

MADE ME NUCLEAR

THE "FEEL GOOD" MUSICAL ABOUT SURVIVING CANCER

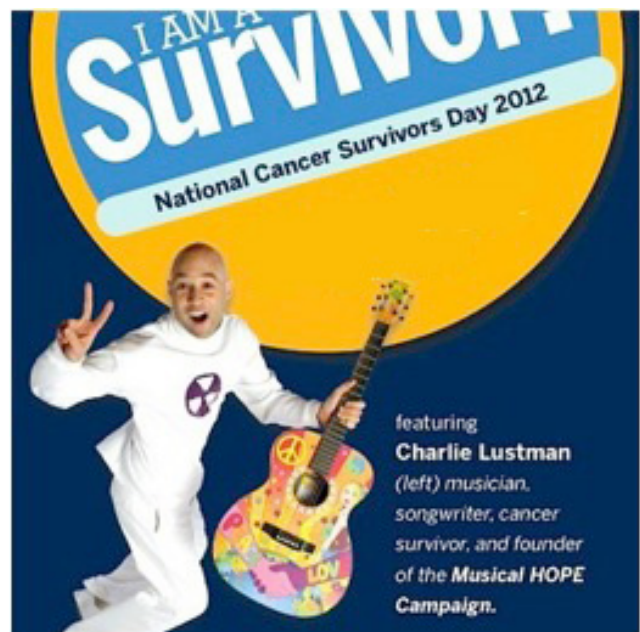
Join us on December 7th (Friday) to celebrate the positive message of "Life" and "Surviving Cancer" at the Intimate Santa Monica Playhouse.

Charlie Lustman, who is in the midst of a international tour of Cancer Hospital/Clinics taking his message of "Hope," will be performing his one-man pop-opera telling his own journey of surviving Head and Neck Cancer. He takes us on the range of emotion that every cancer patient experiences, from learning he has cancer (The Call), to going through treatment (Chemo-Brain), to reclaiming his life (Do What You Love). Always Charlie lends us his positive energy ... his "will-do spirit" ... and leaves us stronger and more determined to face any of life's problems.

All proceeds from this "Special Performance" will go towards supporting the HNC Support/USC PT Associates program of providing free/low cost Physical Therapy to County Hospital patients who are in need. All Donations are most welcomed.

Friday Evening, Dec 7th, 2012
7:30 PM – Reception at 7:00 PM
Santa Monica Playhouse
12114 4th Street
Santa Monica, Ca 90401-1391
Telephone: 310-394-9779

Suggested Donation
Per Ticket
\$25.00



After meeting Charlie Lustman, it's a little harder to take life for granted.

In 2006, the musician was told that the curious bump on his jaw was Head and Neck Cancer. Eradicating it meant removal of three-quarters of his upper jaw (since replaced with a prosthetic mouthpiece) and a year of chemotherapy. But he'd been given back what he was afraid he'd lost, and he felt compelled to turn his feelings into music. The result was the song cycle "Made Me Nuclear," which he released as an album and now performs as a theatrical concert at the Santa Monica Playhouse.

Alone onstage, Lustman appears vulnerable. Worry washes across his face as he relives the news of the diagnosis. But it isn't long before he finds some humor in his situation, envisioning himself transformed, like some comic-book hero, when he's injected with radioactive dye for a CT scan. That's the gist of the bouncy title song, in which he declares himself remade as "a subatomic man."

Lustman's free-and-easy melodies variously call to mind '70s folk, the blues and the Beatles. High and vibratoless, his voice is sometimes James Taylor-ish, sometimes Elton John-ish. He accompanies himself on keyboard or guitar, often against backing tracks that add layers to the sound. He doesn't say much between songs, letting the lyrics convey what needs to be known. Directed by Chris DeCarlo, the show is perfectly simple -- and simply irresistible.

Perhaps there's nothing truly new here; the melodies are so unaffected that they sound familiar on first hearing, and what Lustman has to say has been said before. Yet maybe that's why this show is able to grab the audience in a bear hug right away and not let go. Lustman's eyes crinkle impishly. He fairly glows with newfound life. Just minutes into the performance, we do too.



Charlie Lustman sings and inspires Cancer patients across North America