

“It doesn't matter what you wear, just as long as you are there...”

By Jill Matlow, Wall Street Dead aHead Family Member



Rennie Pincus, RPM - [Rennie Pincus Music](#)

Deb (aka Mama Bear) noticed how involved Rennie was within the WSDaH Family, especially during these challenging times: From aligning himself with charities associated with Family members to working on musical projects with Family members—Rennie is a busy guy! It's time to "dig deeper" with all-things Rennie!

I had the pleasure of first meeting Rennie at one of the WSDaH jams, where he immediately seemed to gel with the group of Family Members who gathered for the monthly jam session. Rennie is one of those people who leads with a quiet confidence. For those not in the know, Rennie is currently the Manager of Jimmy Vivino (of Fab Faux fame & Music Director on *the Conan Show*). In his "spare" time, Rennie is also involved with numerous charitable organizations.

Please join me as we get to know Rennie Pincus.

1). How did you first hear about WSDaH and what prompted you to join?

Scott Gibson! All roads go through SG. I met Scott a handful of years ago on the concert scene and we became good friends through music. One day, I think he said *“What are you doing on Thursday? There is a group of cool people I want you to meet and I'd like you to be my guest.”* I got there early (because I'm always early) and met Deb and a few others. Before I knew it, the music started playing, the room filled up with a beautiful spirit and I knew right away I was with my people.

2). What was your first WSDaH Family event? What were your initial thoughts about the Family?

My first event was a jam. Initial thought? It felt like summer camp. Deb was the super cool camp director. Marty was the group leader. Scott was the sweet innocent guy who would sneak behind the cabin to smoke a joint. The girls were all so nice. Just as a kid waits all winter for summer when they can be free, these folks wait all month for Thursday night. And it shows. And it's infectious. And it's the only place that I ever go where EVERYONE is so happy to just be.

3). At what age did you first pick up a guitar and which musical genre appealed to you then?

My Mom brought home a guitar for me when I was about 12 or 13. It was a nylon-stringed classical guitar with a very wide neck. It was very difficult for me to play at the time. She signed me up for guitar lessons in the back room of a store that sold pianos. Remember when there were stores that just sold pianos? I was told that I had to learn how to read music and learn scales. Well—that was the last thing I wanted to do. I figured that if the Beatles didn't know how to read music, why should I? Big mistake by the way. I still can't read music. Anyway, around that time my Dad told me that he thought he might have an old guitar in storage at his office. He then brought home a beautiful copper 1957 Danelectro electric guitar. My grandparents bought it at Sears for my Dad when he was about my age. He played it a few times and put it away for years until he gave it to me. It was very cool and compared to my classical guitar very easy to play. I would sit for hours with my turntable and Beatles records trying to learn all I could. I also started writing songs. Thirty five years later, I finally recorded one of the songs I wrote back then, "Before The Night Is Through" on my last record.

4). When did you first fall in love with the Grateful Dead?

I was always "in like" with the music, but the first time I fell "in love"? The first note of the first song of my first show: "Hell In A Bucket" September 2, 1988. Before the Dead, I had only ever gone to a single concert from a band. When I heard that the Grateful Dead were doing 4 nights at the Capital Centre, I somehow knew I had to mail order tickets for all 4 shows. My seats were technically everywhere from the floor to the ceiling depending on the night, but in those days I don't remember ever sitting in my assigned seats. You sat (or stood or twirled more accurately) with your friends. And the community was incredible. All familiar strangers. All brothers and sisters. I was hooked. And the music! I got to see almost everything over those nights including a truly amazing "Morning Dew" and an electric "Ripple" encore—the final performance of the song ever.

5). I heard your son Gabe sing and play during a Monday night Rennie jam session this past summer. Will he be following in your footsteps?

Ha. Gabe is already a better musician than I will ever be. He plays baritone sax in his high school marching band. He learned to play ukulele by watching YouTube. He's learning bass guitar. For me, playing music with others as a teen built my self confidence, opened up a whole world of opportunity and created an outlet for expression. I wish the same for him. My daughter Olivia is very creative as well, but in the visual arts. I'm very proud of both of them.

6). What are some exciting ventures you have lined up for the future? Where do you draw your inspiration from?

When the lockdown started, I expected that I would get a huge burst of songwriting creativity. That didn't happen. I still picked up my guitar but turned to my musical comfort food - cover songs. This led to a weekly livestream where so far I've played over 150 different songs—most for the first time. Come summer, I decided that I would take the opportunity to finally make an album of the most comforting of all comfort food music—the good old Grateful Dead. I thought about what material I would choose. So many fantastic songs. I ended up choosing a mix of some popular tunes and some that might not be familiar to everyone. I gathered a bunch of friends including WSDaH Family members at a beautiful studio in the country and we let the music fill the air. I'm excited to share that some very special musicians friends are playing on the record: Jimmy Vivino, Scott Sharrard, Tash Neal, Andy Falco, Annalyse McCoy, Ryan Dunn and a fab new vocal group—Lovelight—featuring a trio of WSDaH ladies. The record is called "GRATEFUL". I am truly grateful for my friends and the music. I'm hoping to release it before the end of the year.

One of the things that I have always admired about the Dead and their community is their generosity towards those less fortunate. To carry on that tradition, I'm donating all proceeds to WhyHunger, a charity very close to my heart.

7). You seem to know many people and charities. What prompted you to work with WSDaH Family members as well as their particular charities?

WSDaH is all about networking and bringing people together. There are so many people in need today and fortunately, there are also a lot of great people and organizations that can help. The Family members' commitment to their charities was so inspiring and working with them just seemed like a natural fit to me.

We generate power when we work together. It takes all of us. I follow my heart and I am lucky to have good people and Family members by my side. As Charles Johnson wrote: *"If we walk together, little children/We won't ever have to worry/Through this world of trouble/ We've got to love one another"*.

8). What is a fun fact no one knows about you?

After graduating college in DC, I moved to California to act and landed a few gigs. I looked very young for my age, so I was cast in a lot of things where I played a high school student: *The Wonder Years*, *Doogie Hauser*, *MD* to name a few... My first speaking role was in a movie called *Airheads* as Cop #2. It was only one line but it took 2 days to shoot. The most fun was probably the wrap party after filming was done. It was at a nightclub in Hollywood. The food was great and the band playing on stage was made up of members of the cast: Adam Sandler, Michael McKean, Steve Buscemi and Chris Farley on vocals. Rob Zombie and Lemmy were also in the film, but I don't think they made the party.

Want to keep the conversation going with Rennie Pincus? Click here to contact him: renniepincus@gmail.com

If you'd like to share your story with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at scarletfire60@gmail.com. In the meantime...

Keep dancin' 🎵