

HUNTINGTON

Rusted Root Singer Returns With A New Sound



Photo/Cara Freidham



By Connor Beach

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Michael Glabicki has some history at The Paramount.

As the lead singer and songwriter for Rusted Root, his voice was one of the first to radiate from the speakers of the popular Huntington village venue when the band performed the maiden concert there in September 2011.

"I had a great time there," Glabicki said.

In the more than seven years since he christened the stage, Glabicki and Rusted Root performed numerous times at The Paramount. He's set to play the venue again on April 4, only this time it won't be as the front man for Rusted Root. He'll take the stage as half of a duo with Rusted Root's long time guitar player and background vocalist Dirk Miller.

"I wanted to do something new," Glabicki said.

Rusted Root frontman Michael Glabicki, left, and guitarist Dirk Miller are slated to perform as a duo at The Paramount in Huntington on April 4.

Although Glabicki is focusing on his solo career playing gigs with both Miller and his new full band Uprooted, his music still has

hints of Rusted Root's sounds.

"There's a lot more to be explored in the old material, but I'm not locked into the old

way of doing things" he said.

Glabicki said his duo with Miller has a "as big a sound as a full band," yet they are able to offer a more "listening room-type experience."

"The music has some more funk to it, more rock, more of a soulful, spiritual experience... it fits me where I am right now," Glabicki said.

In addition to plying guitar and singing, Glabicki also plays the kick drum to create certain grooves that help fill out the music.

During the eight shows Glabicki has played with his new solo set list, he said audiences have done "a lot more listening."

"Their minds and their spirits are like laser beams," Glabicki said.

And playing at a venue like The Paramount that he knows well allows Glabicki to "almost become like a fan," because at some points he said even he doesn't know what to expect on stage.

"I can sit back and listen," Glabicki said. "I look around and smile and think, 'this is awesome.'"

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the 8 p.m. show on April 4, and tickets range from \$20-\$49.50. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or online at Paramountny.com.

HUNTINGTON

Doc And Daughter Collaborate On Poetry Book

By Sophia Ricco

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Can doctors write poetry?

Huntington physician Michael Lee is putting that question to the test with his first published work "Not Gonna Write Poems: A Poetry Book for All the Non Poets".

Self-published by Lee on Feb. 9, "Not Gonna Write Poems" features over 70 silly poems and quirky, accompanying drawings. The poems range from one stanza to multiple pages and cover a wide variety of subjects Lee has put his own spin on.

"It appeals to everybody, I write about almost everything," Lee said. "I try to make it funny or put a twist on it. People will get a kick out of it hopefully."

Poetry became a part of Lee's life in high school, and he's written sporadically as a hobby while working as an internal medicine physician at AFC Urgent Care East Meadow.

Lee and his wife settled in Huntington with their daughter Jessica, where they would read her books by Shel Silverstein before bed. Lee was eager to meet Silverstein until he learned the poet died in 1999. As a tribute to Silverstein's unconventional poems, Lee began working on his own book in 2017.

"Sometimes I write two a day, sometimes I write two a week, it depends on my inspiration and schedule since I'm a physician," Lee said. "If something happens to me or I see something funny, I'll write about it and I try to come up with ideas because I like to write. It's hit or miss."

Lee pulls inspiration for his poems from his own experience, while also taking on the randomness of life. He enjoys taking common conceptions and twisting



Michael Lee and his daughter Jessica used their creativity to craft silly and quirky drawings that accompany his poems in his recently published book, "Not Gonna Write Poems."

them to surprise the reader. His poem, "The Tortoise and the Hare (The Alternative Story)" does just that. As events unfold in the stanzas, the pair decides they would rather not race and instead eat sweet bread with jam in a meadow.

"But then the tortoise thought hard as the race was about to start," Lee writes. "He seemed to have a sudden change

of heart. The tortoise opened his mouth and said to the hare, 'Let's not compete at all, 'cause I really don't care.'"

The wacky poems are completed by drawings Lee created with the help of his 10-year old daughter Jessica. Lee admits he isn't the best artist, but said his daughters love for art and childish, whimsical perspective shows in particular drawings.

"You give the reader the author's perspective, the drawings are what I think of the poem," Lee said. "And it enhances it, like the saying goes, 'A picture tells a 1,000 words.'"

Lee's unusual approach is reflected by his ironic choice for a title, "Not Gonna Write Poems".

"I came up with the title, because I wanted it to be a little humorous," Lee said. "It's like, 'Okay you're not gonna write poems but the book is all poems?' It sparks someone's attention. It doesn't make sense, but that's what many of the poems are like."

The poetry book can be purchased at Lulu.com, Barnes and Nobles, Amazon and Book Revue in Huntington.

