



A bit about Mark Pitta

" I like to sing to the songs on the radio in my car. When you go into a tunnel, it's hard to come out on the right note. Actually, the news is more difficult. I like to go to concerts that are related, like Talking Heads with Simple Minds. I also rent videos together too. Last week I rented "Bambi" and "The Deerhunter."

From [Comedy Celebration Day on July 31, 1988 in San Francisco](#)

Mark Pitta is a San Francisco/Bay Area native. Born in Oakland and raised in San Lorenzo, Mark attended Arroyo High School in San Lorenzo, and Chabot College in Hayward. Mark likes to point out that Tom Hanks also graduated from Chabot, although they never crossed paths (primarily because they were students there at different times.)

Mark started his comedy career on a bet. It was at a San Francisco comedy club called "The Punchline" where Mark sat with a few high school friends enjoying a show when the comedian on stage mentioned his age was twenty-two. Mark was also twenty-two at the time and wondered out loud whether he should be up there on stage instead of in the audience. His buddies bet him fifty bucks that he wouldn't try it the following week on "open mike" night. Mark did, although he spent over a hundred dollars in cover charges that week going to every comedy club in town studying other comics.

Mark Pitta began his standup comedy career in 1981 on a February night at the Punchline in San Francisco. His Chabot College buddy Bill Cappolo gave him a ride from San Lorenzo because Mark didn't have a car. Bill would give him many rides to the Sunday Open Mike nights in the months following and watch his friend develop into a rising star.

For the next five years, Mark worked his way up the ladder from emcee to middle act to headliner. "There was a two year stretch there where I thought I was going to quit. I didn't think I was growing as a performer. I didn't think I liked it anymore. Then I did this outdoor concert in Golden Gate Park for three thousand people and the rush I got from that took me

over the hump. I was hooked again." Leaving San Francisco as an established headliner helped Mark fit into the L.A. comedy scene where he moved to (as all the comics of that time did) in the spring of 1986.

"My goal when I got to L.A. was to do the Tonight Show. A dream I had since I was nine. I used to watch that show just for the comedians. I must have been the only kid in my grammar school who went to bed every night at twelve-thirty." In August of 1990, Mark achieved his goal: "The experience was surreal. I didn't know I was on until I saw myself, on my own television, walk through those blue curtains. You're on a high for three days." Shortly after The Tonight Show, Mark landed the hosting job on Fox's "Totally Hidden Video, where he stayed for two seasons.

Mark's success in TV Land had its ups and downs. He hosted Totally Hidden Video, Friday Night Videos, and landed acting roles on 3rd Rock From The Sun and Mad About You; but when a pilot he wrote and shot for NBC wasn't "picked up" as they say, he felt like his time there was over. "I was sitting in my house looking at my calendar of road dates for my stand up act and felt I was back to square one. Then the phone rang and it was KTVU in Oakland offering me a job on Mornings On Two. I had filled in off and on for the past four years and the decision to move was a no brainer. I was looking to get back to my roots in The Bay Area and my family and reconnecting with the city I love."

Mark Pitta has been co-host at "Mornings On 2" since March 29, 1999. "Mornings On 2" is the San Francisco/Bay Area's top rated local morning news and entertainment program. Mark can be seen every morning from 7-9am on KTVU channel 2 (a FOX station affiliate). Throughout the morning news, Mark can be seen doing comedy segments and interviews in locations around the Bay Area. He can also be seen doing stand-up comedy, of course, Most recently he performed at the San Francisco Comedy Day in Golden Gate Park in August. But now he performs for more than a fifty dollar bet.

He has also toured with Paul Anka, Howie Mandel, and occasionally sat in with the Hollywood improvisational group The Groundlings. He even wrote an article for USA TODAY on how he would instruct McGwire to answer the ridiculous questions that the press was asking him. He was also quoted on this subject in Time magazine and Sports Illustrated.

He is married to Melanie and has a dog, five cats, two chinchillas and now has a very nice car...