

MARK STANDRIFF'S BIOGRAPHY

From the time Mark was young, he knew he had a knack for leadership and a passion for performance—a combination that would eventually lead him to a successful speaking career. His love of flying took him to the U.S. Air Force Academy, and during his time there, he learned the importance of focus, determination, and discipline. Mark finished his collegiate career at the University of Toledo, where he became one of the most successful speakers in National Forensics Association history.

After college, Mark moved to Chicago where he worked as a comedian and studied at the world-famous Second City Theatre. He joined with some of his fellow Second City students to form an improvisational group that eventually won the first ImprovOlympics in 1983. Mark eventually got his Equity card and moved to New York City, working in regional theaters and national tours until he got an offer to move back to the Midwest and take over as program director for a small-town Michigan radio station. He didn't stay long.

Mark quickly moved up in market sizes, working as a morning show producer in Detroit and a program director in Dayton until an opening at an FM station in his hometown of Toledo, Ohio allowed him to work in radio and play in the theater. He became the managing artistic director for the Toledo Rep while holding down a morning radio show for 10 years. He married his favorite co-star, Sally Tay Howe, and with the birth of their first child, Drew, Mark knew he had to slow down. He resigned from the Rep to concentrate on his radio job.

One year later, he got fired.

Sensing an opportunity, Mark used his reputation as a civic leader to take a position with the Mayor's office coordinating the marketing and public relations for Toledo's All-America City Award (Mark had directed the city's winning presentation!) The performance bug finally got him back on stage soon after as the lead singer for the Mighty Meaty Swing Kings, one of the most popular acts in the Midwest for several years. Mark has also taken the stage as a symphony narrator, opera clown, and ballet impresario, and was recently crowned Sacramento's first "Dancing With The Stars" champion.

He wasn't out of radio for long. At a Swing Kings' gig in 1998, Mark was approached by the operations manager of Toledo's heritage radio station, WSPD, to take over as morning talk show host. During Mark's five years there, he interviewed White House hopefuls and Hall of Fame athletes, American Idols and Motley Fools, union leaders and corporate giants, all with equal insight and grace. He presented the opening remarks and acted as Master of Ceremonies for President George W. Bush's first official state visit with Mexican President Vicente Fox in 2001.

Mark broadcast live from Honolulu on the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor and from Ground Zero on the first anniversary of the September 11th attacks. He even moderated a screaming on-the-air argument between Ralph Nader and the mayor of Toledo while broadcasting from his home the week after his daughter, Cameron, was born! In thousands of interviews with newsmakers and newsmakers, Mark learned the secrets that would make him one of the most knowledgeable media trainers in the business.

California called in 2003, when Mark and his family moved to Sacramento where he became program director and morning show host at 103.9 The Fish. He soon hooked up with the local entertainment scene, and after singing the National Anthem at a Sacramento River Cats game, he was asked to become the public address announcer for the club. Last year, Mark was the official announcer for the Triple-A All Star Game which was shown on ESPN 2.

Now, Mark is ready to conquer another area of performance—public speaking. The people who have known him through the years know Mark will be an instant success!