

Randy Rutherford

Randy Rutherford is an accomplished musician/solo theatre performer with five critically acclaimed shows. He is also an award winning watercolor artist.

Mr. Rutherford graduated in Painting with honors, from the University of Alaska and earned an MFA in painting from the California College of Arts & Crafts. He has taught and lectured at California College of Arts & Crafts, University of Alaska, California State University at Hayward, and Sun Valley Center for the Arts, and has been awarded Artist Grants and Artist-in-Residencies from the California State Arts Council and the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

His watercolor paintings have won numerous honors and awards and can be found in many public and private collections throughout North America.



“In my mid-20s I was a folksinger/ guitarist living in Alaska when I was diagnosed with congenital hearing loss. Doctors advised me against continuing to pursue a musical career, insisting that my condition was inoperable and progressive—I could eventually go completely deaf. Since that time I have lost over 70% of my hearing.

At the outset of my diagnosis I became deeply depressed. I stopped performing completely and gave up music. What brought me out of a hopeless depression was my decision to become a painter. I reasoned that if I couldn't hear I would make music visually. I chose watercolor painting because it felt most like acoustic, finger-style guitar.

I made my living as a watercolor artist for many years but missed performing. Making my way back to the stage,

I did standup comedy in the early 90's, appearing at San Francisco's Punchline, Holy City Zoo and other clubs in the Bay Area. I enjoyed being funny, making people laugh, but I discovered that what I really wanted to do was to tell stories. That led me to solo theatre performance which I've been successful at despite my severe hearing loss.

Now many years later, I live in the San Francisco Bay Area, in the Oakland/ Berkeley Hills, with a lovely woman which is the subject of my newest play that explores how one's partner is also deeply affected by the hearing loss. Today I divide my time between writing, performing and painting. You can visit my theatre performance web site at www.RandyRutherford.net.”