my upcoming Ranger Jack gig at the Corona Public library's family night this coming March 19th at 7pm. 11-29-12 - I'm performing tonight at Kulak's Woodshed 5230 Laurel Canyon Boulevard N. Hollywood, CA 91607 from 9:30-10pm. Come see the show or check it out via live web-cast. Go to www.kulakswoodshed.com. I've decided this time to play all piano and keyboard songs: "Animals Do Most Anything", "A Is For Aardvark", "Are You Sleeping", "Brave Bunny", "Bark Bark Bark", "Ballroom Baboons", "Emily's Song" and "Animals Eat Most Anything".

11-24-12 - Still in the midst of finally putting videos of my past performances on line. Plus I created a new one in my living room especially for libraries. I even missed Thanksgiving. But no worries, I am now ready for post-production and final editing which I can do with my family in San Diego. They saved me leftovers.

11-15-12 - Just returned from my vacation: five nights at the Westin LAX where I attended my third TAXI Music Rally. It was an amazing experience. I learned much about the music industry, performed some new kid songs three nights in a row, and on Monday and Tuesday, by the pool, I wrote two new songs. Thank you TAXI

11-7-12 - Completed the recording of new K-6 children's song about the planets. Drummer/producer and roommate Kyle was a huge help. I plan to play it for my taxi- music mentors and perform it live at open mic.

11-6-12 - Had fun recording tracks for a new song today.

11-3-12 - Looking forward to spending my vacation at my 3rd annual TAXI Music Rally in LA Thursday Nov. 8th - 13th. I'll smooze, learn about the music bizz, and hopefully write some new songs. Of course, I'm bringing my dog, Lucy. We go every year. 10-28-12 - Wrote a new kid's song today, on a labyrinth!

10-26-12 - My new website look is up! 10-25-12 - I took the proceeds from my last gig and bought a new Taylor guitar today. I am very happy! 10-22-12 - My new facebook look is up. Check it out. 10-19-12 - Performed six hour gig (live music and DJ) for Citibank's 1 Year Anniversary Celebration Tustin, CA.