

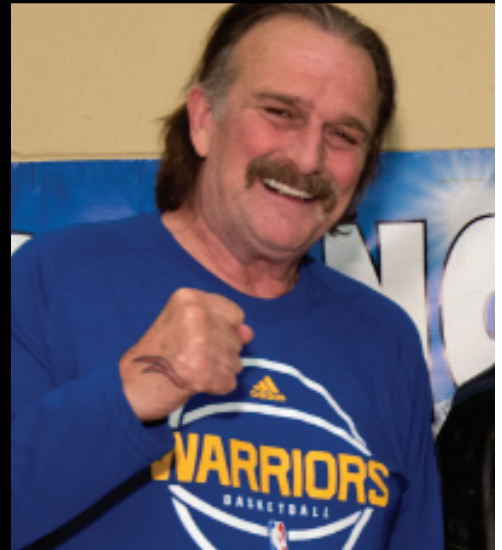
# CROWE

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**Jake Roberts**  
WWE Hall of Famer visited Barrie  
earlier this month



**The Wrestler**  
Taking a second look at Mickey  
Rourke's 2008 comeback movie





## Jake “The Snake” Roberts visits Barrie



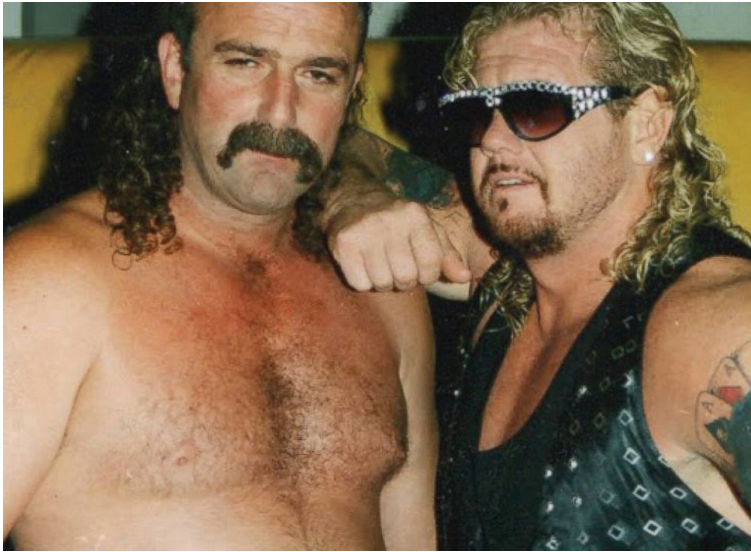
Jake “The Snake” Roberts, Jason McCoy and Barrie’s John McClane at the Ferris Lane Community Church



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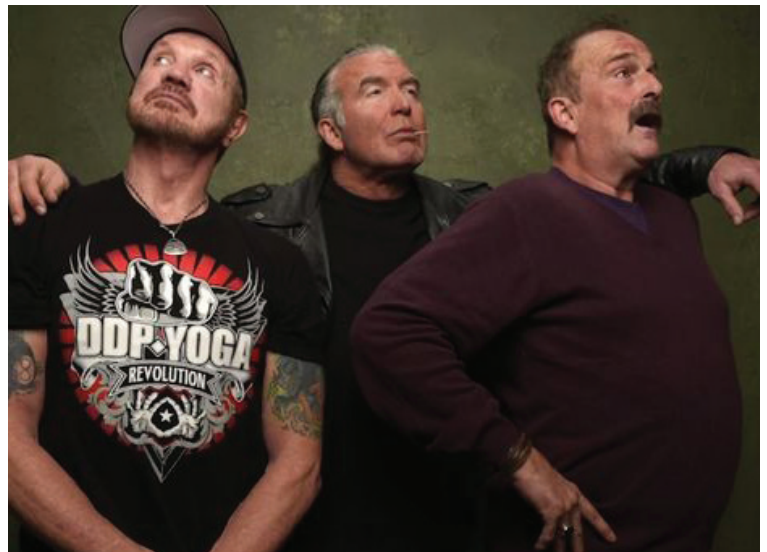
It is said that “a picture is worth a thousand words.”

Well, that’s good, because I didn’t even know that Jake “The Snake” Roberts was coming to Barrie, and I missed him. And both the events were really affordable, so there would have been no excuse, had I known he was coming. So, here are a bunch of pictures that tell the story, and the best one is thanks to my friend, Barrie area pro wrestler, John McClane, who got the picture with himself, Jason McCoy and World Wrestling Entertainment Hall of Famer, Roberts. Thanks, John. Roberts was here for two events – his Unspoken Word Tour at The Ranch, on March 2, and as the special guest for Barrie Wrestling’s Wrestle 4 Cardiology match on March 4, at the Ferris Lane Community Church. He was also on *Rogers Daytime* on March 2, which sort of counts as a third event in Barrie.

Roberts’ life story has changed a lot over the last few years, and he is now an evangelist for clean living. He shares his stories from his wrestling days along with his more recent story of getting clean, on his Unspoken Word Tour. They open with a comedian, then Roberts is on. You get funny road stories, then some serious recollections from when Roberts was addicted to crack cocaine and booze.

From the smaller pictures on the opposite page, top left, that was Roberts when he was almost broke, in terrible shape, and addicted to cocaine and booze. Then his friend, Diamond “Dallas” Page, reached out to him and invited him to his home, also called “The Accountability Crib.” Page injured his back at the top of his career, and was told by doctors that he could not wrestle again. Page tried everything to rehabilitate his back. Only when his wife suggested he try yoga, did he get some improvement. Page kept going and slowly added what few normal exercises he could manage, to the yoga. He kept improving and got back to wrestling. The yoga that he developed to help himself, he named DDP Yoga. That is his job now, running that business. When he invited Roberts to his house, the two agreed to video everything. That picture, top right, opposite, is Page yelling at Roberts, “It’s called the Accountability Crib for a fucking reason!” after Roberts fell off the wagon.

Although Roberts more than qualified to be inducted into The WWE Hall of Fame, his addictions were keeping him out of it. Page kept trying to get Roberts clean, because Roberts was, pictured at top left, one of Page’s mentors, back in the day. It took the better part of two years to get Roberts clean and keep him clean. Roberts, pictured



bottom right, opposite, got into the Hall of Fame. And now, well, there he was, bottom, opposite, left, at the local Rogers TV studio, telling you the same story I just told you, here.

And what about Page’s idea to video everything? They made a documentary out of the footage, called *The Resurrection of Jake the Snake*: [www.jakethesnake.com](http://www.jakethesnake.com)

In the latter part of the documentary, Scott Hall, aka Razor Ramon, moves to the house, and he gets clean, too. That is them pictured, above, from left: Page, Hall, Roberts.

Although, when all three get together for interviews and Roberts and Hall are asked how long they have been clean for, Roberts remembers and Hall makes a joke and asks, “What time is it?”

The one who was the most addicted, for the longest time, is Roberts. He is also the greater speaker, for trying to get people clean. When asked how long he has been clean for, while on Rogers, Roberts said, “five years.” He also offered to speak to people who attended his show at The Ranch, after the show was over, and try to help them get clean, too. If you want to watch that interview, then you have to be a Rogers customer and log in and everything, and type in this:

<http://rogerstv.com/show?lid=12&rid=23&sid=5754&gid=272395>

And well, there you have it. Total coverage of Robert’s visit to Barrie. Going to leave the last word for comments right from Barrie Wrestling’s Facebook page, which is, by the way, <https://www.facebook.com/BarrieWrestling/>

*“Jake the Snake Roberts. I was always afraid to bring in a “big name”...especially someone who had been on the dirt sheets and bashed online as much as Jake. It’s because of Jake that we will have more legends back. I don’t need to blow smoke here, let’s face it, I’d get more online shares if I talked trash---but there’s no trash to talk. Jake Roberts was a class act and an absolute professional. Through our spot on Rogers Daytime, to breakfast (damn right I’m mentioning that again..lol) to the meet and greet and after, Jake carried himself as I’ve always saw him-larger than life, but also now humble and respectful. Thank you so much Jake for being here with us, for your advice and kind words and for agreeing with the vision of Barrie Wrestling—shine a little light.”*

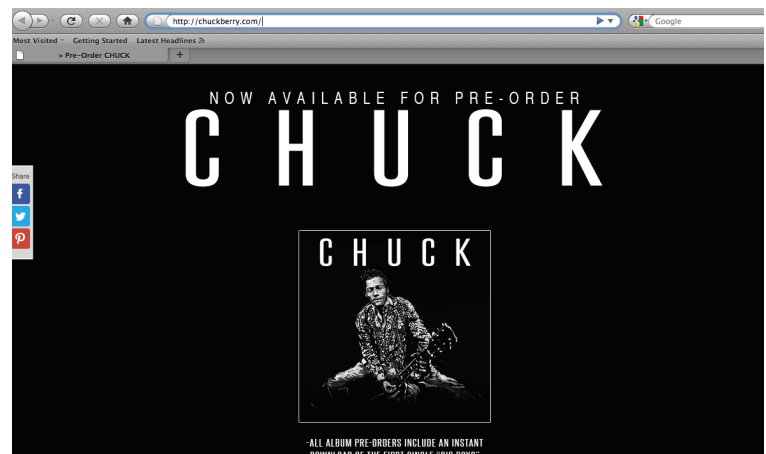
# Chuck Berry: 1926 – 2017



I don't have a local angle on Chuck Berry, and was going to show you his guitars and explain them, a little. Got no time to do that for this edition. I will, for the next one. For now, I want to direct you to his website, [www.chuckberry.com](http://www.chuckberry.com)

On his 90th birthday, Berry announced an album of new material that would be released in 2017. It is his first new record in 38 years.

Go to the website, scroll down a little and there is a YouTube video posted for the single, Big Boys. Play it! Play it several times and let it get under your skin. Then put in a pre-order for his new record, *Chuck*. If anybody deserves your money, Berry's family, does. His passing caught everyone by surprise, and messed with the plans for the record's release. It is recorded and ready. They probably need some time to make a video to go with the first single. Right now, the video is just the song, itself,



with the title, Big Boys, on it. As the tributes keep coming, it would be great if this record got so much promotion before its release that it went to #1 of the Billboard chart when it is released, later this year.

So please do your part, by going to the website, and forwarding the website and the single to your friends.



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# FROM 2000

*Do you like this magazine? Even a little? I mean, there had to have been at least a few editions you have liked for the past sixteen years, right? Then why not give a dollar, or a lot more dollars, to The Crowe Team, which consists of me, and at least one imaginary friend. And my taste for expensive booze. Just go to [www.thecrowe.ca](http://www.thecrowe.ca) and hit the Donate button in the middle of the home page. Then anonymously and silently, give me your money, via PayPal.*

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# The Wrestler



## Mickey Rourke as Randy “The Ram” Robinson, in the middle of a match, in *The Wrestler*

This movie, while fictional, is very close to the lives of many professional wrestlers who suffered too many injuries and/or didn’t manage their money well and fell through the cracks of the business. Bret “The Hitman” Hart has written of these sad stories for years.

Jake “The Snake” Roberts was living the same life and well on his way to becoming a tragedy, too, before he got help from his friend Diamond “Dallas” Page, and got clean. That was the first part of this edition. Roberts came to Barrie, earlier this month. Why not take a moment and watch this movie?

*The Wrestler* had a limited release in late 2008, to film festivals around the world. It had its wide release early in 2009. The opening credits run with a pan over a montage of clippings of wrestling stories and cards from the mid-1980s right to 1989. The last thing said during the voiceover opening is a date, April 6, 1989. Then we get a caption which says “20 years later,” and we find the lead character, Randy “The Ram” Robinson, played by Mickey Rourke, in the first scene, coughing, alone, in the back room of some community centre, after a match.

Let me set the stage, to get you to watch this movie. I won’t tell the whole story, just the first part.

Randy gets paid, and is disappointed by how little he got. Dead tired, he goes home to the trailer park. He’s locked out for being late with the rent, and sleeps in his old van. He has a day job as a stock clerk at a grocery store. The manager is a contemptible prick, and Randy has to beg him for extra work. Even though the crowds are small, because Randy is working the local, independent circuit, the love the fans have for him didn’t get smaller. That is what keeps Randy going. That, and the money. It’s just enough, besides his day job, to keep him going to the next match. He’s trying to start a relationship with Cassidy, a stripper, played by Marisa Tomei, which is already a bad idea, and she herself, hates her job. Randy abandoned his only child, Stephanie, played by Evan Rachel Wood, from the day she was born. He’s carrying a lot of guilt for that. After a bloody, hardcore TLC (tables, ladders, chairs) match, he has a heart attack in the locker room. The doctor gives him a bypass. Randy is then told he has to

take it easy: no wrestling, and no intense exercise. He returns to the trailer park with the money he made from the match, pays his back rent and comes home, to his trailer, alone. He reaches out to his stripper, wannabe girlfriend, and she tells him to go reconcile with his daughter. Randy tries to, and his daughter, already hurt by being neglected for so long, at the 49 minute mark of the movie, tells him, “I don’t care if you had a heart attack. Fuck you!”

In an interview, Rourke said that Randy is “Living in a state of hopelessness, almost in shame.”

It is shot documentary style, with handheld cameras for much of the time. That makes this gritty story all the more realistic.

So, we find this man low at the start, and watch him sink and sink and sink, from there. What happens, next? I’m not telling you. I want you to go watch it. For free, too. Go to Google and do a search for: *The Wrestler* (2008)+youtube+no more updates for a while

It will be the top hit. The whole movie, with Asian subtitles.

There is some real life drama to the making of this movie. Rourke had messed up his own career, for the most part, for more than a decade, when he was offered the role of Randy, and the producers could not raise any money on Rourke’s name. For years before the movie, Rourke had been an on again, off again boxer, and when he walked to the ring, his music was Sweet Child O’ Mine by Guns N’ Roses. Axl Rose allowed the song to be used in the movie for no charge. Bruce Springsteen wrote and performed the theme song, *The Wrestler*, for no charge. He even made a video for it. Just himself, hanging around a wrestling ring in a rundown part of town. That’s a scene from the video with Springsteen on the opposite page.

Rourke won the 2009 Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama, for *The Wrestler*.

Now just go follow my directions and watch the movie for free on the internet.





**Bruce Springsteen, in his music video for The Wrestler, and with Chuck Berry at the Concert for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, 1995**

## The Wrestler

### Written and performed by Bruce Springsteen

Have you ever seen a one trick pony in the field so happy and free?  
If you've ever seen a one trick pony then you've seen me  
Have you ever seen a one-legged dog making his way down the street?  
If you've ever seen a one-legged dog then you've seen me

Then you've seen me, I come and stand at every door  
Then you've seen me, I always leave with less than I had before  
Then you've seen me, bet I can make you smile when the blood, it hits the floor  
Tell me, friend, can you ask for anything more?  
Tell me can you ask for anything more?

Have you ever seen a scarecrow filled with nothing but dust and wheat?  
If you've ever seen that scarecrow then you've seen me  
Have you ever seen a one-armed man punching at nothing but the breeze?  
If you've ever seen a one-armed man then you've seen me

Then you've seen me, I come and stand at every door  
Then you've seen me, I always leave with less than I had before  
Then you've seen me, bet I can make you smile when the blood, it hits the floor  
Tell me, friend, can you ask for anything more?  
Tell me can you ask for anything more?

These things that have comforted me, I drive away  
This place that is my home I cannot stay  
My only faith's in the broken bones and bruises I display

Have you ever seen a one-legged man trying to dance his way free?  
If you've ever seen a one-legged man then you've seen me



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