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## Lange inspired by dad's injury

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"Howard Stern Show" personality **Artie Lange** may seem lewd and crude, but the funny dude also has an extremely big heart.

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The comedian and best-selling author told Names & Faces he was "almost in tears" after reading **Ross Niskar's** letter a few months ago. Niskar's poignant words about his younger brother **Adam Niskar**, 36, a Beverly Hills resident who was paralyzed after diving into a lake 10 years ago, really "hit home," Lange said.

Ross Niskar, 39, felt compelled to write after reading Lange's book "Too Fat to Fish," where the author, who chronicles the highs and lows of his turbulent life in painful and hysterical detail, wrote about his own father, who spent his last four years as a quadriplegic after falling from a roof.

"It really destroyed our family, not only emotionally but financially," Lange said.

"It was very emotional to see someone you love like that. To be paralyzed, it's a living hell."

Lange said Ross Niskar couldn't believe that it was actually him calling a few months back with the news that he wanted to waive his usual booking fees and come to Detroit to offer his support.

Tonight, Lange will headline the Friends for Adam Niskar Trust benefit at the Detroit Opera House. Established in 1999, the trust raises money for Adam Niskar to cover his mounting medical expenses.

Tickets are \$30-60, and VIP seats are \$125. A few \$20 tickets were also released Thursday. Southfield-raised comedian **Mike Young** will open the show.

An afterparty at Small Plates in Detroit will follow the Opera House event.

For the full interview with Lange, visit Metromix.com. For more about Niskar, click on [www.friendsforadam.com](http://www.friendsforadam.com).



Comedian Artie Lange will perform tonight at the Friends for Adam Niskar Trust benefit at the Detroit Opera House. (ARTIE LANGE)

A version of this story appears on page 3C of the Friday, Oct. 9, 2009, print edition of the Detroit Free Press.

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