



Lake County's **ONLY**
Lakefront Dining!

HOURS:

Monday: 5-10pm
Tuesday-Saturday: 11am-10pm
Sunday: 11am-9pm
Kitchen closes 9pm nightly
& 8pm on Sunday

First come, first serve seating

625 Prospect St. • Fairport Harbor
(Located in HTP Rack & Marina)
440-350-0500



Thursday, 8/5 • 7:00-9:00

Willoughby Gazebo
Downtown Willoughby

Friday, 8/20 • 8-10:30

Redhawk Grille
Painesville

Thursday, 9/16 • 6:00

Concord Gazebo
Painesville

Abbey Rodeo is: Jim Bonfonti, Chris Butcher,
Verne McClelland, "Z",
Bob Yocum and Chuck Citraro.



Now WE'RE TALKIN

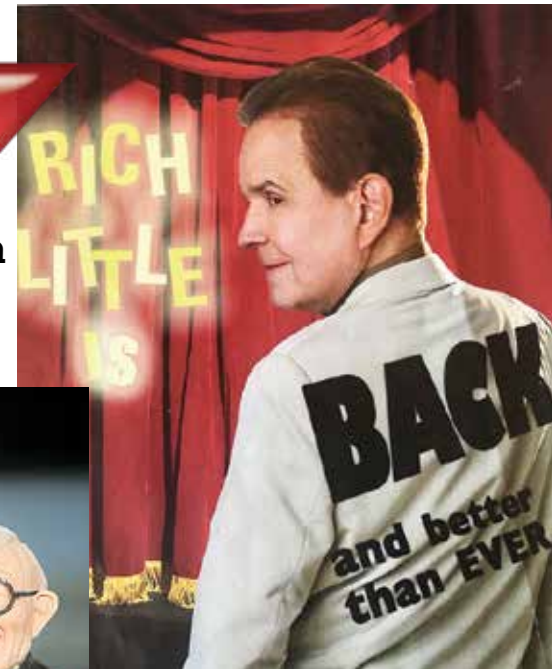
By Helen Marketti

An Interview with Legendary Comedian Rich Little

Rich Little is an iconic entertainer whose celebrity and politician impersonations have been a hilarious comic relief for over 50 years. Originally from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and known as "The Man of a Thousand Voices," Rich is a spry 82-year-old who is back to entertaining the masses at The Tropicana in Las Vegas. He will soon embark on a brief stop in New York City where he will play the role of former President Richard Nixon in a month-long production called, "Trial on the Potomac, The Impeachment of Richard Nixon."

During a telephone interview from Las Vegas, Rich shared his experience of how he got started with impersonations, which led to his life-long career. "When I was young, there were many actors and comedians that I had always admired. Jack Benny and George Burns were two of my favorites. I loved Jimmy Stewart as an actor. There was no one better than him. Years later I was able to work with the same people I had admired, which was great. It was an honor," said Rich. "The first people that I started imitating were my teachers. If a teacher asked me a question, I would answer them imitating their voice. I usually gave the wrong answer, too. They eventually got wise to what I was doing and gradually stopped calling on me, which worked in my favor!"

"The very first celebrity I imitated was Jimmy Stewart. I got to know him quite well. He was a wonderful man with a great sense of humor. When I was a kid, I took my fifty-dollar tape recorder and snuck it into the movie theatre. I went to see Jimmy Stewart in the movie, *The Far Country* [1954] which was a western. I walked behind the screen and plugged in my little tape recorder and taped the movie because I wanted to practice his voice. One of the ushers found out what I was doing and threw me out of the theatre and threw my tape



as a lawyer during Richard Nixon's presidency. He worked with all the political figures during the Watergate Scandal. The production focuses on what may have happened if President Nixon had fought back and had not resigned. The play brings out Geoff Shepard's findings during that time. "I don't think Richard Nixon should have stepped down. He lied a few times and hid the tapes but if you look at all of the facts at the time, he really wasn't that guilty of anything," said Rich.

Rich has written a book, "Little by Little: People I've Known and Been" (7th Mind Publishing, 2016), where he shares fond memories of celebrities and politicians he has known throughout the years. One of Rich Little's closest friends was former President Ronald Regan. "Ronald Regan was the best," remembers Rich. "I knew him for a long time and had been invited to The White House several times. Ronald told me once, [Ronald Regan voice] 'Rich, I think you do me better than I do. As a matter of fact, when I pass away, they should bury you.'"

In 2010, Rich Little officially became a United States citizen. At the swearing in ceremony, the judge asked Rich to speak in a John Wayne voice and he happily obliged.

Rich Little shows no signs of slowing down as new generations of fans are discovering his humor and enjoying his shows. "I've had a great career and it's still going strong. I am quite happy."

www.therichlittle.com

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recorder behind me," remembers Rich.

"I started out imitating people to amuse my friends and people in the neighborhood. I had never considered that to be a full-time line of work, however. But of course, that came later. Truthfully, I had never thought about becoming a comedian but I suppose if you're doing impersonations, then you are a comedian."

Rich has been doing his stand-up comedy routine at The Tropicana in Las Vegas for the last five years. "I am always working on my act," he said. "I am always trying to improve it. It's a constant battle to keep up to date with everything that is going on. I enjoy what I do and right now I am impersonating President Joe Biden quite a bit."

From August 6 through September 4, Rich will be working in New York City at the Theatre at St. Clements, where he will portray former President Richard Nixon in the production, "Trial on the Potomac, The Impeachment of Richard Nixon". George Bugatti is the playwright and executive producer. The Technical Consultant is Geoff Shepard. Shepard worked in The White House beginning in 1969, as assigned to the Treasury Department, and then he joined the John Ehrlichman Domestic Council