

RECENTLY ADDED

THE CLODHOPPER MONOLOGUES LIVE



Not so long ago, author, humorist and amateur pig farmer Michael Perry fed the chickens, changed his boots, kissed his wife and daughters, and drove downstate to a refurbished opera house in Stoughton, Wisconsin. Waiting for him onstage was a microphone; waiting in the seats was a sold-out house full of folks ready to laugh. For the next two hours the walls of the old opera hall echoed with stories of love and long underwear, happily failed bachelors, aggressive roosters, one-eyed joke-telling butchers, the glories of pickup-truck-based courtship...and wave after wave of laughter. And then – right at the end there – came the story of the little girl, the guinea pig, and a math lesson gone wrong.

DISC ONE

1. Functional ADD

2. Cheddarhead Nurseboy

3. Flaming Firefighter

4. Beer Tent

5. Green and Gold and Blaze Orange

6. Cold

7. Coulda Been Hawaiian

8. I'll Take The Froot Loops

9. Fooled By Phonics

10. The Bull Catalog

DISC TWO

1. Pickup Truck Love

2. Bachelors

3. Gonna Hafta Puller

4. Wrenchslinger

5. Gettin' Pigs

6. Knuckles the Rooster

7. Theoretical Beef

8. Kids

9. The Guinea Pig Story

126 Minutes (2 CDs)\$16

Digital download\$8.99

Also available on iTunes

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Mike on Tent Show Radio



In 2011 Mike had the privilege of hosting “Tent Show Radio,” a weekly variety series showcasing live performances from the Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua (for a description of the Big Top see Chapter 7 of *Truck: A Love Story*). We’re happy to say Mike will be hosting again in 2012. The show airs weekly in many states and can be streamed online – for specific stations and schedules, please visit <http://www.bigtop.org/tsr/>

Farming

We raised five pigs this year. They got a slow start (good feeder pigs were hard to find-one was only 18 pounds) but we fed them goat milk and high-end breakfast leftovers from a local coffee shop and by autumn they had rounded out quite nicely. Mike thinks it helped also that he played some Anne Murray music for them while they ate leftover lemon crepes and chive tips.

Family

Mike does not have a family, he has a sorority. His wife and two daughters keep him honest and grateful, and deal daily with his private side, which is nowhere near as chipper as his public side. Y’know, dirty socks and grumpy grunts. He is lucky and knows it.

Thank You

Another year of not having to get a real job. And I don't take that for granted. If you bought a book, downloaded a song, sent a nice note, came to a performance, or introduced someone else to what I'm trying to do here, thank you. – Mike

Four Names You Should Know

If the website is working, it is thanks to Dave (learn more by clicking “DPE” at bottom of homepage). If Mike came to your town to talk, sing, or sign, it was because Blakeley the Booker set it up and wrote it down. If he paid his taxes on time it was because Karen did the math. And filling in the multitudinous gaps, Alissa. She does it all. Some would call her an assistant, Mike calls her the expediter.

ARE MIKE’S BOOKS AVAILABLE ON AUDIO?

In what has become a perennial deception, both the 2009 and 2010 newsletters announced that Mike would be releasing audiobook versions of *Coop* and *Truck* the following year. So all’s we’re gonna say this time around is Mike has actually begun recording the audiobooks but release dates are hazy and rather than making rash promises we’re just going to say that in 2012 everyone gets a free unicorn. With a horn made of braided string cheese.

ON THE HORIZON

NEW BOOKS

As of this writing, Mike’s next book is scheduled to be released in August of 2012. The book centers on Mike’s visits with his now-82-year-old cannon-shooting neighbor Tom. There are also references to love-lorn fireflies, dirt roads, Montaigne, and the challenges of raising a 3-year-old who is apparently training to be a very loud lawyer.

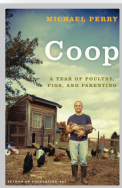
Mike’s first Young Adult fiction novel – about a teenage girl who lives in an abandoned station wagon and fights bad guys using a homemade weapon called the Whomper-Zooka, is due out in 2013.

MUSIC

Mike and the Long Beds continue to hit the road when time allows and are scheduled to record another album sometime in 2012. Once he...ummm...gets those audiobooks done.

MIKE ON THE ROAD

The attempt to balance home and road continues, but Mike still loves to drive around some. To see if he’s coming anywhere near you, please visit <http://sneezingcow.com/events/>

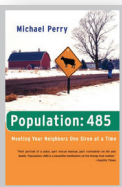


COOP: A YEAR OF POULTRY, PIGS AND PARENTING

Faced with thirty-seven acres of fallen fences and overgrown fields surrounding his rickety Wisconsin farmhouse, and informed by his pregnant wife that she intends to deliver their baby at home, Michael Perry plumbs his unorthodox childhood—his city-bred parents took in sixty-some foster children while running a sheep and dairy farm for clues about how to proceed as a farmer, a husband, and a father.

Paperback PS edition signed by author \$14


Hardcover signed by author\$24



POPULATION: 485 - MEETING YOUR NEIGHBORS ONE SIREN AT A TIME

After a twelve-year absence, a real-life prodigal son returns to his hometown — New Auburn, Wisconsin, population: 485 — and joins the volunteer fire and rescue department. The emergencies are real, the settings are surreal, and with each foray into the boondocks, we piece together the history of a people and a place. By turns fiery and funny, violent and gentle, Population:485 is the true account of a search for rootedness in a place from the past.

Paperback PS edition signed by author\$14




TRUCK: A LOVE STORY

From the publisher: “All I wanted to do,” says Michael Perry, “was get my old pickup truck running. That, and plant a little vegetable garden. Then I got distracted by this woman...” As with Population: 485, much of the spirit of Truck lives in the characters Perry meets: a one-eyed land surveyor; a paraplegic biker who rigs a sidecar so his quadriplegic pal can ride along; a bartender who refuses to sell light beer; an enchanting woman who existed only on the inside flap of a cookbook, and half the staff of National Public Radio.

Paperback PS edition signed by author\$14

Hardcover signed by author\$24



HEADWINDED - MICHAEL PERRY AND THE LONG BEDS

Ten-song album (on CD) of original songs written by Mike and recorded with his band the Long Beds. Some have called it roughneck folk, and it honors the spirit of folks like John Prine, Waylon Jennings, James McMurtry, and so on. One lady in New Auburn said it was “like Gordon Lightfoot, only zippier.”


CD\$10 Digital download\$8.99



LONG BEDS T-SHIRTS

Heavyweight 100% cotton black t-shirt. Choose from two designs: “Like Gordon Lightfoot only Zippier” or “I’m A Bed Head.” Long Beds URL on back.


visit www.sneezingcow.com for sizes and pricing



OFF MAIN STREET: BARNSTORMERS, PROPHETS & GATEMOUTH’S GATOR

A collection of essays about life in small towns, on the road, and around the world. Ranging across subjects as diverse as lot lizards, Klan Wizards, and small town funerals, Perry’s writing balances earthiness with poetry, kinetics with contemplation, and is regularly salted with humor...showcasing essays on butchers, Elvis, and the downside of bunking next door to a Central American prostitute.


Paperback signed by author\$12



WHY THEY KILLED BIG BOY... AND OTHER STORIES

A collection of essays, humor and nonfiction by Michael Perry. Reviewer comments: “Rural America is changing fast, and Perry is one of the funniest, most astute chroniclers of those changes...perceptive, witty, unpretentious writing...he creates characters worth remembering, takes you on journeys you’ll not easily forget...Perry is an emerging writer who brings fun to the emerging genre of creative nonfiction.” (some essays duplicated in Off Main Street)


Book signed by author\$10



NEVER STAND BEHIND A SNEEZING COW & OTHER TALES FROM FOGGY CROSSING

A live-audience recording of Mike addressing issues including high culture in low places, Fightin’ Frogs football, parade floats gone bad, the fine art of manure spreader maintenance, coon dogs and the people who own them, things you should never say in an ambulance, Mavis Turner’s Love Guide, the truth about deer hunting in Wisconsin, and, of course, this business about the cow.

CD\$10 Digital download\$8.99



TINY PILOT - MICHAEL PERRY AND THE LONG BEDS

Like so many before him, Mike learned to sing in church. Then a Waylon Jennings 8-track got him hooked on boogety-boogety. This combination yielded the mix of straight-up twang and churchly harmonies found in Perry’s music. Tiny Pilot is Michael Perry’s second full-length release with his band the Long Beds. The songs on Tiny Pilot range from boot-stomping country to roughneck folk ballads and are populated by characters drawn straight from rural and small-town America. The music made by Perry and his Long Beds has been described as ‘country folk,’ ‘folk-twang,’ and Americana. The CD version of Tiny Pilot includes 3 exclusive tracks not found on the digital version. It also includes a lyric sheet with song commentary by Mike, and a full-color poster documenting the recording process.

CD\$10 Digital download\$8.99



SNEEZING COW T-SHIRT

Spread the truth and the warning in a 100% cotton T-shirt. T-shirts are black with “athletic gold” print. T-shirt reads, “www.sneezingcow.com” across chest; back features polka-dot cow on yield sign, over the message, “Never Stand Behind A Sneezing Cow.”

S, M, L, XL\$15.00

2XLadd \$1.50

THE
SNEEZING
COW
REPORT

News from author and humorist Michael Perry

Find us on the web!
www.sneezingcow.com

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THE
SNEEZING COW REPORT

An irregular update from author, humorist and part-time pig farmer Michael Perry

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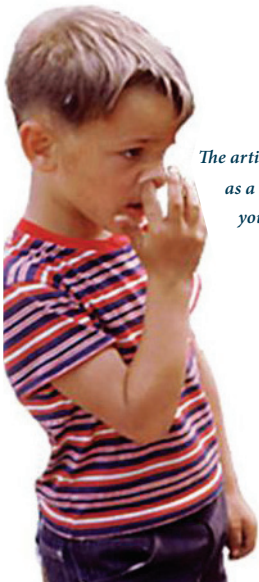
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The artist
as a
young man

SNEEZING COW ONLINE

If you haven't visited www.sneezingcow.com for a while, you'll find we've streamlined it and added digital downloads and an in-site shopping cart. And of course, regular posts and updates from Mike, as well as photos and occasional videos.

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twitter.com/SneezingCow

The Show Was Live, and So Was the Ammo



I am no big shot. I write, I tell stories for hire, I do little one-man shows in regional theaters, and sometimes I sing, but never dance (this is a failure of neurology at the cellular level, as even the beloved polka escapes me, and yes, I'm aware it's just one, two, three.). I also sell t-shirts. (We discontinued the coffee mugs as too many were breaking in transit.) This is what your bigshot corporate types refer to as “diversification” and barring tenure or a blockbuster, it is the key to survival. The upshot of this itinerant cobble of self-employment is that I am on the road somewhere around 80 to 100 days per year. I fancy the phrase “on the road,” as it conjures tumbleweed horizons, figurative artistic martyrdom, and muraled tour buses dieseling through the night. In fact, it's generally just me in the family wagon with a box of books and a late check-in at the nearest Super 8 after totally rocking the public library.

The gratitude I feel to everyone I meet out there (or who has ever read one of my books, or listened to one of my songs, or arranged a concert or signing, or set up chairs, or put up posters, or sent me on my way with homemade snickerdoodles, or, or, or...) is frankly inexpressible. You are a fascinating, heartening bunch. Some of you are National Public Radio, some of you are Moose Country 106.7. Some of you are cap-and-gown, some of you are barn-boots-and-chore-coat. Some of you are gas, some of you are diesel, and an appreciable segment of you are righteously hybrid. You are town, you are country, you are suburban with chickens. When I shake your hands at the signing table your grips run the gamut from dishwasher soft to bricklayer-thick. There is here and there overlap, and I like that especially. In short, you are not easily penned and sorted.

The photo above features three of the four most recent gifts given to me by readers at a book signing. Atop the books

there, that's a carburetor for a 1951 International Harvester. Upper left you can see a vintage plumb bob with its own canvas case (the story behind the plumb bob is in the book *Coop*). Not pictured is a handcrafted International Harvester logo made of stained glass (it's hung in my office window). And that box on the upper right contains 20 live rounds of ammo for my deer rifle. Each presented with a smile, a handshake, and a book opened for signing. I leave it for you to judge what these gifts say about me, my material, and my audience, but I take it as the heartiest sort of good news.

Thank you, everyone. See y'down the road. Or down the page.



I'M A
BEDHEAD



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GORDON
LIGHTFOOT
ONLY ZIPPIER!

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