

**It didn't stop Beethoven** and it hasn't stopped Randy Rutherford from getting on stage, singing and telling his life story.

The San Francisco based musician/writer/solo performer was diagnosed with a progressive hearing loss as a folksinger in Alaska during the late seventies. Since then he has lost much of his hearing but it hasn't prevented him from writing and performing two critically acclaimed, award winning (He's won Best of Fringe in Edmonton and Winnipeg), autobiographical plays. He is at work on a third show about his days in Alaska as a hearing impaired folksinger who falls in love with his guitar teacher's girlfriend and gets attacked by a grizzly bear.

Rutherford says, "Being hearing impaired is very isolating, it cuts you off from the world, from communicating with other people. During the 90 minutes I'm on stage performing, it's like I'm not hearing-impaired because I'm connecting with a whole bunch of people in the audience."

You can catch his first award winning play "Weaverville Waltz" at the Hamilton Fringe Festival. "Weaverville" chronicles his early childhood and teen years growing up in a small gold-mining town in Northern California when he was a pipsqueak Romeo who dreams of romancing the Homecoming Queen and longs to rescue his mother from his jealous hard-drinking stepfather.