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MEDIA RELEASE

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Entertainer / Satirist Mark Russell Performs Upcoming Library Fundraiser

One show only @ Downtown Central Library on Sunday, May 18

Mark Russell, host for 30 years of Buffalo's WNED-TV and Public Television's top rated "Mark Russell Comedy Specials," returns to town for one performance only of "**An Afternoon with Mark Russell**" on **Sunday, May 18 at 2 p.m.** at the **downtown Central Library Auditorium, 1 Lafayette Square**, Buffalo. Proceeds will benefit the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System.

Long before today's satirists Jon Stewart and Steven Colbert, there was Mark Russell, daring to joke and sing of the often absurd political process taking place in our nation's capital. With impeccable timing, twinkling eyes and shock-of-recognition insights into American politics, Mark Russell draws merriment from the pomposity of public life. Reading three or four newspapers a day allows him to constantly update his material. The result is that no two shows are ever identical.

A Buffalo native, Russell has authored a syndicated column, recorded CDs, tapes and videos, and performed at colleges, conventions and theaters. Recently, a retrospective of his work, "Mark Russell's America," aired nationally on PBS. Though he officially retired in 2010, he continues to perform on occasion and has been writing songs for children's theater. Two of his musicals for children have been performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

"This is such a special opportunity to have Mark Russell back in Buffalo and performing at the downtown Central Library for the benefit of all 37- local public Libraries," stated System Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "We are so pleased to have him here for what promises to be a most delightful afternoon."

Tickets are \$10 - \$75. (Students - \$10- with valid ID, \$30 general admission, and \$75- VIP which includes an after show "Meet & Greet" reception with Russell. Library cardholders save \$5 off of a \$30 ticket.) Tickets may be purchased at: <https://ways2give.buffalolib.org/mark-russell> or by phone at 716-858-7197. Media support from Business First of Buffalo.

For more information, call 716-858-8900 or visit www.BuffaloLib.org . Follow the library on:   

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