



# Childhood Wonders

Pat Hazell in 'The Wonder Bread Years.'

(photos by Ed Krieger)

• Comedian and writer Pat Hazell comes to Hermosa Beach with his one-man show about childhood memories in 'The Wonder Bread Years.'

by Michael Hixon

Standup comedian and writer Pat Hazell said his one-man show, "The Wonder Bread Years," is a journey of storytelling and jokes about the "coming-of-age moments when you see things for the first time" and about those "years of discovery and curiosity and adventure and abandonment."

But it's also about food, the good and bad, and a slide show of memories from childhood items and games that jog recol-

lections from our consciousness. Born and raised in Omaha, Hazell was a standup comic before getting a break from Jerry Seinfeld. He became one of his hit show's first writers. Since then, Hazell, the father of two young children, created "The Wonder Bread Years" and other shows inspired by his youth.

"The Wonder Bread Years" will run through March 20 at the Hermosa Beach Playhouse.

Hazell recently discussed "The Wonder Bread Years," as well as his life as a comic

and writer, with *The Beach Reporter*.

**The Beach Reporter:** Did you want to do this show to bring back memories from your childhood?

Pat Hazell: I generally found at the time I was writing standup comedy and doing the "Tonight Show" that the jokes I seemed to have the most affection for were those looking back at highlights of what I wore for Halloween and how I traded candy or when I first tasted baking choco-

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