

Familiar face

'Seinfeld' look-a-like turns heads around town, at work

BY LARRY PALADINO
STAFF WRITER

When the big entertainment stars come to the area there's a good chance they'll stay at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.

"Jerry Seinfeld," though, has been there most nights for the past two years.

People who spot him mutter things like, "Hey, look over there. Isn't that Seinfeld?" Occasionally they'll even ask if he'll pose with them for a photo.

But the big white napkin draped over his arm usually tips people off that the guy in the tuxedo in the corner of the banquet room isn't the Seinfeld who appears in a tux in American Express commercials and whose recently concluded "Seinfeld" is among the most popular TV comedy shows of all time.

Through no fault of his own, Chris Nolan is a faux version of the stand-up comedian of the landmark show noted for being "about nothing."

"I have five friends whose nickname for me is 'Seinfeld,'" said Nolan, a banquet waiter at The Townsend. He works at a lot of weddings there and "that's where I get most of my harassing" after guests "have had a few beers," he said, by phone on an off-day last week.

"I just got it last night at a rehearsal dinner," he said. "They'll look at you a little bit and if they're going to say it, I'll make 'em say it. They say, 'Jerry?' I'll turn around for that name because I've heard it so much. Then they'll say, 'Oops, he heard me.'"

The 29-year-old Farmington Hills

resident, a graduate of North Farmington High School, said he doesn't have any friends who would be the equivalents of the show's characters of George and Elaine, "but my friend's cousin is the spitting image of Kramer," he said, who once dressed like the screwy Seinfeld sidekick and wound up winning the prize for best costume at a Halloween party.

Nolan, who also works banquets part-time at Laro's in Troy, remembers one wedding in which most of the guests started chanting: "Jerry, Jerry, Jerry."

Double take

Erin Snyder, a Townsend waitress who said she has often worked with Nolan, said guests constantly ask him about his resemblance to Seinfeld.

"His mannerisms are just like Jerry Seinfeld's," she said. "His laugh. His smile. When you call him 'Jerry' he does this Jerry look thing."

When a photographer asked where he could find Chris Nolan one day last week, Townsend employees looked puzzled. When he mentioned "Seinfeld," they knew right away who he was talking about.

The Seinfeld TV show didn't get big ratings in its early days of the late '80s and Nolan hadn't seen the



Nolan

show when he had his first encounter with a "fan."

"I remember it vividly," he said. "I was working room service at the Sheraton in Novi. The first guy who ever noticed me was the most excited. He followed me and said, 'This is uncanny, unbelievable.'"

Once Nolan entered a Seinfeld look-alike contest sponsored by a newspaper, "but I didn't get called back," he said. "The picture in the paper of the winner didn't look anything like Seinfeld."

Another time, when he was in Las Vegas, Nolan said he was in a casino that featured celebrity lookalikes in its entertainment and a woman suggested that he go see the manager. The man thought Nolan was a good Seinfeld clone, but without any apparent show business talent that could be exploited.

"So it hasn't gotten me anywhere," Nolan said. "It's a good ice breaker, though."

Seinfeld fan

The TV show, now in reruns, is his favorite, he said, and he wears black jeans and white tennis shoes a lot, like Seinfeld's TV character.

"People say I net like him," said Nolan. "I have hand gestures like him, but I'm not a comedian. If I just permed my hair a little I'd look more like him."



Mutual mug: Chris Nolan of Farmington Hills, a banquet waiter at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, is often mistaken for comedian Jerry Seinfeld. The 29-year-old says the likeness is more of an ice breaker than a career booster.

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Discussion focuses on caregiving

Kathleen Needham, former head of the Gerontology Department at Madonna University and current faculty member, will be the featured speaker at the Farmington OWL Chapter meet-

ing at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, at the Farmington Library. She will discuss "Caregiving at Home."

Needham, a teacher at Madonna for 22 years, has studied the

aged in the United States, Canada, China, Great Britain, Russia and the Ukraine. As a gubernatorial appointee on the Michigan

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5K run and walk

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Arthritis affects 1.5 million people in Michigan. 600,000 of them in Metro Detroit. The Arthritis Foundation raises money to provide programs that keep people active and fund research seeking the cause and preventative treatments for the over 100+ forms of arthritis including Rheumatoid, Fibromyalgia, Osteoarthritis, Lupus and Scleroderma.

You can make a difference by running, walking or volunteering at the the Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis. Fill out the registration form and mail or fax it to us along with your registration fee.

The fax number is (248) 424-9005. For more information, please call (248) 424-9001 ext. 26.

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Registration Form

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T-Shirt Size: Medium ☐ Large ☐ Extra Large ☐
Please complete all information and enclose with your Jingle Bell Run non-refundable fee.
Registration: \$18.00 (with short sleeved T-shirt)
After 11/28 and day of: \$25.00 (with short sleeved T-shirt)
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Please make checks payable to Arthritis Foundation and mail to:
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Name (as it appears on card) _____ Visa/MC # _____ Exp. date _____
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