

THE BRANSON INSIDER™

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on a **MISSION**

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JERRY PRESLEY & ELVIS
JERRY'S ENCOUNTERS

Season 2023

WITH ELVIS,
THE COLONEL,
LISA MARIE,
PLUS
HIS TAKE ON
THE ELVIS
MOVIE! — P 12



He's **BACK!**

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ILLUSIONIST RICK THOMAS



"EPIC!"

— New York Times —
BROADWAY

Magically Reappearing Season 2023 at the

MANSION of DREAMS

"HERE, KITTY KITTY!"



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FREE TICKETS
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Stuff Happens

March/April

Veterans Observances and Events For a complete calendar of events contact the Branson Veterans Task Force (417) 337-8387 BransonVeterans.com

Branson's Jammin for Jesus First Sunday of each month. Charity event featuring a loaded showcard of Branson stars. Free with donation of canned good or paper goods. 2pm at The Branson Famous Theatre. For info: 417-336-5622.

Silver Dollar City Events Upcoming festivals at Branson's award-winning 1880s theme park: Voted one of America's Best Amusement Parks by USA Today 10 Best readers, Silver Dollar City also offers a special lineup of limited-time Spring entertainment, award-winning restaurants and so much more! silverdollarcity.com

■ **March 11-26 Spring Break!** Kick off the 2023 season by playing on over 40 thrilling rides & attractions!

■ **March 31-April 2 Young Christians Weekend** The ultimate Christian Youth Event! Concerts, Workshops & Speakers PLUS Rides! Concerts include **Manic Drive, We are Messengers, Cory Asbury, Riley Clemmons!**

■ **April 6-30 Street Fest** Unique and colorful entertainment takes to The City's streets and outdoor stages for a Spring celebration of fun! The fun-fest includes one-of-a-kind shops, crafts --and of course *Rides!* Live entertainment includes The Amazing Anastasini Circus, We Flip Entertainment, BOOM Brass Band, The New Acrobatic Show *Bloom*, The Living Garden, Award-winning Comedian Eric Haines and a whole host of circus performers, street musicians, and acclaimed entertainers from all genres!

■ **Upcoming Events at Silver Dollar City**

■ **May 4-29 Bluegrass & BBQ Festival**

■ **June 3 Special Summer Concert:** Michael W. Smith

■ **June 3-July 15 NEW Summer Celebration**

■ **July 15-30 NEW Summer Nights**

■ **August 7-13 Season Pass Appreciation**

■ **August 24-Sept 4 Southern Gospel Picnic**

Mar 24-26

16th Annual Branson Elvis Festival Festival Highlights: Live performances by the world's top Elvis Tribute Artists, Elvis Meet & Greet Dinner, Elvis Vendor Village, Youth Tribute Showcase, Festival Happy Hour, After Party, and of course **The Ultimate Elvis™ Tribute Artist Contest**. BransonElvisFestival.com 417-339-3003 at Legends in Concert (See page 10)

Mar 2, Apr 20

Homeschool Day at Fritz's Adventure American The value of this ticket is *amazing!* OVER 50% OFF! (Not available on any other tickets to Fritz's Adventure. 417-320-6138

Mar 10-June 16

Barn Dance at Hartwood Barn! Enjoy a little dance instruction of some Texas two-step, sing, line dancin' and more! All ages welcome! Kids Ages 2 & under: Free! At Sycamore Creek Family Ranch (417) 278-6675 sycamorecreekfamilyranch.com

Mar-Apr

Sip & Sea Sip and snack your way through Wonders of Wildlife! This unique 21+ after hours experience is designed for guests to enjoy the area's finest wineries, vineyards and foods surrounded by stunning aquarium views. At Wonders of Wildlife in Nearby Springfield, MO 888-222-6060

Mar 15-May 23

Ballparks of America Spring Tournaments

The ultimate baseball experience! For info: ballparksofamerica.com

Mar 15-18

MoNASP State Archery Tournament hosted by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, is the state's archery championship. Students from all across the state in grades 4-12 attend qualifying tournaments three months before the state tournament. At the Branson Convention Center For info: mochf.org/event/Missouri-national-archery-in-the-schools (800) 227-1488

Mar 22-25

AQS Quilt Week A Week of quilt classes, lectures and special events from the best names in quilting! Whether you're a beginner or advanced quilter, AQS has classes and techniques with you in mind! See the latest in quilting as you browse aisles of fabrics, machines, and quilting supply vendors in the AQS QuiltWeek Merchant Mall! Branson Convention Center (800) 626-5420

Apr 8

Doggie Easter Egg Hunt Join us at Stockstill Park for a fun-filled time for both dog and owner! Dogs will be hunting for fun treats in the park. When your pup touches an egg with its nose, into the basket it goes! Open eggs for treats and other prizes for your dog. Bring your camera and snap a picture with the Easter Bunny! 1:pm Info: 417-335-2368

Apr 14-16

KVD Big Bass Tour Kevin Van Dam Big Bass Classic Presented by Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and CVB \$150,000 Guaranteed prizes and payouts! Table Rock Lake Long Creek Marina, Ridgedale, MO (877) 958-8687 Info: bigbasstour.com/tournaments/2023/table-rock-lake-missouri

Apr 21-22

Branson Music Fest and Company at Clay Cooper Theatre A sampling of the best of Branson! (Over 20 acts!) Entertainers come together to give the performance of a lifetime! 417-332-2579 ♦

2023 Guest Star Dates!

Not only does Branson sport over 100 live shows of our own during the regular season—we're the "go to" place for guest stars! Here are guest stars booked so far for 2023!

Mar 13-15 —Praisefest Branson Spring Prelude

Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, Avalon, Legacy Five, Lynda Randle Geron Davis & Kindred Souls, Dr. Jack Graham, Greater Vision, Point of Grace, Joseph Habedank, Booth Brothers, Mark Lowry, Jason Crabb, Jim Cymbala, Hebron Road, The Erwins at The Mansion Theatre for the Performing Arts

Mar 15 —Choir on Fire Concert Sandi Patty, Booth Brothers, Greater Vision, Mark Lowry, Legacy Five, Hebron Road, Geron Davis & Kindred Souls, Taranda Greene, Legacy Five, Charles Billingsley, Booth Brothers, Babbie Mason, Phil Cross & Poet Voices, Greater Vision, Hebron Road at The Mansion Theatre

for the Performing Arts

Mar 16-18 —Praisefest Branson Spring Encore —Crabb Family, Booth Brothers, The Hoppers, Gordon Mote, Greater Vision, Triumphant, Tim Lovelace, Paid in Full, Legacy Five, The Kramers, The Guardians, Pastor Steve Gaines, Chuck Wagon Gang, The Sound at The Mansion Theatre for the Performing Arts

Mar 18 —The Collingsworth Family at The Mansion Theatre for the Performing Arts

Mar 31 —Manic Drive Silver Dollar City

Mar 31-Apr 1 —T. Graham Brown Nashville Roadhouse Thtr.

Mar -Apr —(Sel Dates) The Texas Tenors Mickey Gilley Grand Shanghai Thtr.

Apr 1 —Cory Asbury Silver Dollar City

Apr 1 —Riley Clemmons Silver Dollar City

Apr 2 —We are Messengers Silver Dollar City

Apr 14 —Confederate Railroad Nashville Roadhouse Thtr.

Stay tuned for more announcements by keeping up with THE BRANSON INSIDER on FACEBOOK!

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Irish Dance Stars
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Show of Shows!

If you haven't been here before—these pages should give you control of the choices you've got for some mighty good times!

But if you *have* been here before, yet not for awhile—like maybe not even since before winter—*can you believe what they've done with the place?*


Old things have either gone off into the sunset, gotten shiny new facelifts, or have been transforming into new stuff for fun! Not only that—a brand new crop of spectacular eye-poppers and jaw-droppers have already sprung up all over!

What we've got going on here is something like that foreign word from our history books that they taught us back in grade school—a *renaissance*, which translates about the same as that Bible notion “born again!”

But let's not panic. 'Tho much has changed—(for the better, we should add)—the main things many folks have always appreciated about this place remain alive and well today. What we speak of are the values celebrated here—be they celebrated on stage with music, song and dance, or expressed everywhere folks eat, shop, stay or play. Of course it's those Great American values of faith, family and flag that we're referring to here. At times like these, that's the breath of fresh air we all need—that extra boost not even the lovely surrounding mountains, lakes and outdoor fun can provide alone—but the boost that breathes extra life into it *all*!

To summarize—each one of us here have landed in a wonderful place to recharge our human batteries—a place that's provides a full buffet of excitement and fun, a setting for relaxation and rejuvenation—and even a heart-stirring boost of *inspiration*!

That all being said, browse these pages. Obviously, there's too much fun here to do all in one trip. You'll have to come back. But for now, just choose your fun, kick back—and *enjoy the show!* ♦

 /TheBransonInsider

That's the Spirit

Theo N. Cider

Local expert, part-time preacher.



Hope this Works

Well, I do believe the Good Lord has got a Good Word for us today.

There's hope.

But you knew that. It's why some of you get up Sunday mornings and go to church, even if the preacher there ain't any better than the one you get here. You go 'cause you got hope.

You hope somethin' the preacher says is gonna float yer boat and ring yer bell! You hope the songs to our Good Lord will undo your burdens and lift your spirits. You hope you feel better. You hope your prayers get answered.

Well, I got some hope too. I hope you pay some good attention to what The Good Lord has me say here. He's got a question for you. The question is this: Why?

Why do you got any hope in The Good Lord? Is it a hope that you'll make it to Heaven if you dot all yer I's and cross all yer t's? Is it a hope that He'll answer your prayers? Why do you got any hope in such nonsense? (Don't look at me like that. Nonsense is just another word for somethin' that don't make sense.)

Some of us got hope because we remember prayers that the Good Lord answered before.

Some of got hope 'cause we seen some mighty big doings that the Good Lord did.

But truth be told, hope takes a beating sometimes. Prayers not answered. Bad things happening.

So after goin' through the wringer of this old world and listen' to the bad news poundin' our heads comin' from every whichaway, what kind of fool must we be to still have hope? Do we get our hope by just believin' if we keep pluggin' away we'll get some kind of happy ending? Are we just supposed to believe in ourselves, or just believe for the sake of believing that things are gonna be all right “at the end of the day,” as they say?

I know. This sounds like I done fell off the deep end here. Now, I know for the most part I'm just preachin' to the choir and you think you got all the answers, but the Lord has one for you too and here it is. Why do you believe?

Here's another question He's askin'—Who is this Good Lord you believe in? And why Him? (Or *Her*, if you believe in Mother Nature!)

Let's go back to the beginning. The Word of the Lord (The Gospel) gets preached at you. The Word has power. The Creator of the Universe told us it is “spirit and life”. (John 6:63). He says that His Word became flesh and lived among us. (John 1:14) He says that He watches over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12).

He calls His Word a sword, which is a weapon. (Ephesians 6:17)

So here's what the Good Lord is hoping. He's hoping your hope is built on a good foundation. That foundation is faith.

But you knew that. You think.

But did you know that having faith in the Lord's Good Word is the true faith in the Good Lord? Faith is not only in *Who* He is. Faith is in *what He says!*

The Good Lord wants us to know His word, to meditate on it day and night. (Psalm 1:2) When we pray, we are to enter His gates with thanksgiving. (Psalm 100:4) When we offer our prayer needs, we should be thanking Him for the promises He has made in HIS WORD. Then we should be making a decision to BELIEVE His promises!

Let's not overdo that “if it be thy will” stuff. His Word plainly tells us what His will is. And let's not overdo that mamby pambly “just trust in the Lord” stuff. If we's really trustin' in the Lord, then we are trusting in His Word, for like He says back in John 1:14 and John 10:30, He and His Word are Who He is!

The Lord's Good Word is a gold mine of promises! Any of us with half a brain oughter stake our claims and go start diggin'!

When we're up against the wall, we gotta pray and *choose* to believe the Good Lord's promises instead of how things right now look, act or feel. Are you listenin' to me? We gotta *choose to believe!* That's our weapon! That's our sword! That's faith! The faith what moves mountains! (Mark 11:23-24)

Hope you get the point here. Wait. Nope. Not just hope. I've got faith that the Good Lord will get this through our hard heads and into our childlike hearts!

Amen. The whole Bible backs all this up, but here's just a little zinger to put a cherry on top. ♦

“And this is the victory that overcometh the world—even our faith.” —1 John 5:4

MAGIC'S GLOBAL MAESTRO! THE TOP FAMILY SHOW IN THE HISTORY OF VEGAS!



Magicians all over the world know it, so we'll just go ahead and say it here—**Illusionist Rick Thomas** is an absolute master of performing that art and craft we like to call magic!

What is most obvious to all, is Rick's absolutely unique way of combining his mind-blowing illusions with his brilliant performance of dance. Adding to that is his absolutely delightful comedy, his knack for having fun with his

audience—and his amazing gift to take his audience on a sweeping journey of heart-stirring, often breathtaking emotions—all which lead to a grand finale of pure inspiration!

After years of world travels and reigning as the top family show in the history of Las Vegas, **Master Illusionist Rick Thomas** premiered **Mansion of Dreams** at Branson's iconic

Andy Williams Moon River Theater. Having labored on Mansion of Dreams for over twenty-five years, it's appropriate that Rick calls the production his "show of a lifetime".

Audience reactions? Pretty much what one Las Vegas critic wrote:

"Wow. Wow! WOW!"

And that goes for kids, Moms and Dads, Grandmas and Grandpas, fans of magic, and even folks who, until this show, didn't give a hoot about magic! It's that spectacular!

NOW AT Mickey Gilley's New Shanghai Theatre.
(See page 21)

This season, the "wows" have exploded into *oohs, ahhs*—and no shortage of laughs! **Mansion of Dreams** is simply a masterpiece of entertainment, imagination—and pure joy! If you've seen this show before, know this: like Einstein's revelation about our universe—the magical wonders here are ever-expanding! They can be surprising, and even astounding, but they don't appear strictly like puzzles to solve. (Trying to figure out illusions can make brains hurt!) On the contrary, this show is just masterfully entertaining. Inspiring. Funny. Dreamlike. Beautiful. The typical audience comment: "Beyond our expectations."

The curtain opens. Immediately, things happen. Jaws drop. Reality is suspended. We are stupefied, as one unbelievable

event transforms into another at almost breakneck speed. Special effects are astounding. The music, the dancing and theatrics are spectacular. Rick is a world champion ballroom dancer, and it shows, especially when he takes the hand of the show's lead dancer; **international ballet star Tara**, his dancing (and marriage) partner. The performance is mesmerizing. Then, something happens that is downright shocking.

THE SHOCK!

The music stops. Rick breaks character. He grins. Turns around and looks at the stage, then shrugs, looking almost bewildered. "Wow," he says. "That was pretty cool."

We laugh. Then we see the other side of Rick. He's a fun guy. He makes us laugh. He's relaxed. He plays with our heads. He asks for willing volunteers. Every kid's hand goes up. They love this guy! The response is a kid chorus: "Me, me, pick *me!!!*"

Then it happens again—Rick the spectacular illusionist reappears, complete with mind-bending illusions, the music, the dancers, the theatrics. Once again, jaws drop, reality blurs, sometimes becoming surreal, sometimes dreamlike, sometimes funny, sometimes eye-popping, astounding—and other times just absolutely beautiful.

We are told by those who know that there is nothing like Mansion of Dreams—not here, not in Vegas, not anywhere else in this world. We believe it, for not only are we being entertained by one of the world's most celebrated magicians of our lifetime—many of us may discover, upon leaving The Mansion of Dreams, something else. Due to the show's theme, and to things said and performed for our entertainment, long-forgotten dreams of the heart can very well be awakened anew—almost as if by magic. ♦

About Rick Thomas

Awarded Magician of the World!
World Magic Award

Headlined in Las Vegas for 15 years!
Tropicana, Bally's, Planet Hollywood, Mandalay Bay, Mirage, Bellagio, Orleans, SunCoast, Sahara, Stardust!

5 World Tours in over 50 countries!
5 Continents!

2-Time Branson
Entertainer of the Year!

Awarded Stage Magician of the Year!
Entertainer of the Year!

As Seen on TV!
ABC, CBS, NBC, Discovery Channel, MTV, Animal Planet, Hallmark, History Channel and many more!

About Tara

Rick's wife and leading lady! Lead Dancer, Mansion of Dreams!
Raised in the country of Zimbabwe, Tara has been trained in ballet since the age of 5, earning her the prestigious honor of being Senior Member of the National Ballet and Tambuka Dance Company. She has performed in numerous national productions of classical ballet, including *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Copelia*. Tara has also received her Advanced

Acrobatics Teachers Certificate with Honors with Distinction. She attended Northern Ballet School in the United Kingdom, graduating again with Distinction. Her dancing career took her to stages and cruise ships around the world before appearing in Rick's Vegas production as Dance Company Director, featured soloist and Lead Magical Assistant. Before long, Tara became Mrs. Rick Thomas, and later, Mom of the magical couple's son Preston!

FROM ZIMBABWE—



Tara, world renown star of dance—plus Mom to the magical couple's son Preston!

INSIDER



"Epic!"
New York Times

"Stunning!"
LA Times

"Fabulous Entertainment for the Entire Family"
Chicago Tribune

STARS ON A MISSION

Going on a trip to Mexico to help provide wheelchairs for paraplegic children was certainly something **Brandon and Megan Mabe** were looking forward to, but for these two stars of **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Show**, the timing couldn't have been worse.

It was only a matter of a few weeks, if not days, that Branson's 2023 show season was about to kick off—and for the Mabes, that involved “to-do” lists that could stretch for miles! There were costumes to deal with, lighting issues, rehearsals that needed to be scheduled, new songs and comedy bits to work on—all creating mountains of details that could cause stress levels to reach near volcanic proportions!

But commitments had been made and this star duo was not going to back out. Even so, during the long flight to Mexico, Megan was hard at work on the Internet frantically shopping to fulfill costuming demands, while beside her, Brandon was pounding the keys of his own laptop as he worked on the show and tried to manage The Branson Famous Theatre. But little did these stars know, all those things were about to change; for upon their arrival in Mexico they would be fast swept into a whole new world. Costumes, the show, the theater—none of that would ever be so much as mentioned or even thought much about for the next several days, for this was truly another world.

Another World

At first it didn't seem like another world, for arriving in Mexico's beautiful city of Cabo San Lucas at the Southern tip of the country's Baja peninsula was not unfamiliar territory to Branson's star couple. They had vacationed here before during their show's short off-season and had loved this resort town located between the Pacific Ocean and Mexico's Gulf of California. But that was vacation and this trip was different, for it involved a second trip involving a drive of over two hours to reach the state capital of La Paz, where their adventure would begin



Missionaries Brandon and Megan Mabe, stars of Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Show.

"It was life changing!"

in a former school, which now had become an outreach for the Mexican state's paralyzed children.

At this location, charitable outreaches converged. Charities **Mobilize Mankind** teamed up with **Hope Haven** and **Branson Cares** to provide wheelchairs here, although the wheelchairs needed to be assembled and customized to fit each individual child.

Life Changing

Branson visitors this season will take note of the fund raising displays of **Branson Cares** and their program's partner **Hope Haven**, which are appearing in several of the town's theater lobbies. The charity raises money to provide wheelchairs for paraplegic children throughout the world. **Branson Cares** was organized by Branson Entertainer **Bob Nichols**, the founder and director of **BAAM (Branson Academy for the Advancement of Music and Theater)**, whose board of directors include Brandon. “Branson Cares is a great program,” Brandon tells *The Insider*. “It really does reach out. A lot of people don't realize there's such a strong need for these wheelchairs all over the world. But this trip really opened our eyes to how important this cause really is. We just thought we'd go, help put together these wheelchairs and distribute them to kids in need. But it turned out to be more than we ever thought it would be. It actually became an experience that I'd have to say, for me, was life changing.”

A MISSIONARY JOURNEY TO BRING WHEELCHAIRS TO MEXICO!

The Wheelchair Ministry

Says Brandon, “I thought you just put together a wheelchair and gave it to the child. But it has to be fitted to their bodies. You have to work with them. It's a whole process.”

literally carrying them everywhere they go.”

“Obviously, these wheelchairs benefit the child,” says Megan. “There's no cost, and it's life-changing. You take a child who has never sat up in their life, and suddenly, *they're sitting up!* Imagine what a different view of the world a child can get just by something as simple as a chair. But then it changes a parent's life too because suddenly, they have a way to move the child, to take the child outside. Now, the child may get to go to school. Now the parent can put the child in the chair, go cook dinner and know the child is safe and secure—or they can even bring the child in the kitchen while they're cooking. It's really life changing, and it all happens



Brandon gives it the “elbow grease”.

The process began by assigning parties of two to assemble each wheelchair; one of those twosome's obviously being Brandon and Megan. “I'm mediocre handy,” Brandon confesses.

“I'm not handy at all,” Megan adds. “But I improved.”

“She did great,” says Brandon. “What we ended up doing, I would build the frame, she'd build the seat, we'd assemble it together, then we'd work together until we'd get it to be a fit for one of the children.”

One of those children was a young boy named Ignacio. “He had these big, brown eyes,” Brandon tells us. “They were just attached to Megan the entire time. We walked in there and some of these kids are just laying on a table, basically stuck in a certain position all tied up.”

Says Megan, “I thought his limbs were immovable just because he'd never had a wheelchair, but I learned that when the child lays in these positions for so long immobility becomes permanent. A wheelchair can't change that, but it can keep it from getting worse.”



Photos by Todd Scroggins, Indianapolis, Indiana

with something as simple as a chair with two wheels. You just don't realize what an impact that can make.”

Says Brandon, “We heard of one family who was finally able to go to an outside barbecue without holding their child the

entire time. Being there without the family holding them made the child feel more part of the family, more included in what they did. The parents said they finally felt they had more freedom to mingle and communicate with others. So it's not just a healing for the kids, it's a healing for the parents too. A healing for the whole family."

No Words

For these Americanos, there was obviously a language barrier when trying to



Brandon gets a head rub from a happy new wheelchair owner.

adjust one boy's wheelchair for him and all of a sudden he starts rubbing the top of my head."

"He really liked Brandon," says Megan.

"Of course my head was shaved more bald in Mexico, but he just kept rubbing my head, rubbing my head, and while I was working I just said as I was laughing, 'you just rub as long as you want'—so he just kept doin' it, doin' it. Then lo and behold the little kid bends down and starts kissing me on the head! I think there was a level of appreciation, again, that these children were communicating to us because they're happy. They feel like they suddenly have that ability to be mobile. We're helping that. They're acknowledging that. And they're thankful for that. Megan had a spiritual connection with Ignacio through eye contact—I had one by a kid rubbin' and kissin' my head!"

Beyond our Imagination

"It makes you realize how little you're actually doing, says Megan, "and how much more you *could* do! It helps to see how good we have it. You see this tremendous need and you see these people from these organizations who are giving so much of themselves freely, expecting nothing in return, and you realize, *I can do more!* And I feel ignorant. I went on this trip assuming there can't be that many children who need wheelchairs in Mexico—but the fact is there are hundreds and thousands of kids who need these things and there

are people who are willing to dedicate their lives to meeting those needs! We met a couple who used to help raise money for children with pediatric cancer and heart disease. They told us how people are so willing to give hundreds and thousands of dollars for those causes, but when raising money for wheelchairs, it's different. Donations



Ignacio's eyes say it all.

are small, usually coming in the form of \$5 or \$10 dollar bills. The reason being that most people think, *well, it's just a wheelchair. It can't be that big of a deal.* They don't realize the impact a wheelchair has, myself included, until I saw it with my own eyes! I discovered that wheelchairs are just as big of a need as helping with cancer or heart disease. These kids can't move, they can't live life, they can't go to school—their parents can't live normal lives—"

Painting a Picture

Brandon does that by chiming in; (which *The Branson Insider* allows), "Imagine your kids growing up like that and you had no way to afford it, no way to get the resources you would need to put them in a wheelchair and get them mobile—and you had to witness your child going through that without knowing what to do. And they're just laying on the couch all day long. All they can do is just look around the room with nothing else to do. The impact of having the ability to be mobile is life-changing. We got to witness that on a very small level."

"I have four kids. You couldn't help but put yourself in their shoes for a second, thinking, *oh my goodness, how blessed am I that I have four children who can run, play, communicate—without the need of that wheelchair!* And these kids just want to have a wheelchair! I mean, the pain that they must be in, laying in those positions all the time! A wheelchair gives them the support they need to hopefully eliminate or at

least limit the intensity of that pain. It gives them comfort. So you're helping these people on just so many levels! They don't have the medical care we have here. So the things we complain about here are starting to feel unreal to me. This experience has been a reality check for us in a lot of ways.

The Challenge

Megan quickly seconds that emotion. "I just feel like I will never look at a wheelchair the same again. These kids don't have the access to wheelchairs like we do

back home. Some of these kids get discarded. They're forgotten about. We learned that some parents abandon their child because they just don't have the means to provide care. There is no family member that can help. Some of these special needs children are no longer even seen as a person;



Ignacio begins to get fitted into his new chair.



Then comes his first "joy ride;" a joy visibly shared.

interact with the local parents and children. "You would try to make connections with these parents and children," Brandon relates. "But there was of course a communications gap. We don't know how to speak Spanish very fluently at all. We can understand words, short phrases, but we couldn't speak enough to have a conversation with them, so you communicated more with body language, with hand singles or whatever. Not to get overly sentimental or cliché, but it was more of a spiritual connection we were having with these kids and families. Not much verbal communication was going to happen."

Megan chimed in, revealing more about the child Ignacio. "It was like we were having a conversation just by looking at each other's eyes! In his eyes you could see his appreciation, his excitement about just having this whole new world in front of him. Yes, we were having an unspoken conversation, but it was far deeper of a conversation than any normal one with words. It was like perceiving that you were changing this person's life and you could see their appreciation coming back to you. And you knew the parents were appreciating you whether you could understand what they were saying or not." "But they would tear up," says Brandon. "Or they would be laughing with us. You know there was one time I was bending down to

someone with a future. All because they don't have something as simple as a chair with two wheels on it. But we can do more. We don't know how little we understand the needs of others until those needs are right in our faces, so yeah, I realize now that I'm not doing nearly enough. I sometimes take things for granted. All these kids want is something with two wheels and a seatbelt. I believe God gives you experiences like this at times you need them most. They can remind you of your own blessings. That's what they did for us."

continued on page 33.

1959-2023 BRANSON'S FIRST SHOW:

**TOPS itself
YET AGAIN!**

BRANSON'S FAMOUS BALDKNOBBERS

Every season, Branson's prestigious awards shows prove what we've been saying all along—the legendary, (and even historic) **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Show** has been topping itself every season since away back yonder in 1959—but wait, that's not the part that makes history every year!

The fact that a live show performing to audiences almost every night, almost every month, almost every year for an unprecedented **sixty three years** is an accomplishment that in the world of show business is absolutely, positively and historically—well, like we've already said—it's unprecedented! Not even the legendary Sons of the Pioneers, nor The Rockettes of New York's Radio City Music Hall have kept up with The Baldknobbers schedule, even though they too have endured for decades!

Now we begin to understand why Branson's Famous Baldknobbers were enshrined in

an historic display at **The Smithsonian Museum**, the keeper of our national treasures in Washington, DC! (Those treasures include The Wright Brothers' first aeroplane, Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis*, George Washington's uniform and Dorothy's ruby slippers from *The Wizard of Oz*, to name a few!)

THE SECRET TO THEIR SUCCESS

Here it is in a nutshell folks: their showbiz ethic since Day 1 has been to top themselves in every performance. In other words, to make today's show better than yesterday's. Here's number 2, (looks like we oughta number these.) The show changes with the times and stays current, yet it also "dances with the one who brung ya." Translation: a blend of the



Award-winning singing stars: 3rd Generation Baldknobber Brandon Mabe and Brandon's lovely wife and leading lady Megan!

WARNING!

Award-winning comedy star Jerl "Hargus" Adams is up to something. Actually, he's up to plenty. That there's your warning.

old, the new, comedy both current and timeless—and a celebration of the values which are the bedrock of these Ozarks—faith, family

and flag—values which laid the foundation for every Branson show to follow—and for every Branson visitor to experience.

THE 2023 PRODUCTION

Step inside the completely revamped and remodeled theater lobby. That should tell you something.

Now for the show. Heading up the show is **Brandon Mabe**, son and grandson of the family that "started it all". At Brandon's side is his lovely wife, leading lady, and **Branson's 2021 Female Vocalist of the Year Megan Mabe!**

Backing up this dynamic duo is a posse of multi-award-winning musicians and vocalists, plus a bona fide comedy legend! Topping it all off is the show's huge new production enhancements of sound, lights and whiz-bang special effects!

Expect top country hits, (including some of that "outlaw country" with "attitude"), traditional country favorites, southern rock, soft rock, old time rock n' roll, bluegrass, gospel, patriotic salutes, hilarious side-splitting comedy and more—the "more" being about the hottest musicians, vocalists and country comedy in this particular galaxy!

THE TAKE-AWAY

It's unheard of for a show to stay popular for over 60 years. That is an historical fact. But this isn't just a show with a history. Whenever the curtain rises, this show aims to **make history!** ♦

Legendary Gospel tenor Dan Keeton brings "rock-the-house" Gospel to The Baldknobbers stage! Honored as The Branson Show Awards' **2019 Male Vocalist of the Year**—the traditional Gospel segment of the Baldknobbers show just couldn't get no better!

Gospel Hall of Famer!



Ashley Dawn!

Gospel singer, Nashville recording artist & star vocalist with the MO Natl Guard's 135th Army Band!



From Nashville: a heart-stealing voice of Country and Gospel!

Shane!



**2021
Terry
Awards**

And The Awards go to...

**MORE
BALDKNOBBER
STARS!**

The 2022 Branson Terry Music Awards
2022 FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR!

Ashley Dawn Stanton!

Branson's Famous Baldknobbers!

2022 LEAD GUITAR PLAYER OF THE YEAR!

Grant Moody!

Branson's Famous Baldknobbers!

**2021 Female Vocalist
of the Year
Megan Mabe,
Branson's
Famous Baldknobbers!**

DAD!

NATHAN!

Steel Player of the Year Greg Moody, Branson's Famous Baldknobbers—seen here receiving his award from multi-award winning Baldknobbers's lead guitarist Grant Moody. (Greg's son!)

Fiddle Player of the Year Nathan Agdeppa, (right) Branson's Famous Baldknobbers! (Presented by fellow fiddler Wayne Massengale, of Grand Country.)

THE VINTAGE BALDKNOBBERS SHOW

WOW! Original songs, Christmas music, comedy and even COSTUMES and SETS from vintage versions of Branson's first show—all the way from the 60s,70s thru the 90s! We're talkin' sequins, shoulder pads, fringe—the works! Plus of course, the country classics and funny business that sparked the Branson explosion that turned our small Ozarks village into the Showtown we see today!

Here's our big chance to experience the spark that blew up into a national and even international sensation! For The Baldknobbers cast, this show is the joy of their lives. "I grew up with this show," says Brandon Mabe, fourth generation member of the family that "started it all". "This is a tribute to my family. I'm doing two songs from my late Uncle **Dennis (Mabe)** who I adored growing up. Everything in this show is a tribute to all those who came before us. It's what helped shape us to



who and what we are. It's our attempt to pay respects to that. It's what started everything we see in Branson today."

Says Megan, Branson's wife and co-star, "I'm going to sing two Dolly Parton songs—two

which **Joy Bilyeu** sang back in the day. I would be far more nervous singing those two songs in front of Joy than if I had to sing in front of Dolly! Even though Dolly is an idol, those people like Baldknobbers stars **Joy, Dennis, Gene Dove, Bob Leftridge** and all the rest—those folks are **our** idols.

'Our passion is to carry on what was handed down to us. The history, how it evolved—for us it's paying tribute and honoring all the Baldknobbers performers who came before us. Even though we weren't there in 1959 or 1989, we want to make sure people see how special it is, as we help carry it on and hopefully hand it to someone else to carry on further.' ♦



My Voice

by Megan McCombs Mabe

Star of Branson's Famous Baldknobbers and TV's Branson Famous!

The Experience of a Lifetime

Life is essentially a continuous merry-go-round of experiences. Some we circle back to often—the mundane; the everyday. Expected and predictable, these experiences can become a blur in the spin. Some however, leave an imprint that transcends the constant motion. They can have you wishing you could jump off the merry-go-round and dig your feet in, forcing it to stop so you can truly take in the beauty.

A few weeks ago, I had one of those experiences, and it was magical.

My husband and I had the opportunity to travel to La Paz, Mexico with Branson's Music and Theater Industry Organization—BAAMT— (Branson Academy for the Advancement of Music and Theatre) and a program called Branson Cares. Partnered with Hope Haven International Ministries, Branson Cares provides pediatric wheelchairs for children in need of mobility around the world. Brandon and I had the unique privilege to help in the building and distributing of these wheelchairs. That statement sounds very simple, but there was nothing simple about our experience.

When I found out we would be traveling to Mexico for this cause, I really had no idea what to expect. I assumed it would be a rewarding experience. I assumed I would meet special children and receive some sort of blessed fulfillment. I was not prepared, however, for the spiritual experience that was to come. In one week, I witnessed more about the human capacity to love and accept love than I have witnessed in my life's entirety.

The children we met were non-verbal. They did not have the ability to communicate, but the conversations we had were deeper than any spoken conversation. These children were able to speak with their eyes in a way that was truly angelic. I could see the love and the thankfulness each one felt as we fitted his or her chair. We were able to watch as some of these children sat in an upright position for the very first time. They could suddenly see the world through a "normal" lens—something we take for granted. No longer forgotten, they were now truly a present person. Something as

simple as a seat with two wheels changed a life in minutes.

It changed mine forever.

The highlight of my experience was having the opportunity to work with a young boy named Egnacio. He was unable to move or communicate. His father has carried him everywhere his entire life. When he was placed on the examination table, I realized how fragile and weak his small body had become from living a life without the mobilizing benefits of a wheelchair. His arms were permanently stuck in positions that seemed unbearable. He was so innocent. Asking for nothing, but needing so much.

When we positioned Egnacio in his chair for the first time, he looked eyes with me. I am not embarrassed to say it was a spiritual experience. It was a God thing. This child trusted me—a complete stranger—to buckle his seat belt, lift his head and position his arms. He, along with his family, allowed me into the most private and sacred parts of his world. I received a glimpse of his life, of his struggles, and of the faith he and his family share. I know nothing about disabilities or the proper handling and positioning of a disabled child. Yet, I was met only with thankful and loving eyes.

What a gift he gave me.

The moment Egnacio was upright in that chair, he was no longer fragile. He was no longer weak. He was a little boy who finally had the opportunity to live and see the world. The opportunity to be seen as more than a disability. His eyes expressed an appreciation beyond thanks. His eyes expressed a peace that only God's love can provide.

An angel perhaps?

God may tell me someday. ✿



2023: A LEGENDARY SEASON OF SUPERSTARS!



Legends in Concert's Stars of Spring: (L. to R.) Michael Jackson, Willie Nelson, Pat Benatar, The Blues Brothers, and (of course) Elvis!

Produced in Las Vegas, **Legends in Concert** is a dazzling extravaganza of the world's top tribute artists—all appearing live on stage at the iconic **Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre** right in the heart of the Branson strip! (W. Hwy 76, Country Music Blvd!) **Refer to ad on page 19**

Backing up these superstar legends is a smokin' live band of all-star musicians and a stellar cast of backup singers and amazing dancers!

During evening performances, guests can add to the fun by opting for dinner and cocktails. Now *that's* entertainment!

Legendary Eats!

Concession include such goodies as Johnsonville Brats, Chili-Cheese Dogs, Ham & Turkey Croissants, Fresh-out-of-the-oven Gourmet Cookies and Chocolate Covered Bananas! Mmmm!

Upstairs Lounge!

Enjoy craft beers, champagne and a variety of fine wines, (before the show or during intermission)—all in a relaxing lounge decorated with Dick Clark's priceless memorabilia. Guests can also choose the VIP balcony, where drinks can be served during the show!

live on Stage!

much that guy. To think of Willie is to think of country, outlaw country, and all kinds of music in-between, (pop, blues and even Jazz included!) Among his many memorable hits—***Crazy, Hello Walls, On the Road Again, To All the Girls I've Loved Before, Pancho & Lefty, Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain, Always on My Mind***—all of it being music, and a voice has transcended the generations.

THE BLUES BROTHERS!

Of course back by eternally popular demand are those furiously dancing and soulfully singing hipsters from Chicago—the fabulous **Blues Brothers!** Honestly, who can resist getting goosebumps at seeing the almost rubber-like moves this dancing duo channels while singing their signature hits: ***Soul Mon, Sweet Home Chicago, Rawhide*** and ***Gimmie Some Lovin'***!

ELVIS!

Ladies and gentlemen—friends...live on stage, here he is, the One and Only... (a drum-roll) The King himself...and folks, you can feel it, that showbiz earthquake the moment this recreated performance of The Legend of Legends hits the stage! Yes it's Elvis himself, not just some of Elvis, but glimpses of all of Elvis—Elvis from the 50s, from the movies, from Vegas—all leading up to the *ultimate* Elvis—from ***Dixie, The Battle Hymn of the Republic*** to Gospel and beyond—it's all here. And for the grand finale, we can *almost* guarantee, Elvis will thank you, *thank you very much!* ♦

MICHAEL JACKSON!

Good News: Due to popular demand—he's *ba-a-ck!* Honestly, who among us can resist exploding into gasps of *ooohhs!* and *ahhhhs!* as once again we behold the Moon-walking King of Pop take a leisurely stroll forward to the beat of the music, only to defy the laws of physics by simultaneously sliding *backward* across our entire field of vision! Not to be missed is this riveting performance recreating the music and dance of one of the most amazing entertainers of our lifetimes! His music has never left us, When it comes to ***Billie Jean, Beat it, Black or White, Man in the Mirror, We are the World*** and so many more, even today, we can feel it. And yet witnessing it all performed live on stage, in person (even in a phenomenal performance of ***Thriller***)—we can more than feel it—we can experience up close and personal, the performance of a lifetime.

PAT BENATAR!

The powerhouse female vocalist who burst upon the scene to dominate the 80's and beyond has finally, (as of November 22, 2022) gained her long-awaited entrance into **The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame**—and for good reason! Her Rock, Hard Rock and Pop Rock classics became one of the top female voices of her generation. From ***Heartbreaker*** and ***We Live for Love to Fire and Ice*** and ***Hit Me With Your Best Shot***, from her spandex outfits and hard-edged performances to her status as an International Superstar—lady rocker Pat Benatar literally channeled the emotions of an era.

WILLIE NELSON

If ever there was an adored entertainer who literally sailed through a wide landscape of musical genres—country, (and crossover) singer **Willie Nelson** has been pretty



SUNDAYS, Thru Oct 29: 3:00 pm featuring tributes to a rotating cast of country stars—**JOHNNY CASH, PATSY CLINE, GARTH BROOKS, KENNY CHESNEY, MARTINA MCBRIDE, BROOKS & DUNN, THE JUDDS & MORE!** ♦

BRANSON ELVIS Festival

March 24 – 26, 2023

Festival Highlights:

Live performances by the world's top Elvis Tribute Artists, Elvis Meet & Greet Dinner, Elvis Vendor Village, Youth Tribute Showcase, Festival Happy Hour, After Party, and of course **The Ultimate Elvis™ Tribute Artist Contest!**

BransonElvisFestival.com
417-339-3003

More Stars coming throughout 2023!
Keep up at
LegendsInConcert.com/Branson

International Stars, World Class Entertainment Behold! It's all at THE CASTLE



Scenes from Anthems of Rock

THE COURT OF KING'S CASTLE

The amazing singers and dancers of King's Castle are chosen and summoned from such faraway places as England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland and (can you believe it?) even Arkansas! Real all about them at KingsCastleTheatre.com!

SMASH HIT ROCKS BRANSON!

Kicking off its fourth blockbuster season, Branson's unique rock extravaganza is definitely on a roll! "It's the biggest rock party in Branson", says Jacqui Bell, *King's Castle Theatre* General Manager and Resident Director. "If you are a fan of rock and roll, this is the show you cannot miss!"

Truer words have never been spoken! Fans of every age seem to be ready to rock, for everybody from youngsters to grandfolks are packing out this rockfest of amazing music and explosive dancing! The show features a stellar international cast along with on-target costuming and state of the art sound, lighting and special affects. "We have some new cast members this year," says Jacqui, "and I believe it's proving to be the strongest team we've had. We'll have you dancing and

singing along to the greatest hits of all time. But we have one question; Branson, are you ready to rock?"



Well, let's drop some names and guess how long it will take to answer Jacqui's question and rock along with this world class entourage of singers, dancers and musicians! How about *Queen*, *The Beatles*, *The Rolling Stones*, *Bon Jovi*, *Led Zeppelin*, *Journey*, *Elton John*, *Aerosmith* or *Bohemian Rhapsody*!

Our conclusion: **ROCK ON!**



Dig out your bellbottoms and put on your dancing shoes: *The Ultimate 70's Show* returned from Las Vegas to the King's Castle Theatre. Celebrating the Classic #1 Hits of the 70's, this high octane music fest stars The Castle's international troupe of singers and dancers performing those eternal 70's sounds! Here, we get to groove to disco classics like *Y.M.C.A.*, *"Disco Inferno"*, *Pay That Funky Music*, *Waterloo*, *We Are Family*, *Superstition*, and wow--can you feel it? The Ultimate 70's Show is a show-topping psychedelic kaleidoscope of singing, dancing and spectacular costumes that gets multitudes singing along and even dancing in the aisles! Get ready to get your groove on at the biggest 70's party ever!



Celebrating its 9th blockbuster season in Branson! A Broadway hit ad and award-winning movie (*Jersey Boys*) introduced new generations to the group that stole the hearts of nearly all who came of age in the 1950s and '60s! Backed up by incredible production numbers. The legendary crooners bring us *Sherry*, *Rag Doll*, *Big Girls Don't Cry*, *Can't Take My Eyes Off of You*, *Walk Like a Man* and so much more.

The sounds of Irish tenors singing harmony taps into a level of musical beauty that is dreamlike. It's no wonder this show has become one of the most popular in Branson -- and we haven't even mentioned the Celtic Ladies yet! While The Tenors are dreamlike, we describe the voices of these Celtic Ladies as nothing less than heavenly! If you loved *Riverdance*, you will love this masterpiece of angelic voices and the breathtaking IrishDance Stars from the award-winning show *Spirit of the Dance*.



Your Key to the Castle

1

SEE ONE SHOW
AT REGULAR PRICE

2

SEE 2nd SHOW
\$15 OFF

3

SEE 3rd SHOW
\$20 OFF

4

SEE 4th SHOW
\$25 OFF

JERRY PRESLEY AND ELVIS!

**JERRY'S ENCOUNTERS WITH ELVIS, THE COLONEL & LISA MARIE
PLUS JERRY'S TAKE ON THE ELVIS MOVIE!**

OK, the Elvis movie came out last year and has already been sweeping the awards—which The Branson Insider officially predicts will continue to happen throughout Hollywood's 2023 Awards season. The movie was awesome. (That's our official review.) We won't bother you with details about why it's so full of awesomeness, just take our word for it, take friends and family and go see it for yourselves. Trust us, no matter how old the kids (or you) are, everybody's gonna love it.

But this season when new generations are waking up to the historic awesomeness of Elvis Presley's life and career, shouldn't we hear from someone who not only is an Elvis tribute artist right here in Branson—**Elvis cousin Jerry Presley** actually *met Elvis, Lisa Marie* and *"The Colonel"* several times, hung out with Elvis, received gifts and mementos from Elvis, and oh, what are we doing here? Just go ahead and read our interview with Jerry, where we get his reactions about the movie, The Colonel, and the recent tragic and untimely passing of

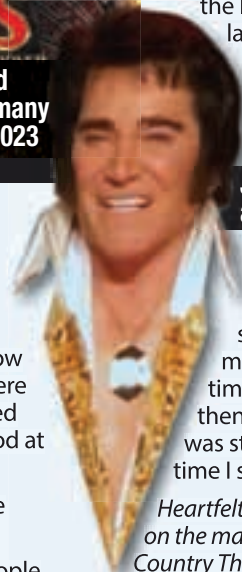


Elvis's daughter Lisa Marie.

Then go see Jerry's show. Even if you saw the movie, trust us, you would really be missing out if you didn't go see Jerry's recreated Elvis performance live and in person! (Read all about that on page 12)



A movie poster from last year's award winning Elvis movie, which is up for many more accolades during Hollywood's 2023 Awards Season.



Jerry Presley, as Elvis.

elevator with him and had some sort of short conversation.

Us: Did he know who you were?

Jerry: Probably not. I would always introduce myself to him. I didn't expect those people to know me or remember me like I was there every day. He wasn't very well liked by a lot of people, but he was good at his job. He was a promoter.

Us: And he promoted Elvis to the stratosphere.

Jerry: Well, yeah but a lot of people wonder, what if Elvis would have made it anyway? Who knows? We don't know. Elvis had the talent and the looks, but that style of talent and looks was unheard of. The Colonel was making 50% of what Elvis made. Nobody makes 50% percent. Nobody. But Elvis always stayed true to his word. Actually, the Colonel was making more than 50%. He owned a company that made all the Elvis memorabilia stuff, so he was getting all that. He gave a percentage to Elvis but he was making more than Elvis. They say that when it all boiled down, because of his marketing materials and stuff the **Colonel was making 67% of** what Elvis was making!

Us: What did he do with all that money?

Jerry: He gambled it away. So he died broke. H probably did a lot to make Vegas flourish.

Us: The earth shook when Elvis's daughter Lisa Marie Presley passed away recently. Did you ever meet her?

Jerry: Oh yeah. Well, the only thing I can say is the last time I saw her—I think it was around 2017, we were in Memphis and we were having this event. I can't remember what it was called, but Lisa was there and a lot of dignitaries like the actor **Morgan Freeman**. I got to talking with him. We talked for about a half hour. What amazed me was the way this guy was. When you saw him and his personality in the movies, *that* was Morgan Freeman! He acted and talked just like that in real life! That was just *him*! He was just a great person to talk to. Very interesting.

So anyway, after the event was over we walked outside. I was standing there and talking to some folks. About that time, Lisa was comin' out—so we said *"Hi"* to her, shook hands and stuff, then I went toward this door to go back into the building. I was waiting for the lady I was with, so I'm standing there and the lady who was with me was talking and having a conversation with somebody. I saw Lisa get into her suburban, then while I'm standing there, I see her roll down the window. Then I see she just stares at me. I couldn't really see her very well—I didn't know if she was pointing at me, or telling me to come in or what. About that time, she waved *"Bye"* at me and then drove off. I don't know why she was staring at me. But that was the last time I saw her.

Heartfelt tributes to Lisa Marie appeared on the marquee of Jerry Presley's God and Country Theater throughout the week she left us, which was all too soon. Elvis's love for God and his family was known by all who knew Him. As for their heavenly family reunion—we can only imagine.

For more about Jerry and his Branson show, see page 16. ♦



OUR INTERVIEW WITH JERRY

Us: ("Us" meaning us at The Branson Insider) Whadja think about the Elvis movie, Jerry?

Jerry: I thought the movie was really well done. The actors in it were good. One part I did like is that it showed the true colors of The Colonel—the kind of person he was. There were some things left out of the movie that could have been put in, but overall, I think the kid did a great job doing the Elvis part. But I couldn't understand why they had **Tom Hanks** talking like he did with that accent because The Colonel didn't talk like that.

Us: He didn't have a Dutch accent?

Jerry: No. But he was just a gruff, old, mean guy.

Us: Did you ever see him?

Jerry: Oh yeah. In fact, back in 1971 he sent me a "Cease and Desist" letter. The letter said, *"If we find you trying to make it off the name of Presley, we will bring legal*

action against you!" So, I was just a kid, scared to death! I was only 21. But I got to thinking about it, so I went to an attorney and asked him, *Can he do that?* He said, "Son, what's your last name?" I said "Presley." "Well then," he says to me, "Watcha got to worry about? He can't sue you for usin' *your own* name, can he?" No sir, I don't guess he can. You tell me. "No, he said. He can't. You're good." Since then I never quit performing Elvis.

Us: Did you ever tell Elvis about that?

Jerry: Yes. Absolutely.

Us: What did Elvis say?

Jerry: Oh, he had a comment—maybe something like *'oh, you know, the old codger.'* But yeah, that happened. I was out at Las Vegas one time. As I was walking along I hear this gruff old man yelling *"Get out of the way, I'm comin' through!"* It was the Colonel. He was in his wheelchair going through the crowd—just mean, bumpin into people, hollerin' at 'em. That was the Colonel. He wasn't a nice guy. I got on the



2 REVOLUTIONARY PRODUCTIONS!

**"Liberty or Death!"
--Patrick Henry**

Firebrand reenactor Rick Hinton.

before-seen production this Season 2023 at **The Freedom Encounter Theatre!** Briefly described, The Freedom Journey Show is a combination of live music, story-telling, laughs, and multi-media. But folks, that's not all! Appearing live, on stage and in person—are thrilling performances by legendary patriots **Patrick Henry**, **Benjamin Franklin**, and more!

EXPERIENCE NUMBER 2

Premiering this Season 2023 is yet *another* riveting production: this one being called **The Freedom Journey Experience!** This all takes place in an area soon to be visible while entering the grand, (and *inspiring*) theater lobby, where all eyes will immediately see a new one-room schoolhouse, the scene of a colonial church and a smaller theater. Here, a new show will include interactive experiences and living history performers in person. **Scheduled to open June 1**, this shorter production will be performed during the day and can even be scheduled for groups. (Both shows can be purchased in a discounted combo ticket).

And the surprises keep on comin'! Already there are **refreshments**, an amazing **gift shop**, and a stunning gallery of original art, including works by **world renown patriot artist Jack Dawson!**



Continental soldiers stoke the fires of freedom!

why among the music and laughs, we can expect some tears. Even yours.

The cast consists of a band of patriot rebels led by former pastor **Darren Myers**, his wife **Tammy** and their son **Daniel**. But these rebels aren't your in-your-face, finger-pointer types. Much to the contrary—they inspire.

SERIOUS AMERICAN STUFF!

Says show creator Darren, "We know America is under attack. Not just politically, but morally. Philosophically. Our families are breaking apart. Our values are crumbling. Our young people are confused and empty. We seem to be losing our identity, as we drift further and further into a sea of **socialism**. Opposing world views are competing to undermine America, to misrepresent it and destroy it. The only way to fight back, is with the truth.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES!

The show's patriot rebels regularly appear at churches and at venues as various as patriotic and public events, public schools, colleges, club meetings and more. For **BOOKING INFO OR DONATIONS:** Call (573)-308-7592 OR go to FreedomEncounter.com

Sometimes, there are just no words. Before you read any further, see if you can pull out that smart phone of yours and take 2 minutes and 39 seconds of your valuable time to watch a short video that we predict, could very well inspire your Great American heart to the point of tears. Be prepared. Within seconds, you may find yourself awakened, challenged, moved, thankful and energized with a renewed hope—almost all at once! Here goes: www.freedomfocus.us When you get to the website, scroll down for the video.

LIVE ON STAGE!

That video should give you a glimpse of **The Freedom Journey Show**—a live stage production that for many seasons has roared into towns across America like a modern day Paul Revere! If you've seen the show during Branson's Veterans Homecoming Week in seasons past, then be advised: you are about to witness a never-

THE ATTRACTION

This is all taking place in the elegantly refurbished **Freedom Encounter Theater**, (formerly the iconic **Tony Orlando Yellow Ribbon Theatre!**) And here's our **warning:** these performances can be life changing! While entertaining us, they also help us re-discover who we are as a people. The result, for most, is an emotional experience that lingers long in both heart and mind. The attraction's overall theme: **TYRANNY, FAITH & FREEDOM.**

THE REVOLUTIONARIES!

This troupe of revolutionaries are not the fist-shaking flag-wavers we might expect of patriot firebrands. Quite the contrary, they serve up this great awakening with not only an entertaining combo of music, laughs, and theatrics—but with a combo of kindness, inspiration and knowledge that is both deep and profound. Which is





LIVE ON STAGE!

THE EMOTIONALLY CHARGED SHOW THAT IS WOWING AMERICA!

FREEDOM JOURNEY

OUR CAUSE. OUR CRISES. OUR HOPE.

Live Music • Powerful Multi-Media • And One Truly Incredible Story!

FREE TICKETS FOR VETERANS, FIRST RESPONDERS, KIDS 12 & UNDER PLUS SENIOR DISCOUNTS!

TICKETS

ONLINE: FreedomJourneyShow.com

PHONE: 417-544-0372

SPECIAL FREE TICKETS (SEE BELOW)

FREEDOM ENCOUNTER THEATER

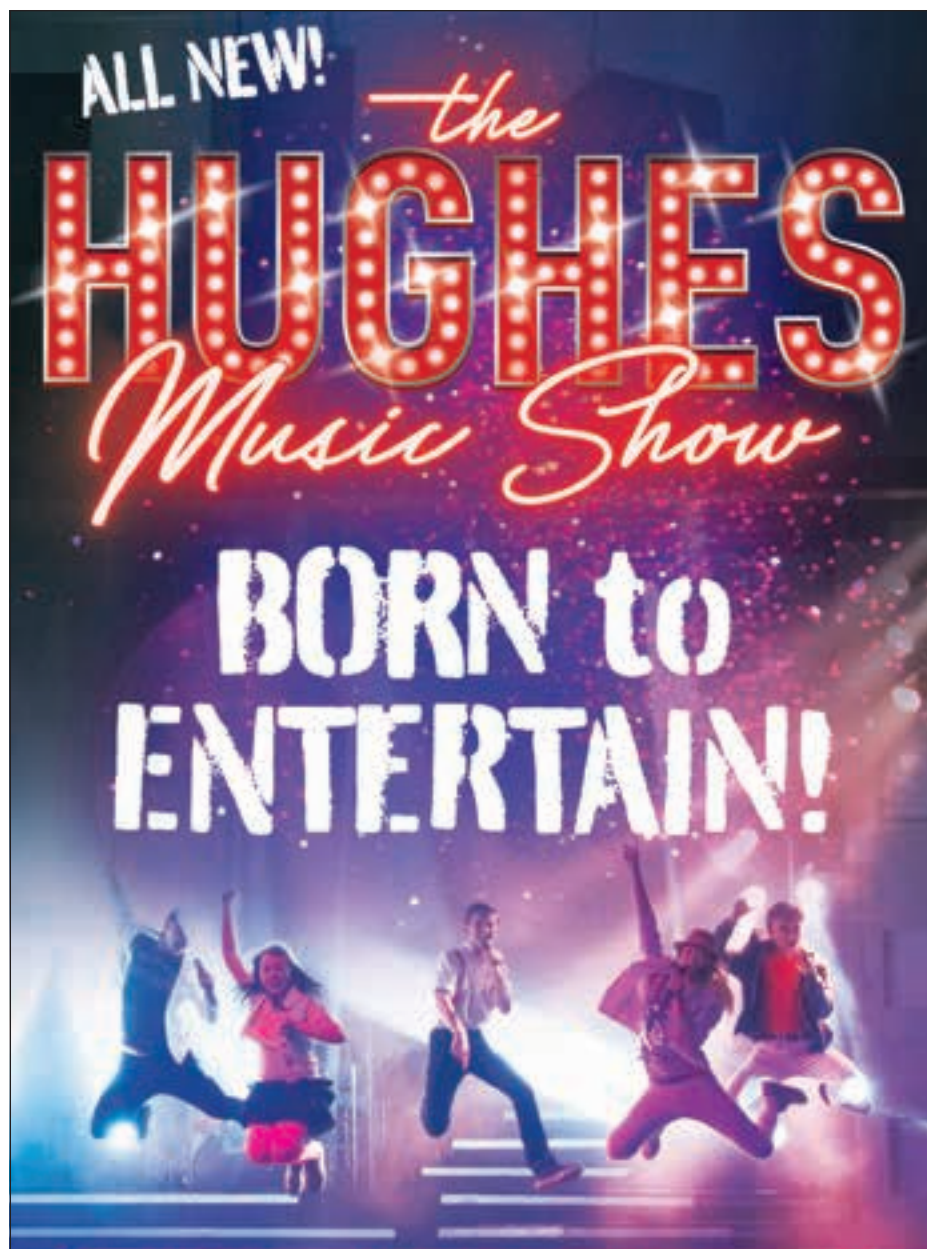
(Formerly Tony Orlando's Yellow Ribbon Theater)

3220 FALLS PARKWAY, BRANSON, MO

ALL NEW!

the HUGHES Music Show

BORN to ENTERTAIN!



New for 2023! Branson's #1 Show for great MUSIC features the Hughes Family, the largest live on-stage performing family in the world, all born to entertain! Over 50 amazing singers, dancers, and musicians present brilliant choreography, world-class production, sensational lighting, outstanding sound, lighthearted humor, and family fun. From country to Broadway to Pop to comedy to patriotic to gospel to rock-n-roll, the Hughes Music Show is everything you want to experience in a Branson show...and more.

HUGHES BROTHERS THEATRE 3425 WEST 76 COUNTRY BLVD, BRANSON
 HughesMusicShow.com 800-422-0076

ADD DINNER IN THE THEATRE BEFORE THE SHOW!

HUGHES YOUTH'S BRILLIANT PRODUCTION!



Alert to all generations of show-goers:

*Expect a masterful performance of vocals, dance and musicianship that will no doubt tap into the music of your life. Yes, even **YOUR** life!*

In their debut season last year, the up and coming generations of Branson's famous **Hughes Brothers** revealed just how crazy-talented a bunch of cousins can get when they grow up together on stage and take music and dance lessons for the better part of their entire lives! Whaddaya get for a result? An earthquake of musicianship,

beyond), Hip-Hop, Tap, Drums, Guitars, Fiddles,—*whew!* What are we missing?

Oh yeah, let's add this: Amazing choreography; (translation: dazzling dancing!), hilarious comedy, marvelous harmonies, fun costuming, incredible lighting artistry and great sound that is music to our ears. Literally.



That all pretty much paints a picture. Our prediction: little kids, big kids, youthful teens, and adults of every age, (yes, *every* age!) will find this show simply irresistible. ♦

vocals and dance in a performance extravaganza titled **Re-Vibe!**

Spanning the ages from 14 to 23, Re-Vibe's troupe of brilliant entertainers brings to the stage a full buffet of music adored by a multitude of generations, be it music falling into genres such as Pop, Soul, Disco, Doo-wop, 40's Swing, Jazz, R&B, Country, Rock n' Roll, (50s,60s70s &

**Vibe = good feeling.
 Re-Vibe=repeat
 that feeling!**



KIDS FREE!

Hughes News

The Latest News From The World's Largest Performing Family!

Season 2023



THE SHOW YOU NEVER SAW BEFORE!

It's true. This Season 2023 **The Hughes Music Show** is over 50% music, dance, comedy and more that we've never even witnessed before!

For openers, (literally) we are treated to an amazing production number written by Christina and Jacob Hughes. But that's just for openers.

In the new mix comes yet more absolutely off-the-charts, full-blown production numbers and show segments—including an all-new Broadway revue of music and dance, an 80s medley of pop and rock, and a pretty much all new extravaganza of every genre of music that has captured the hearts of us all, no matter the age!

UNHEARD OF

Where else can you experience a performance from what **USA Today** calls "the world's largest performing family"? That newflash refers to one particular family of four brothers and a cast of their wives, children, their children's spouses and even their children's children! Together, this outfit performs a music and dance

extravaganza—over fifty of them being musicians, dancers and singers who have been studying and performing music and dance together the better part of their entire lives! Pretty unheard of, right? One exception—right here at Branson's **Hughes Family Theatre!**

Psst. Here's a backstage secret: Youngsters in **The Hughes Music Show** have spent three-to four hours a day practicing their music ever since they can remember. Experts say it takes about 10,000 hours to become a master. At this rate for the kids, about 7 years. So get ready. At this place, audiences are entertained by *masters!*

Now about that **Hughes Music Show**, the masterpiece production of Hughes Family Nation which has reigned in Branson for over 20 years and received just about every award in Showtown! As fans all know, this show is way more than just a show of music! Yes, this huge Hughes entourage of performers spanning the ages from babyhood to adulthood are brilliant music makers—(violins, guitars, drums, woodwinds, keyboards and on and on)—but they are also amazing singers, dancers, acrobats and slapstick comedians!

So what can one expect? This: off-the-charts musicianship, dancemanship—and a full

assortment of Pop, Country, Hollywood, Broadway, Forties throwback—oh, we give up! Expect anything and everything from this cast of little kids, big kids, Moms & Dads, teens, young adults, babies, and yes, the legendary **Hughes Brothers** themselves! ♦

THE THROWBACK SHOW

We speak of the new **Hughes Brothers Country Show** which has already kicked up a cyclone of high praises! Yes, it's new, yet only kinda sorta,

since Country Music is what originally stole the hearts of Branson audiences back in the day and made this outfit a showbiz legend! Yet with all the changing whims of us audience types, The Hughes boys expanded into all our musical cravings—but their country roots have always remained.

So here we are, back in the saddle again! Expect Country Music past, present and way cool, plus a whole lotta "horsein' around". In other words, this ain't just no concert—it's a fun fest that's a hoot, helped along by some of the Hughes youngsters singin', pickin' and grinnin'! ♦

CHOW AT THE CHUCKWAGON!

Can you believe it? It's available at every country show, both afternoon or evening! We're talkin' pulled pork sandwich with pickles and onions, home-made BBQ sauce, fresh coleslaw, baked beans and pork chunks and plenty of cool

water! (Other beverages available). Meals can be et at tables before the show, or served during!



But we're saving the best for last, so here it is—The harmonies of this band of brothers, these country crooner Hughes Brothers, is a treasure richer than all the gold in California, for brotherly voices in harmony for a lifetime is an experience to behold. ♦



ADD A MEAL AT THE HUGHES MUSIC SHOW

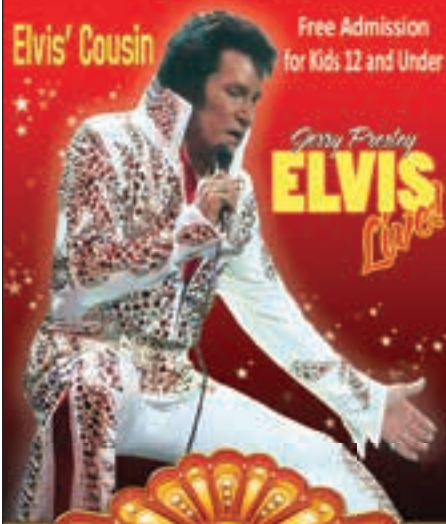
Celebrity Dinner Theatre

Save time, avoid traffic and stress—and enjoy a relaxing gourmet dinner before the show—prepared by acclaimed Swedish chef Reggie Regnal! We will cite the dessert entrée to help paint a picture: luxurious dark chocolate mousse topped with a heavenly light whipped cream & fresh raspberries. Oh Yum. (See ad on opposite page.)

KIDS FREE!



Jerry Presley's **GOD AND COUNTRY** **THEATERS** Branson's LIVE Showplace for The Music You Love!



ELVIS LIVE!

ALOHA FROM HAWAII CONCERT
JERRY PRESLEY & THE BLACKWOODS

THE LAST CONCERT
JERRY PRESLEY & THE BLACKWOODS

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN CONCERT
JERRY PRESLEY & THE BLACKWOODS

SUNDAY: ELVIS GOSPEL
JERRY PRESLEY & THE BLACKWOODS

PLUS:

ABSOLUTELY COUNTRY,
DEFINITELY GOSPEL!

CHICAGO: A TRIBUTE

ROCKET MAN
ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE

GEORGE STRAIT:
STRAIT TO BRANSON

50 YEARS OF KENNY ROGERS
WAYLON, WILLIE &
THE GOOD OL BOYS

417-334-6806
 1840 W. Hwy 76
www.GodandCountryTheaters.com

Elvis & Jerry Presley: **WHAT A STORY, WHAT A SHOW!**

Wow! Three full blown productions of authentic Elvis shows—complete with the Elvis entourage of keyboards, horns, electrics, percussion—and of course his legendary Gospel backup group **The Blackwoods!** Anyone of any generation who never knew how insanely awesome an Elvis concert was—here's your ticket to rock 'n roll heaven! The most common reaction (and quote) from fans in the know is this: "It's the most authentic Elvis show I've ever seen!"

And it gets even better, for Elvis's original backup singers, (**The Jordanares, The Stamps Quartet** and **The Blackwoods**)—performed with Jerry for years! —(and we get the glorious return of **The Blackwoods** this Season 2023!) And just to add another zinger—two members of Jerry's current cast, (singer **Denny Yeary** and trumpeter **Jay Daversa**) **also performed with The King himself!**

What we love most about Jerry's Elvis concerts is that they are real. No over-the-

what a guy. A gracious host and full of Elvis stories, Jerry has fun with the audience as well as his fellow performers. But when the music starts, Jerry becomes Elvis.

Says Jerry, "I'm not an impersonator, I'm a family member doing the songs of Elvis and I try to keep it as authentic as I can. You will never see me do things that Elvis didn't do."

Elvis couldn't have found a better guy to carry on his legacy. A devout Christian, Jerry's life has not suffered the turbulence that befell Elvis—yet the kindness, respect, generosity and even heart for God that Elvis was known for—is alive and well in cousin Jerry Presley—the one we believe to be very much the keeper of the flame. ♦

THE TCB GROUP!



Left to right:
 (front)
 Donna Blackwood,
 Andrea Blackwood,
 Page Kingsbury.
 (Top)
 Denny Yeary,
 Mark Kingsbury,
 Elvis, (er, technically
 Jerry Presley),
 Clel Petray and
 R.W. Blackwood.

What other Elvis performer is related to Elvis three ways, hung out with Elvis, was encouraged by Elvis, attended over a dozen Elvis concerts, and even served in the Army like Elvis? But folks, that's not all! Like Elvis—Cousin Jerry even has a twin brother!

top Elvis exaggeration and schtick—just amazing performances crafted to recreate Elvis live shows as they really were. We also love the fact that in between numbers, Jerry too is real. He's not Elvis. But



Elvis & Jerry

- Jerry is related to Elvis 3 ways • He was one of the first Elvis tribute artists out there • Elvis's Manager Colonel Parker disapproved of Jerry • Elvis came to Jerry's rescue, encouraging him • Jerry attended over 13 Elvis concerts • He met Elvis at Graceland • He treasures several gifts Elvis gave him • He met briefly with Elvis backstage in June of '77 • In August, he received a note from Elvis apologizing for the short meeting and inviting him back to Graceland • Days later, Elvis died • At Graceland after the funeral, Jerry ran into Elvis's Dad Vester sitting on the stairs. "I guess it will never be the same around here anymore," said Jerry. With tears in his eyes, Vester answered, "No, Son, I guess it never will be." • "Elvis was a humble guy," says Jerry. "He didn't put himself up on a pedestal. He loved people. He was such a giving person. There will never be another Elvis."

Tribute Shows **APPEARING LIVE AT** **GOD & COUNTRY!**

A GEORGE STRAIT TRIBUTE

50 YEARS OF KENNY ROGERS

ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE!

ABSOLUTELY COUNTRY:
DEFINITELY GOSPEL!

A LEGEND PERFORMED BY A LEGEND!

KENNY ROGERS (A.K.A.) RICK MCEWEN

Wait—not only does he *look* like the legendary superstar, (as any eye can plainly see from the pictures here)—this guy actually sounds exactly like *The Kenny Rogers*—and without even *trying*!

How does this happen—that he’s got the same voice, same face and even the same outfit as Kenny Rogers! (Well, the outfit is a no-brainer—but *still*!)

Folks, even *that’s* not all! Here’s the cherry on top—even though he’s a clone of Kenny Rogers in every song—he goes back to being just who he is *between* those songs. And who he is, (as if longtime Branson visitors didn’t know) is legendary Branson entertainer **Rick McEwen**, an entertaining guy, fun to have fun with and full of fun stories, jokes and even conversations with us audience types! Attending his show pretty much feels like hanging out with a famous entertainer in our own living room! Which be true, for besides Kenny, Rick McEwen has got some fame of his own! Not only has he played with many if not most of the big names in Branson—his showbiz career has led him **around the world playing and hanging out with the biggest names in the music world—one being the late, great Kenny Rogers himself!**

Although a musician, vocalist, recording artist and all-around entertainer for decades, Rick decided a few years back that it was about time to have his own show. So he did, resulting in an instant fan base that took off like a rocket!

ABOUT RICK’S SHOW: IT’S SHOCKING!

In a nutshell, it’s this: if you love Kenny Rogers music you’ll love this show. Says Rick, “After the show people constantly come up to me saying they came just expecting a guy to do Kenny Rogers songs, which they of course love. What ends up shocking them is how much my voice sounds like Kenny Rogers, along with of course the beard and everything.”

And the suit, we might add.

Shocking indeed, especially since Rick’s



Kenny Rogers—er, no, make that legendary entertainer Rick McEwen. Honestly, the resemblance of those two is just so confusing!

voice and guitar work which recreates one of the music world’s major forces for the last 50 years is absolutely spot-on—pretty much at the level of a Kenny Rogers clone! But the funny stories and the fun times—well, that takes things to another level which is kinda off the charts, so to speak!

THE MUSIC

Again, off the charts! Seriously. Kenny Rogers music has outsold almost everyone in the entire music industry over the past 50-some years. From his days with **The New Christy Minstrels** and his rock days as **Kenny Rogers and The First Edition**, (*Just Dropped in (To See What Condition My Condition Was In.)*) to his crossover country days of *Ruby, Don’t Take Your Love to Town*, *The Gambler*, *Islands in the Stream*

with **Dolly Parton** and so many more—this rock, country, TV and movie phenomenon won just about every award out there, has become the musical soundtrack for generations—and even spent 1992-1995 entertaining us Branson fans at the **historic Grand Palace!**

To refresh the memory cells, read some of our highlights about Kenny below. And of course read about Rick. Then come to the show. Right now.

KENNY ROGERS

1936-2020. 65 albums. 165 million records. One of the top selling music artists of all time. Most successful crossover artist in history. (jazz, folk, pop, rock, country). **Awards:** Too many to list, however we should mention his induction in *The Country Music Hall of Fame!* **Movie Soundtracks:** *Convoy*, *Urban Cowboy*, *The Big Lebowski*, **Partners in Song:** Dolly Parton, Dottie West, Lionel Richie, Sheena Easton, Kim Carnes many more. **Examples of his Endless Hits:** *Ruben James*, *Something’s Burning*, *Lucille*, *Lady Love Lifted Me*, *Coward of the Country*, *Buy Me a Rose* **TV:** *The Gambler Series*, *Host of Real West*, A&E, History Channel **Book:** *Love, or Something Like it: A Memoir.*

RICK MCEWEN

Rick’s showbiz resume and his list of awards is a mile long! A member of the **Traditional Country Music Hall of Fame**, he has starred in dozens of productions during his years in Branson! Prior to Branson, the Mississippi native and Nashville recording artist toured for years with several genuine music legends—**The Blackwoods Singers**, banjo superstar **Earl Scruggs**, then for over nine years with bluegrass icons **The Dillards**, whose fame as *The Darlings* on the iconic **Andy Griffith Show** created a fan base resulting in tours throughout North America and Europe! Rick has called

Branson home for the past several years where he has graced many a Branson stage while enjoying the Branson life with his lovely wife Manya. One of Rick’s favorite tales is of working with **Disney** to record the soundtrack of the famous **It’s a Small World** ride for **Euro Disney in Paris, France**. Hearing that story, along with the rest of Rick’s storied life, inspired a classic response: “what a ride.”



THE AMERICANA THEATRE PRESENTS:



Let's get real. If you want the "real deal" in your search for a Country Music Show that serves up everything from classic country all the way up to hot country 2023—this is your show!

But if you also want laughs, then when it comes to laugh-out-loud hilariousness, THIS one is the "show of shows"!

The unbelievably good news is that we get a "two-fer", all in one supershow starring multi-award-winning country singer (and one who channels Patsy Cline like no other) **CJ Newsom!**

And just for laughs, you also get hall-of-fame, multi-award-winning comedy legend (and **Hee-Haw** TV veteran) **Terry Wayne Sanders**—all in the same show!

So if you like country, Hall-of-fame comedy, and if you like an inspiring patriotic segment—then you are sure to like a classic Branson show. This one, for example. The real deal.

Comedy Legend Terry Wayne Sanders as "Grandma Beulah".

BUY ONE TICKET, GET ONE 50% OFF TO ANY OTHER SHOW AT THE AMERICANA THEATRE!
See page 20 PLUS all Americana shows listed on pg. 18



Yeah, the 80s were awesome. Totally. Dude, compared to the music of the 80's, everything today is all bogus. (Kidding, of course.) Some say the 80s was the best decade of music for launching songs that both kids and adults still know and love. Well, dudes and dudettes, this show take us on a **Journey** of the groups that will make a body wanna **Jump** out of its "rad" seat!

Every Breath You Take, you will be **Livin' on a Prayer** as you recall the **Glory Days of R.O.C.K. in the USA!** Our recommendation: **Don't stop Believing** because **Who You Gonna Call** to get tickets? Answer: Call the number you see here!

TICKETS: BOTH SHOWS!
THE AMERICANA THEATRE 2905 W Hwy. 76 Branson
Phone: 417-544-8700

2023 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

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*MEAL GUIDE: B (BREAKFAST), L (LUNCH), D (DINNER), A (ALCOHOL AVAILABLE)

Please See Theatre Website for Show Times

Map Grid See Pages Show Season Meal Avail* Menu Page

<i>The Americana Theater</i> 2905 W Hwy 76 • 417-544-8700	americanatheatre.com	E-6			
CJ Newsom's Classic Country & Comedy	patsyclineandfriends.com	20	APR-OCT		
CJ Newsom's Classic Country & Comedy Christmas Show			NOV-DEC		
America's Top Country Hits	americanatheatre.com	22	THRU DEC		
Awesome 80's	americanatheatre.com	20	THRU DEC		
The Best of Motown & More			THRU DEC		
British Invasion	americanatheatre.com		SEP-NOV		
Broadway to Buble: George Dyer			MAY-JUN AUG-SEP 5		
Broadway to Buble: George Dyer: Christmas Show			NOV-DEC		
Elvis: Story of The King	americanatheatre.com	22	THRU DEC		
Once Upon a Fairytale	onceuponafairytalebranson.com		MAY-SEP 2		
Andy Williams Moon River Theatre 2905 W Hwy 76 • 417-334-4500		E-8			
Closed					
Branson Central Theatre 625 St. Hwy 165 • 417-231-4112	TBA	F-5			
Branson Famous Theatre 645 Hwy 165 • 417-231-4999	baldknobbers.com	F-4			
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers	baldknobbers.com	1,2,6-7, 8-9,33	THRU OCT		
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Christmas	baldknobbers.com		NOV-DEC		
Vintage Baldknobbers Show	baldknobbers.com	9	AUG-DEC		
The Doug Gabriel Show	douggabriel.com		THRU OCT		
The Doug Gabriel Christmas Show	douggabriel.com		THRU OCT		
Reza: Edge of Illusion	rezalive.com		THRU DEC		
Branson Hot Hits Theatre 206 South Commercial St • 417-337-7426	bransonhothits.com	F-13			
Motown Downtown			THRU DEC		
Doo Wop & More			THRU DEC		
Patsy to Patsy Music of Patsy Cline			THRU DEC		
Platters & Golden Sounds of the 50's			THRU DEC		
James Taylor and the Soft Rock of the 70s & 80s			JUNE-NOV		
Dean Martin and More Tribute			THRU DEC		
Clay Cooper Theatre 3216 W. Hwy 76 • 888-222-8910	claycoopertheatre.com	E-5			
Clay Cooper's Country Express			THRU OCT		
Clay Cooper's Country Express: Christmas Show			NOV-DEC		
#1 Hits of the 60's (& 50's too)!	1hitsofthe60s.com		THRU OCT		
#1 Hits of the 60's Christmas Show	1hitsofthe60s.com		NOV-DEC		
Dean Z - The Ultimate Elvis			THRU OCT		
Dean Z's Rockin' Christmas Show			NOV-DEC		
The Haygoods			THRU OCT		
The Haygoods Christmas Show			NOV-DEC		
Hot Rods & High Heels (Fabulous 50s!)			APR-OCT		
Hot Rods & High Heels Christmas Show!			NOV-DEC		
Special Shows and Events (See website for info)			THRU DEC		

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Please See Theatre Website for Show Times		Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
Copeland Theater at the Meadows • 417-332-5338	copelandtheater.com	C-9				
All Hands On Deck Show				Oct		
All Hands on Deck Christmas Show				Dec		
Ray: You Got The Right One Baby...				Oct-Dec		
Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre 1600 W. Hwy 76 • 417-339-3003	legendsinconcert.com/Branson	E-10				
Legends in Concert			1,10,21	THRU OCT	D,A	
Legends of Country				THRU OCT		
Legends Christmas Spectacular Show				Nov-Dec	D,A	
Legends A Merry Country Christmas				Nov-Dec	D,A	
SIX	thesixshow.com			THRU OCT		
SIX Christmas				Nov-Dec		
Dolly Parton's Stampede 1525 W. Hwy 76 • 800-520-5544	dpstampede.com	E-10		THRU OCT	L,D	
Dolly Parton's Stampede				THRU OCT	L,D	
Dolly Parton's Stampede Christmas				Nov-Dec	L,D	
The Dutton Family Theatre 3454 W Hwy 76 • 417-332-2772	theduttons.com	E3				
The Duttons				Apr-Oct		
The Duttons Christmas Show				Nov-Dec		
Freedom Encounter Theatre 3220 Falls Parkway • 417-544-0372	FreedomJourneyShow.com	G-5	13	Nov		
The Freedom Journey Show	FreedomJourneyShow.com		13	Apr-Dec		
Freedom Journey Experience			13	Apr-Dec		
Grand Country Music Hall 1945 W Hwy 76 • 417-335-2484	GrandCountry.com	E-10				
Amazing Pets!				THRU DEC		
Branson Country USA live TV Broadcast				THRU DEC		
Comedy Jamboree				THRU DEC		
Down Home Country				Apr-May Sep-Dec		
Grand Jubilee				THRU DEC		
New South Gospel				THRU DEC		
Ozarks Gospel				THRU DEC		
Ozarks Country				THRU DEC		
Hamner's Variety Theater 3090 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 417-334-4363	hamnersunbelievable.com	C-6		SEE WEBSITE		
Hamner's Unbelievable Variety				THRU OCT		
Hamner's Unbelievable Christmas Spectacular				Nov-Dec		
Abba Tribute: Thank You For the Music				THRU DEC		
Beach Boys "California Dreamin"				THRU DEC		
Back to the BeeGees				THRU DEC		
Mike Walker: Lasting Impressions				Apr-Dec		
Statler Brothers Revisited				CALL THTR		
The Hughes Brothers Theatre 3425 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-0076	Hughes-Brothers.com	E-4				
The Hughes Music Show			1,12, 14-15	THRU OCT	L, D	
The Hughes Family Christmas Show				Nov-Dec	L, D	

continued on page 22

ILLUSIONIST RICK THOMAS



MANSION OF DREAMS

No Doubt...
The Greatest Illusionist Worldwide!

- TripAdvisor -
★★★★★


2022
WINNER
THE BEST OF BRANSON

Branson's
BEST PRODUCTION SHOW AND MAGIC SHOW

Mickey Gilroy
GRAND SHANGHAI THEATRE

3455 W 76 Country Blvd • GrandShanghaiTheatre.com • Phone: 417.336.0888

SCAN FOR BEST SEATS!



THE AMERICANA THEATRE PRESENTS:



Experience the history of Country Music brought to life! Enjoy classic hits from Country's biggest stars—**Johnny Cash, Buck Owens, Conway Twitty, Merle Haggard, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, Glen Campbell, Waylon Jennings, Garth Brooks, George Strait, Brad Paisley**—and yes, even more! *Many more.*

Relive the life and times of a legend through a show packed with heartwarming stories and hard rocking songs performed by critically acclaimed impersonator **Matthew Boyce**. Warning: catch the show before Elvis leaves the building.

TICKETS:
BOTH SHOWS!

THE AMERICANA THEATRE 2905 W Hwy. 76 Branson
Phone: 417-544-8700

**BUY ONE TICKET, GET ONE
50% OFF
TO ANY OTHER SHOW
AT THE AMERICANA THEATRE!**
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<i>The Hughes Brothers Theatre CONT'D</i>	Hughes-Brothers.com	E-4				
Hughes Brothers Country & BBQ			15	THRU DEC	L, D	
Escape Reality Magic: Dinner Show				THRU DEC	L, D	
Country Evolution	countryrevolution.net			THRU DEC	L	
Re-Vibe!			14	THRU DEC	L, D	
Branson's IMAX™ Little Opry Theatre 3562 Shep. of the Hills Exp • 417-335-4832	bransonimax.com	B-4		SEE WEBSITE		
George Jones & Friends Remembered				THRU JUL SEP-DEC		
Smoke on the Mountain				THRU DEC		
Sanders Family Christmas				Nov-DEC		
The Petersens				THRU OCT		
The Petersens Gospel				THRU DEC		
The Petersens Christmas				Nov-DEC		
Sons of Britches				THRU DEC		
Rick McEwen Presents "The Gambler"			17	APR- DEC		
Jerry Presley's God and Country Theatre 1840 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-6806	GodandCountryTheaters.com	E-10		SEE WEBSITE		
Cowboy Church				THRU DEC		
Elvis: The Last Concert-Jerry Presley & The Blackwoods			1, 12, 16	APR-NOV		
Elvis: Aloha from Hawaii-Jerry Presley & The Blackwoods			1, 12, 16	APR-OCT		
Elvis: Madison Square Garden concert-Jerry Presley & The Blackwoods			1, 12, 16	APR-OCT		
Elvis & The Blackwoods Gospel Show			1, 12, 16	MAY-NOV		
Christmas with Elvis—Jerry Presley & The Blackwoods				Nov-DEC		
Neil Diamond Tribute	aneildiamondtribute.com		16, 25	APR- JUN SEP-OCT		
A Neil Diamond Christmas	aneildiamondtribute.com			Nov-DEC		
Absolutely Country: Definitely Gospel!			16	APR-DEC		
Neil Sedaka Songbook			16	SEP-DEC		
Carpenters Once More	backtothe70stributes.com		16, 24	APR- JUN SEP-OCT		
Carpenters Christmas Once More	backtothe70stributes.com			Nov-DEC		
Chicago: A Tribute			16	APR-DEC		
50 Yrs of Kenny Rogers			16	APR-DEC		
George Strait: A Country Legend			16	APR-DEC		
Rocket Man! <i>Elton John Tribute</i>			16	APR-NOV		
Sons of Branson: A Musical Tribute			16	APR-DEC		
Waylon, Willie & The Good Ol Boys			16	APR-DEC		
King's Castle Theater 2701 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-2500	kingscastletheatre.com	E-8				
Anthems of Rock			1, 11	THRU DEC MAY-DEC		
The Ultimate 70's Show - Dancing Queen			11	THRU OCT		
Dublin's Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies			3, 11	OCT-DEC		
New Jersey Nights: Music of The Four Seasons			4, 11	THRU DEC		
Branson's Christmas Wonderland			11	Nov-DEC		
Majestic Theatre 2849 Gretna Rd. • 417-231-2420		C-7				
Branson Murder Mystery Dinner Show • 417-849-8331	bransonmurdermystery.com			THRU DEC	D,A	

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Majestic Theatre (CONT'D)		C-7				
Murder by Eggnog Christmas Show • 417-849-8331	bransonmurdermystery.com			Nov-Dec	D,A	
The Mansion Theatre 189 Expressway Lane • 417-385-1118	themansiontheatre.com	B-9				
Guest Stars				THRU DEC		
Special Events				THRU DEC		
Mickey Gilley Grand Shanghai Theatre 3455 W Hwy 76 • 417-336-0888		D-3				
Shanghai Circus	amazingacrobats.com			THRU JAN 1		
Johnny Lee				CALL THTR		
The Texas Tenors				SEL DATES		
Rick Thomas, Illusionist: Mansion of Dreams	rickthomas.com		1,5,19	THRU DEC		
Nashville Roadhouse Theater at The Branson Star 3750 W 76 Blvd • 417-320-3418	nashvilleroadhouse.com	C-3			D,A	
Nashville Roadhouse Live starring Stevie Lee Woods			1,18-19	THRU DEC		
Grand Ladies of Country Music			19	SEL DATES		
Phil Dalton, Theatre of Illusion			19,26	SEL DATES		
The Kendalls			19	SEL DATES		
The Morace Family Show: Listen to the Music!	moracefamilyshow@gmail.com		19,27	APR-OCT		
The Morace Family Christmas Show				Nov-Dec		
Steve Sanders -Than Mentalist Guy			19	MAY-DEC		
Pierce Arrow Theatre 3069 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 417-336-8742	piercearrowtheater.com	C-5				
Pierce Arrow Country				THRU DEC		
Pierce Arrow Presents Decades				THRU DEC		
Presleys' Country Jubilee 2920 W. Hwy 76 • 800-336-4874	presleys.com	E-6		THRU DEC		
Sight & Sound Theatres 1001 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 800-377-1277	sight-sound.com	B-8				
Queen Esther				THRU OCT		
Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Thtr. 13260 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-7469	ShepherdoftheHills.com	A-3		SEE WEBSITE		
Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Drama				MAY-OCT	D	
Buck's BBQ & Bluegrass Pre-Show Dinner Bash				MAY-OCT	D	
Funny Farm Dinner Feud				THRU OCT Dec 27,29	D	
WhoDunnit Hoedown-Murder Mystery Dinner Show				THRU OCT	D	
WhoDunnit Hoedown-Christmas themed				Nov-Dec	D	
Goldwing Express Morning Show				OCT-Nov		
A Christmas Story Dinner Show				Nov-Dec	D	
A Shepherds Christmas Carol Dinner Show				Nov-Dec	D	
Showboat Branson Belle 4800 W. Hwy 76 • 800-475-9370	bransonsilverdollarcity.com	J-3		THRU DEC	L,D	
Yakov Theatre 470 St. Hwy 248 • 417-336-3838	yakov.com	B-12				
Comedy Star Yakov Smirnoff				OCT-Nov		

Come Back for Some Awesome Summer Fun!

WORLD'S GREATEST LIVE TRIBUTE SHOW

Legends in Concert

2023 LINEUP

Tributes to:

SPRING
Feb. 3 - May 23
Michael Jackson
Pat Benatar or Adele
Willie Nelson
The Blues Brothers™
Elvis

SUMMER
May 25 - Sept. 5
Michael Jackson
Lady Gaga or Adele
Kenny Chesney
The Blues Brothers™
Elvis

FALL
Sept. 7 - Oct. 31
Reba McEntire
Kenny Chesney
Elton John
The Blues Brothers™
Elvis

A MERRY COUNTRY CHRISTMAS
Nov. 2 - Jan. 1, 2024
(Regular shows will be performed after Christmas)
Brooks & Dunn
Johnny Cash
Garth Brooks
The Blues Brothers™
Elvis Gospel

* lineup subject to change

Please call our box office for exact lineup.
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Alcohol, beverages are available for purchase.

2nd Show: **AMERICAN BANDSTAND** THURSDAY 1600 W 76 Country Blvd, Branson

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MULTI-AWARD-WINNING SUPER STARS AND SUPER SHOWS! SEE IT ALL HERE!

BREAKING NEWS!

THE AWARDS JUST KEEP A-COMIN'!

(See the latest on the next page!!!)

PLUS!

NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE'S NEW TV SHOW GOES GLOBAL!

(Again, read all about it on the next page!!!)



WHERE COUNTRY MEETS ROCK & ROLL!

ABOUT NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE!

This show's first season in Branson was an absolute awards sweep, as plainly seen on the next page! PLUS—it was the debut of Stevie Lee Wood's new single, which is sweeping the globe and climbing the charts even as we speak!

ABOUT STEVIE LEE WOODS

Heading up this all-star supershow is powerhouse performer **Stevie Lee Woods**, whose music career in both country and rock music charted hits all the way to **#1** (*Is there anything left?*) for example—and for years had him on the road opening for the likes of **Lorrie Morgan, Martina McBride, Brooks & Dunn, Diamond Rio** and just about everyone in-between. On

stage, he's explosive—consuming it like a hybrid of **Mick Jagger, Garth Brooks** and maybe even **Brooks & Dunn**—all while backed up by a lovely troupe of high-steppin', boot-scootin' dancers and one of the hottest band of all-stars ever assembled, each one a Branson legend with a big league showbiz resume a mile long!

Folks, this show is a high energy fun fest that moves fast and furious—but with

plenty of heart, soul and a whole lotta love. The level of performance and musicianship is an absolute showbiz earthquake! It's that awesome! You can see the love the performers have for the music, for each other, and even for us audience types. You can feel it.

Stevie's showbiz roots run deep. His Dad played guitar with the legendary **Lester Flatt** and **Earl Scruggs**, then later with fellow legend **Eddy Arnold**. In fact, Stevie's whole family is in the music world. Besides charting country hits, Stevie also hosted **Today's Hot Country** on TV's **Nashville Network**.

Looks like the wheel is coming full circle! ♦



MINGLE WITH THE STARS at the After-Show Party!

It's the biggest after-show party in Branson! Have yourself some treats, karaoke, a full service bar and get to visit with the whole cast of stars and guest stars! Ever dreamed of going to a star-studded social in Hollywood or Nashville? Well folks, here's your ticket

NEW FOR 2023:
2 "MUST SEE"
PRODUCTIONS!
SHOW #1: WED, THUR
SHOW #2 FRI-SAT!



THIS JUST IN: EVEN MORE AWARDS!

As we've hopefully mentioned more than once before, **Nashville Roadhouse Live**, although only in appearing in Branson for just the last few seasons, has already chalked up more awards than any other Branson show ever—(unless there's some we forgot—Editor) But folks, that's not all! Adding to the ones we see here, there is a major announcement about another **HUGE** award coming, but we can't blab it yet or they probably would have to "you know what" us! But stay tuned for that good news, which will surely be splashed all over [f / nashvilleroadhousetheater](#) plus [f / TheBransonInsider!](#)

Here they are: Read all about it back on pages 10-13!

Branson Show Awards

Entertainers of the Year! Nashville Roadhouse Live! **Band of the Year!** Nashville Roadhouse Live! **Steel Player of the Year!** Michael Hermsmeyer!

Branson Jerry Music Awards

Keyboard Player of the Year! Lyman Clark!
Congrats, guys! We all SO appreciate your awesomeness!

THE BIG RECORD RELEASE!

Branson Star Theatre's **Stevie Lee Woods and Nashville Roadhouse Live** dropped a new record which ever since has been climbing the Country, Pop and EZ-Listening charts all over the globe! **Something About The Way You Look Tonight**, a remake of the Elton John classic, is not only released with **Sir Elton John's blessing**—the pop icon actually appears in the record's music video! But it gets even better, for the song was recorded in Branson, yet was sent to the U.K. where Sir Elton's legendary producer **Stuart Epps** (who also produced classics by such music icons as **George Harrison** and **Led Zeppelin**) assisted in "mixing" and creating the master! Upon hearing it, Sir Elton's legendary 50-year

writing partner **Bernie Taupin** shot an epic email—"Outstanding! So well done!" said the email. Says Stevie, "that puts a lump in your throat."



Your Host:
Country/Rock Star
Stevie Lee Woods

NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE THEATRE!

AT THE BRANSON STAR!

NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE!
Starring **Stevie Lee Woods & NRL Band**

PLUS

3rd Weekend of Each Month
THE KENDALLS

4th Weekend of Each Month
GRAND LADIES OF COUNTRY MUSIC
Leona Williams, Mary Lou Turner,
Barbara Fairchild

FREE TICKETS TO TV TAPINGS OF
NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE
& GUEST STARS!
CALL FOR TICKETS & DATES

GUEST STARS
(CALL BOX OFFICE FOR DATES)

T. GRAHAM BROWN
COLLIN RAYE
CONFEDERATE RAILROAD
MARTY BROWN

MORE TO COME!
KEEP UP AT
NASHVILLEROADHOUSE.COM



MADE FOR TV!

PREMIERING : SEPT 3!

Nashville Roadhouse Live's Branson Star Theatre has been recently all abuzz as a packed-out audience enjoyed a marathon taping of **Nashville Roadhouse Live's new TV show**—soon to hit screens *all over the entire world!* We're talking *billions* of viewers!

Even though the taping took over eight hours, fans happily dodged cameras, cranes and booms to applaud, cheer and wave cell phones in the dark! Truly, good times were

had by all! (Including at the awesome after-party, where all were welcomed!)

And here comes the best part—for any of us unfortunate enough to miss the TV taping party of riveting performances, amazing guest stars and plenty of just plain fun—here's your good news: Not only are there many more TV episodes to come—the admission for being in the audience that will be broadcast all over the world is

ONE FREE TICKET NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE!

Courtesy of Nashville Roadhouse Live! at The Branson Star Theater!
Note: One Free Ticket per party of two or more.



ONE OF THE MUSIC INDUSTRY'S TOP HONORS:
THE 2022 TELLY AWARD GOES TO
STEVIE LEE WOODS & THE NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE BAND!
"SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY YOU LOOK TONIGHT"

(NEW YORK) **The 43rd Annual 2022 Telly Awards**, one of the music industry's highest honors, recently announced this year's winner of the **Best Television Music Video Award** to be Branson's own **Stevie Lee Woods & The Nashville Roadhouse Live Band** for their chart-climbing global sensation **Something About the Way You Look Tonight!**

The NRL Band's rendition of the **Elton John classic** was produced by Elton

John's original co/writer and producer **Bernie Taupin** and Nashville Roadhouse Live's lead guitarist **Robbie Springfield!** Honestly, how cool is that!

Says the Telly Awards folks: "This is an incredible achievement! With several high-caliber entries submitted (over 12,000), this year's Telly Awards entrants truly represented the most innovative stories being told across all screens. As a Telly Winner, you are the standard-bearer of excellence in our industry."



VARIETY SHOWS!

MORACE FAMILY Listen to the Music!

Beautiful harmonies, an amazing live band, hilarious comedy and some heart warming family moments. We get it all in in one unforgettable performance! The Morace Family started touring as a Gospel Group when their daughters were small. They enjoyed that time and feel blessed to have a show in Branson together.

See Story on
Page 27!



STEVE SANDERS, THAT MENTALIST GUY!

A moment in time...that you will remember for the rest of your life! A unique experience that defies all possible explanation! Steve Sanders specializes in stunning feats of mentalism. He creates amazing experiences—all delivered with humor and style. Based in California, Steve has performed across the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Mexico. Recently he was chosen as the official magician of the American Hockey League's Ontario Reign. He has appeared at the Magic Castle, Magic Island and various venues in Las Vegas.

PHIL DALTON: THEATER OF ILLUSION A TRUE FAMILY SHOW!

One of the hottest family magic shows out there! All seven members of the Dalton family are literally astounding! Yes, the show is family friendly, yet some of its many entertaining escapes can be real nail biters! But it's all in good fun, as we enjoy watching human sawing, children floating, disappearances and more! Featured on **ABC, NBC, FOX, CBS, National Geographic**, and throughout our world! **Warning:** Death-defying escapes, yet still a family-friendly show! Go figure!

See Story on
Page 26!



FREE! No charge! Nada! And there's not even a catch! So—any takers?

Oh yeah, *we see those hands!* ♦

GET FREE TICKETS TO A TV TAPING!
OF NRL PLUS GUEST STARS!
CALL THE BOX OFFICE!

SEE IT
IN BRANSON
BEFORE IT'S BACK
"ON THE ROAD AGAIN"!

MUSIC, AND A LIFE, THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING! CARPENTERS ONCE MORE

If we stop and listen to the music serenading us these days, whether it be on the radio, at the shopping mall, the hair salon or on earphones plugged into whatever they're plugged into—we will no doubt hear an awful lot of **The Carpenters** once more. To this day, The Carpenters remain prominent on the soundtrack of our lives, ever popular, and ever-uplifting. Truly, they are music to our ears, on so many levels.

Bringing to life these musical treasures that generations of us all love is multi-award winning singing star **Diana Lynn**. We have much to say about Diana, but first, let's address the shocking Carpenters story.

About The Carpenters

Allow us to educate you youngsters who don't know better.

You might not remember her name, but trust us, you know her hit songs and you know her

THE AMAZING CAST!



WES LARSON - (aka Richard Carpenter)
Keyboard & Vocals Wes has been an actor, musician and a well-rounded entertainer for many years. He has also produced several stage productions—**Two from Galilee**, **Passion plays**, **patriotic productions** and many more. He also loves to teach vocal, keyboard, guitar and bass guitar lessons. Check out **WES LARSON VOCAL COACH** to get started *today!*



SHANNON KNUDSON *Background Vocals & Percussion* Shannon hails from California and Vegas where she performed with the **Sweet Adeline's** and **The Merry Ole Carolers**. Mother of 5 children and 2 grandchildren, she is married to **Kevin Knudson**, who previously performed with his brothers in **SIX** and currently with **Pierce Arrow**.

story—one which frankly, changed history.

Unusually, **Karen Carpenter** was both a singer and a drummer. She and her brother **Richard**, (**The Carpenters**) used their own voices to create multi-track masterpieces that dominate the airwaves even to this day. That innovation literally changed the world of music. A few examples: (**They Long To Be Close to You, We've Only Just Begun, Top of the World, Hurting Each Other, Merry Christmas Darling**, and so many more.

The Shock!

When Karen's young life succumbed to the effects of **anorexia nervosa** at the tender age of 33, the world was shocked. Until then, the eating disorder, (**anorexic**) was largely unheard of among the general public. But that was then and this is now. It was the tragic loss of Karen Carpenter that educated us all. It literally changed the world.



JAMES MCCALL *Master Percussionist* His storied musical career includes playing with rock legend **Leon Russell**. Currently, James plays for **A Neil Diamond Tribute**, **Chicago Tribute** and several rock bands.



TIM POPE *Music Director, Arranger & Drummer* The Compton, California native originally played with the legendary **Ray Charles!** (He is also featured in Ray's Coke commercials! Check them out on **youtube!**) Tim has played with many greats—including over 20 years with the great **Tony Orlando!**



ROBERT TERRY *Bass Guitar* Robert has played with **The Osmonds**, **The Lennon Sisters** and currently with **A Neil Diamond Tribute** and **The Hughes Brothers**.



BOGIE BOHINC *Lead Guitar* Bogie came to us from California with **Tony Orlando** and later joined **Andy Williams** at Andy's

We've Only Just Begun!

The show begins with a gentleman taking a seat at the piano to portray Karen's brother **Richard Carpenter**. He begins to play. Then we hear the real **Karen Carpenter** begin to sing. Diana suddenly appears and Karen's voice becomes hers. It's seamless. Does Diana look like Karen? Well, somewhat, for her clothing style could definitely have parachuted in from Karen's 1970s wardrobe closet, but it's the voice, the stage presence and the captivating personality that draws us into the amazing talent of Diana Lynn!

The Dream

Diana grew up in a family of entertainers and has been an entertainer all her life, (even during those years as a registered

nurse, but we digress, for that's *another* amazing story.)

Her showbiz experience comes across the moment she takes the stage, for her sunny personality, both warm and upbeat, is literally contagious. Audiences love her.

Throughout her life, Diana has performed in shows of every kind. But her lifelong inspiration, was Karen Carpenter. She and Karen both share the same vocal range. Says Diana, "I always say, I was taught by Karen Carpenter. And I've always dreamed of doing a show of her music."

It's obvious, Karen was taught good. And some dreams do come true. ♦

Moon River Theater. He also plays for **A Neil Diamond Tribute** and several traveling shows.



TERRY LAIRD *Lead Guitar* Performing in Branson for over 39 years, Terry has been music director for such shows as **The Rankin Brothers** and **The Chicago Tribute** and has worked with **The Plummer Family**, **The Lawrence Welk Show**, **Silver Dollar City**, and **Mike Walker**.



JAY PARKS *Trombone* Jay began his career in the **Army Band at West Point!** He went on to play in **several Army Bands** for over 20 years, as well as with **Bobby Vinton** and the **Glenn Miller Orchestra!**



JAY DAVERSA *Trumpet* Jay has performed on several legendary TV shows—**The Mary Tyler Moore Show** and **The Bob Newhart Show**, to name a few. But WOW, Jay has also played with such music icons as **Barbara**

Streisand and **Elvis! THE Elvis!** As a studio musician, he is featured on numerous albums, including several tunes of **The Carpenters!** Yes, **THE Carpenters!** But one of Jay's most memorable performances is in the theme song of the legendary TV show **The Waltons!**

BILL REDER *Flute & Saxophone* Bill was famously a resident musician at Las Vegas's famous **Caesars Palace!** He has played with **Tony Bennet**, **James Brown**, **Lynyrd Skynyrd**, **Johnny Mathis**, **Glen Campbell**, **Liberace**, **Chuck Berry** and many more!



ADRIANA FINE *Background Vocalist, Percussionist* Formerly the lead vocalist for Branson's **Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band**, Adriana last year had the honor of receiving Branson's coveted **Terry Award for Tribute Show of the Year!** Currently, Adriana also performs in the **Awesome 80s Show**.



Wed & Thurs

2PM

Also Select **7:30 PM**
2023 Monday Dates

417-464-8497

CARPENTERS
Once More

A HEARTFELT EMOTIONAL TRIBUTE

10 PIECE ALL-STAR BAND!

417-46-4TIXS



HIT SHOW RETURNS WITH BAND OF ALL-STARS!

As might be guessed by all genuine Branson Insiders, Keith's return is in the company of his lovely wife **Diana Lynn**, who opens her own award-winning **Carpenters Once More** show at the same power-packed performance venue as her husband—namely, **Jerry Presley's God & Country Theatre!** (More about Diana's show on the previous page)



ALL
STARS!

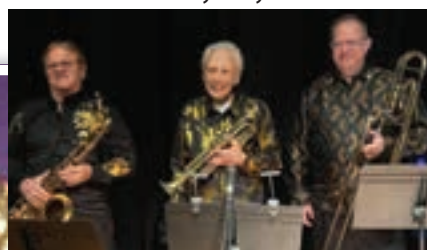
Some in Keith's backup band have played with Andy Williams, some with Ray Charles, Tony Orlando—and the list just goes on and on. In conclusion: these backup A-listers have SO got Keith's back!

SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS!

Yes, we're going to do something outrageous! Actually, it was Keith who came up with the idea. Before his show begins, the *musicians are introduced!* True story, hand on the Bible! It's an awesome statement. Finally, we get some clues which reveal just why Branson's musicians are so off-the-charts amazing!

WHO'S NEIL DIAMOND?

When you hear the songs he wrote and sang—our guess is that you'll find yourself singing along and knowing the words that you never even knew you knew! Prediction: at the end of this show, you'll be on your feet singing your heart out. And at this particular time in our world, you may have to fight to hold back tears. More on that later. Here are some of Neil's songs which create the soundtrack of our lives: **Cherry, Cherry, Sweet Caroline, I am, I said, Solitary Man, Cracklin' Rosie, Holy, Holy, Shilo, Soolaimon, Kentucky Woman, I'm a Believer, Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show, Song Sung blue, Pretty Amazing Grace**, and one we are saving for the end of this story. Stay tuned.



WHO'S KEITH ALLYNN?

Besides being an amazing Neil Diamond tribute artist, Keith Allyn is one of the most captivating entertainers you are likely to ever experience. Entertaining is not just his vocation—it's his lifelong passion. He's brilliant, he's warm, he's funny, he's full of mesmerizing

Neil Diamond stories, and he literally "owns" not only the stage, but the hearts of most all of us audience types. Example: He recently performed a one-nighter for 5,000 people. No band. Just him and a guitar. The audience was so overwhelmed, the venue pleaded that Keith would stay for another show. Then another. 5,000 packed out each one. That says it all.

END OF STORY

At the show's finale, drums begin pounding. On screen is a flag waving. Keith begins singing—"Far, we've been traveling far, without a home, but now without a star. Free, only want to be free, we huddle close, hang on to a dream. On the boats and on the planes, they're coming to America. Never looking back again, they're coming to America. Home, don't it seem so far away, Oh, we're traveling light today, in the eye of the storm, in the eye of the storm. Freedom's light burning warm. Got a dream to take them there, they're coming to America. Got a dream they've come to share, they're coming to America. My Country 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing—"

During these times in which we live, the words, the music, of Neil Diamond's

America—resonates deep in our heart of hearts. The drums are pounding as the music swells, the audience rising to their feet. Many are wiping away tears. There is scarcely a dry eye in the house. End of story. ♦





417-46-4TIXS

10 PIECE ALL-STAR BAND!

Wed & Thurs
10AM

Also Select 7:30 PM
2023 Monday Dates

417-464-8497

ALL-STAR FAMILY BRINGS TOP-TIER PRODUCTION TO BRANSON!

Yes, it's a family show, but let's add a word to that description. To be more accurate, it's a *spectacular* family show!

The young people performing in this widely acclaimed Vegas-style magic show literally grew up on stage, (and on the road)—appearing every year at the top performance venues in every state of our Union, (yes, Alaska and Hawaii included!) But that's just the beginning of this astonishing tale—for not only were they raised in a Christian home, (a travelling one,) and homeschooled by their Mom—the eldest daughter graduating from college at the age of 19—they all take turns both onstage and *backstage*—running sound, lights, handling props—and even greeting the “folks” and taking tickets! A true family show! No accessory employees needed!

Introducing to Branson: **Phil Dalton Theater of Illusion**, now playing at **The Nashville Roadhouse Theatre at The Branson Star!** And we've just got to say—it's truly a miraculous arrival!

It all began when A-list magician **Phil Dalton** (a.k.a. Dad) received a call from a friend who suggested, “hey, you really ought to come and check out Branson, Missouri!” Phil, his wife Paula and the fam did. From the git-go, all in the family were fast captivated by the community, whose values of “faith, family, and flag” resonated deeply with theirs. Soon the alignment connected to the Nashville Roadhouse Theatre at The Branson Star, which, at the time, was looking for an A-list act to fill their showcard. So *voila!* That was the connection that brought this all-star travelling family to their new Branson home!

About The Show

Spectacular illusions that we've never seen before come at us non-stop! There's a reason for that. Magician Phil Dalton's zeal for creating illusions began at the age of five and has never ceased. It's his passion. His joy. His fun. He never stops doing it. In whatever spare time he has, he conceives, he designs,



All in the family: (Left to Right) Paula (a.k.a. Mom), Lydia, 13, Clay, (middle) 17, Silas, 15, Eli (floating above) 5, --and, oh yeah, on the far right, Phil Dalton, (the magician!)

then uses his carpentry skills to build. His illusions are all his own. His only frustration is that he can't squeeze as many as he wants into each performance. Yet it explains why the illusions we saw in last season's show are completely replaced by new ones. Which means we can only expect—the unexpected.

The Experience

Some moments of death-defying feats are definitely nail-biters—but remember, it's a family show. There are moments of high drama, moments of comedy, and many fun moments of audience participation. Much of the show feels like friends entertaining family and friends. And then there are other moments, when Phil and his family perform illusions that illustrate the values that unites their hearts—love of God, love of family, and love of

our country.

Cheating Death

Taking a tip from the great Houdini's playbook, Phil Dalton has garnered much publicity over the years performing astounding, and even death-defying stunts to vast crowds right out in the public. Examples: Hanging upside down in a straight jacket 100 feet in the air from ropes that are set on fire. Being locked in a crate that was chained up, then dropped into a frozen lake. Jumping out of an airplane chained up. Escaping from a bomb containment vessel. And that one back on page 27. Yet the good news is that each stunt is meticulously planned to the nth detail and is (as he puts it), “as safe as driving the family car.”

All in the Family

Not only is this family show *performed* by a family and tailored to entertain families of all ages—many of the show's illusions actually come from ideas hatched at the family dinner table. (Phil credits many to his wife and co-star Paula) Parents may cringe, but one show bit has young Silas taking up a bullwhip and knocking targets out of his sister's mouth! We'll see five year old Eli fly in the air like Iron Man. Dad gets sawed in half, *standing up!* But there's more to this family. Clay is the show's main tech, a computer guy who not only puts on an amazing light show—he does the same for other shows in Branson! Faith graduated college at age 19, was a competition gymnast, but found

her calling in sports medicine after being treated for her own injuries. Says Dad, “We're incredibly blessed to be doing something that we love to do and to do it as a family. That, first and foremost is the greatest thing. With the “danger” elements in the show, we're very safety conscious. No one has ever gotten hurt in any way. However, on the road in 2017 I did break a rib from coughing too hard (yes, that can actually happen)! But truly, the greatest joy in doing what we do is the joy of working together as a family.”

Cool Surprise

“We're always adding new magic to the show,” says Phil. We have our favorite illusions, of course, but if you haven't seen the show lately, you'll be sure to experience something new.”

For the ultimate cool surprise—we're not going to reveal it here. But it's awesome. Audiences love it. Come find out. ♦



Phil and Lydia making magic together.



TICKETS: 417-320-3418
NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE THEATRE
AT THE BRANSON STAR

The Show of Their Lifetimes!

MORACE FAMILY

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC!

Good News: Now Branson gets a family show that has been captivating audiences of all ages ever since the show's founders became a family—or technically, since the founders found each other, got married, started a family and became a traveling family show!

For years, this family who hails from South Louisiana—would pack up their reportedly “gigantic” family van and hit the road to perform in churches, public events, recording studios, TV programs, music festivals and more. Then on Sunday nights, the fam would head for home to be back in time for the daughters to wake up and head to school after a good night's sleep in their cozy van home! But a few years back, this performing family discovered Branson, which they fell in love with on day one. And the rest is history.

Now we get to experience what much of America has been treated to for decades—an entire season of **The Morace Family's Listen to the Music Show**—live and in person right here at **Nashville Roadhouse Live's Branson Star Theatre!**

SHOW STOPPERS!

When it comes to what “the biz” calls “show stoppers”, well, about every piece of music this production performs qualifies. No matter the age, (child, teen, young adult, older adult, or even way older adult) music here is going to tap into “the music of your life” as they say. And wow, what a performance!

For starters, the voices of a family singing in harmony sound amazingly angelic. But wait—it gets even better, for this group fluently switches their parts, alternating between soprano, alto, and both high and low tenor! The results are pretty much this: they can sing anything and make it sound heavenly.

Then come the instruments, (a live band), the accompanying

Comedy star Cheri Winger serves up the laughs!



Left to right are Morace Family stars Bethany, Leisa (a.k.a. “Mom”), Tristan, Robert, (a.k.a. “Dad”) and Somer.

performers, the comedy, (hilarious) the veterans tribute, and a show segment of pure inspiration.

To help paint a musical picture you can almost hear (if not see) we can drop a few hints by drawing from the show's song list: *There's Dream* by the Everly Brothers, *Love Can Build a Bridge* by the Judds, there are instrumentals from the likes of John Tesh, *There's Danny's Song*, *Walkin' on Sunshine*, *Boondocks*—or simply put, it's a show that includes music we all love, plus a heart stirring patriotic segment and an inspirational Gospel finale. Audience reactions? A pretty much unanimous “thumbs up”!

THEIR STORY

Music in the Morace family began, well, pretty much at the *beginning*. **Robert**, the husband and Dad of the group, started playing piano in church at the age of 3. Since then, his talent has never stopped growing.

Leisa, Robert's wife (and the Mom in the group), also began her career as a child singing in church, (located in a small Louisiana town just a few miles from young Robert's.)

Like Robert, Leisa's talent and her love for singing never stopped.

The two met when a group Robert was performing in was in need of a female vocalist. Since the girl trying out for that role lived

in a small town that was on Robert's way to his rehearsal, he was charged with picking up the applicant for her audition. The two immediately hit it off. The girl, (Leisa) got the job (of course). Then came love, then came marriage,

Tristan gets double-smooched.



then came children—and the music never stopped.

Both of the Morace daughters, without any pressure from the parents, wanted to sing with their family from the very “git-go” (as they say in Louisiana). What fast became apparent, was the amazing vocal gifts both girls had. It wasn't long before the family became a family singing group. They began in church, travelled to other churches, then performed at events, festivals, shows, and on TV. In-between, they would hit the recording studios in Nashville to produce their latest album.

As for the girls, both have been singing and dancing, as mentioned, since childhood. But there is another side to both **Bethany** and her younger sister **Somer**. Both were cheerleaders. Both played girls softball, which in Louisiana society is *huge*, (as



Bass man Eric Green rocks out with drummer Irielle McConnell. Irielle, who doubles as a vocalist, has a voice the Morace parents describe as “beyond amazing!”

Robert informed us). And now, after lifetimes on stage, each performance of these ladies is nothing less than absolutely amazing.

Then comes the show's superstar, (a title every parent and grandparent would likewise declare of their own.) He's the Morace grandson **Tristan**, (ten year-old son of Bethany.) Tristan sings, plays keyboards and—well, as seen here, can even endure kisses! (*Tough gig!*)

Finally, this family story (and show) has a happy ending. It comes when the show's Gospel music finale sings us the good news that today, even today—can be a new beginning. ♦

TICKETS
NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE THEATER
417-230-7361
Or: 417-320-3418

GOODBYE OZARK MOUNTAIN CRAFT MALL: HELLO **BRANSON T-SHIRT CO.!**

Wait—before you panic—here's the news: Many of your favorite vendors from the **Ozark Mountain Craft Mall** have NOT, repeat NOT ridden off into the sunset, as their former location might visibly, yet wrongfully suggest! Quite to the contrary, many of those popular vendors have followed their friendly craft mall owners and operators (Mark & Jennifer Grant plus their family, friends and puppies) to the **BRANSON T-SHIRT CO.**, their quaint and classy new Victorian-style shopping attraction just a short ways up The Branson Strip and just 2 doors East of the Andy Williams Moon River Theater! If you can't find it with the help of those directions and the picture we're giving you here...well, then, you might just have to be suffering from some sort of that vacation derangement syndrome or something! But no worries. Finding it should be Easy-Breezy!



47 lbs Down



Jenn will be happy to tell you all about it! And also about that Grandbaby of hers who we see here! (LOL!)

butters, house décor, ukuleles, knives, swords, kids toys, collectables, cold sodas—(yeah, cool refreshments even!) And way too much more to try to list here. But those should be some clues.

Warning: Don't miss exploring the upstairs! Up there it's more cool stuff galore! (Honestly, some folks get their eyes so glued on the downstairs, they leave not even knowing *whassup!*)

"Whassup" is this: vacation shopping fun at THE BRANSON T-SHIRT CO!

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Now let's give you a few Branson Insider hints of what you'll find on the *inside*. Some of it you'll surely recognize—yet boatloads of it are vast collections of apparel, guy stuff, specialty items, souvenirs, amazing things you just won't ever find back home, and plenty of other things designed for folks having fun on vacation!

Let's make some lists. Here we've got both a downstairs and an upstairs where we get to shop custom T-shirts (with zillions of designs to add on site), clothing, (ladies, children's, guys), swimwear, candles, homemade BBQ sauces, jams and



Where else can you find such mouth-watering delicacies as Papa Brown's Home-Made Bar-BQ Sauce, or Papa's irresistible Jam and Butter Barn? **Warning:** this stuff is deliciously addictive. Just sayin.

Have Jenn do a little "show & tell" at her "Color Me Crazy" blending bar. She'll be glad to demonstrate how she customizes her water-based makeup for the ladies to match skin tone perfectly—plus perform anti-aging wonders! Jenn was trained by a professional who specializes in makeup for the stars. For an appointment call 417-380-4264!

RETRO MANIA IS LIKE 1980s FUN TO THE MAX!

THE FASHION. THE MUSIC. THE MOVIES. RELIVE THE BEST DECADE EVER!



THE INSIDE SCOOP!

Want some fun for all ages? Well, here you go—that totally awesome **Retro Mania** at the hub of The Branson Strip! The outside looks interesting, so let's get you the Inside scoop! ('Tis what we do.)

Right away, our eyes behold a whole new world. Yet many of us are not exactly strangers in a strange land. Many of us have been to this world at other points in time and space—but today, here we are—**back**



80's memorabilia everywhere! Killer cuisine! Trust us, you'll want to take a picture of your serving! 80s faves for every taste. (Alcohol also available) And we're saving the best for last, for **karaoke** is on tap, and **live bands playing nothing but 80s hits** appear all season!

in the 1980s!

What is unveiled before our eyes is what creative geniuses have built—*fantabulous* entertainment—*awesome* stuff to do, (*totally*), *righteously rad* stuff to see, *bodacious* stuff to eat, and *stellar* 80s stuff to shop through! But people, even *that ain't* all! The attraction's new *bad-to-the-bone* eatery, (**New Wave Café**) will be featuring not only karaoke fun, but **incredible live bands** playing nothing but classic 80s jams! *Woah, dude! That is so fly!*

STUFF TO SEE

Hollywood memorabilia—(like **Mel Gibson's** actual motorcycle from **Lethal Weapon 3**, or that car out front from **RoboCop 2**), boatloads of signed *boss* movie posters and *rad* record albums (**Madonna**, **Cyndi Lauper**, **Michael Jackson**—and ka-gillions more—corridors of movie scenes, movie characters and iconic pop stars that, interestingly, are the *exact same size* as the celebs in *real life!* Dude, we thought those stars were so *humongous*, but *woah*, they're like regular, or even smaller, like *us!* Trust us, get a picture of you beside some!

It's *wicked* true! As for 80s memory triggers, should we name names? Okay. **Top Gun**, **Flash Dance**, **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**, **Batman**, **Star Wars**, **Indiana Jones**, **Terminator**, **Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure**, **Footloose**, **Beetlejuice**,—oh, let's go on to music—**Bon Jovi**, **Van Halen**, **Blondie**, **ACDC**, **U2**, **Prince**, **MC Hammer**,

Bruce Springsteen, **Whitney Houston**, oh *duh*, this list could go on forever! Just come see it all!

STUFF TO DO

SLASHER'S HAUNTED HOUSE (Gulp), not gonna lie, it's creepy in there! No, nobody's gonna grab you or anything, but walking into scenes from **Friday the 13th**, or **Michael Myers Halloween**, or seeing those scenes from **Chuckie**—well, y'all have fun in there! It's fun walking into Hollywood movie scenes, as long as you can walk out at any time! We promise, hand on the Bible—you

The Simpsons try out their new hand-held remote!



can, unless you prefer to just enjoy the creepy stuff as long as you want!

RETRO ROCKER MINI GOLF Play amongst your favorite 80s rock stars, while your ears enjoy a never-ending soundtrack of 80s classics. We've said it before—seeing these characters in almost real life standing before you at their exact height, makes them feel—well, almost like real people. Like the rest of us!

TWO ESCAPE GAMES Fun stuff, but not to panic—technically you can escape at any time, but as all non-scaredy cats know, it's more fun to just try and figure it out!

Escape to the future is based on, yeah, you guessed it—that 80s movie franchise **Back to the Future!** The other escape game, **ALIEN ENCOUNTER** is based on, yeah, you guessed it again—**Alien!** **GREMLIN'S MOVIE THEATRE** Grab a bag of popcorn and enjoy an 80s classic—no extra charge. You can even leave and come back to catch a later show—**FREE! FREE PLAY ARCADE** 80s Arcades, no coins needed! Which is **AWESOME!**

GIFT SHOP! Nostalgic fashions, toys, games, fun stuff—it's all here, parachuted in from the 80s! *Good Times!* ♦

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A WHOLE NEW WORLD! AT BRANSON'S WILD WORLD!

Whether you've been there before, or never before—Season 2022 is a whole new world at **Branson's Wild World!**

Expect new adventures, stunning new attractions, amazing background music that makes us feel like we're in an epic wildlife adventure, (which, of course actually we *are!*)—and once again, experience a **transformed shopping area** whose specialty gifts, toys and education items fulfill us animal lovers' wildest dreams!

Oh, and one more thing—expect new wildlife. *Much* new wildlife!

HANDS ON

Feed sharks. Real sharks. Get eyeball to eyeball with howling wolves, mountain lions, living dinosaurs—all returning stares mere inches away! Hold a boa. Pet dingos. Enter an undersea world and try a round of mini-golf, while sea creatures swim among you. Or just watch you.

ANOTHER WORLD!

As you will quickly discover during your website investigation, Branson's Wild World is no typical zoo and aquarium attraction. Here, wild animals are not hiding under rocks or snoozing in the dark shadows of some faraway corner. Instead, they inhabit beautifully crafted habitat that keeps them comfortable, active and happy while you visit their spaces—up close. Very up close.

NEW STUFF!

The Abyss: The Search for The Lost City of Atlantis! More crazy-looking sea creatures, like that 20' giant eel, or those 16' manta rays, or that "gulp" monster croc! Lots of new wild and crazy wildlife. Lots of new giant animatronics. Sort of a Disney gone wild. (Our words, not theirs.)

YeeeeEEESH!

SHARK TANK!



Mini-golf the Wild Abyss under the sea, as real creatures swim among you, (real and unreal)—or just watch.

WORLD CHANGERS

All winter long Branson's Wild World transformed the environment of this amazing attraction into an all-encompassing, immersive experience. As far as the scenery and theatrical effects, you might at first feel like you've entered a Disney creation. That notion soon evaporates, as the sights, sounds, and atmospheres transport you beyond the realm of fantasy and imagination and into the very worlds where those wild things dwell — a world you can feel, and even touch.

CREATING ATTRACTIONS WORLDWIDE

The designer, owner and operator of Branson's Wild World is known throughout our wild world as a leading expert in the design of tourist attractions. After creating over 300 different attractions in over thirty countries, 47 year-old St. Louis native **James Kelly and his wife Lisa** have decided to call Branson home and make Branson's Wild World their labor of love.

A creative visionary much like **Disney**, James seems to be constantly adding new animals and new attractions to Branson's Wild World. As we studiously observed, he seems very "hands on" and "24-7". We couldn't resist asking him—what's the motivation? More visitors? More money? More fame? More *anything*?

Snake Hugs!



GLOBETROTTERS!

World renown attractions designer James Kelly & his wife Lisa.

To that, James shook his head "no."

"I do it 'cause it's fun."

And there you have it: the very reason why this place is so fun! ♦

NEW!

Have some hands-on fun with our rare and exotic Lemours! **Lemurs** (from Latin *lemures* – ghosts or spirits) are mammals native only to the island of Madagascar. They chiefly live in trees and are active at night.

Until shortly after humans arrived on the island around 2,000 years ago, there were lemurs as large as a male gorilla.

Modern studies of lemurs did not begin in earnest until the 1950s and 1960s. Initially hindered by political issues on Madagascar during the mid-1970s, field studies resumed in the 1980s.

Many lemur species have already gone extinct in the last 2000 years due to human activity. Because of these threats and their declining numbers, environmentalist groups consider lemurs to be the world's most endangered mammals, noting that as of 2013 up to 90% of all lemur species confront the threat of extinction in the wild within the next 20 to 25 years. Many efforts try to preserve lemur habitats as well as promote public awareness and appreciation for lemurs.

LEMUR LOVE!



IT'S GOTTEN WAY WILDER AT BRANSON'S WILD WORLD!

Thanks to Wild Valley

**NEW Outside Foot Safari!
Wilder Animals. No Extra Charge!**

**UP CLOSE
& PERSONAL!**

Yes, all of us can get as close to lions and tigers as caretaker Efrain Malagon, who is seen here offering free head massages to two takers—yet alas, a see-through protective shield now keeps the rest of us from offering that service. But we still get to cozy up.

Shocking news: Just now, for no extra charge, we can step into a lovely new outdoor safari at **Branson's Wild World**,—and get face to face and eyeball to eyeball with some lovable lions, tigers, wolves, cougars, jackals, dingoes, arctic foxes and more! **Goosebump alert:** These animals are adorable—until it suddenly dawns on one's self that folks like us, to them, could look kinda delicious!

Welcome to **Wild Valley**—the outdoor world of the indoor **Branson's Wild World**!

Follow us as we step outside of Branson's Wild World and enter a wild valley where we can get inches away from some magnificent beasts. By the time we read this, however, a beast-resistant see-thru super shield will keep our flesh from their paws, claws and jaws. So now we can safely charm them with sweet talk and stare admiringly into their deep, alluring eyes. And watch them stare back. Lock eyes. Lick teeth. Roar. (Gulp.)

This place was already one of the price friendliest animal attractions out there. So—with all these exciting new add-ons—are we ready to take a walk on the outdoor *wild side*?

Oh yeah! ♦

A young adventurer poses for his Mom, (plus our paparazzi) while on safari at Branson's Wild World. (Note the curious passenger in the back of the SUV. Yikes.) But fear not, visitors can safely pose for this "money shot" with their ferocious hitchhikers thanks to a sturdy glass barrier. *Whew!*

PHOTO OPS!



UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES!

Branson's WILD WORLD

ANIMAL ADVENTURE PARK & AQUARIUM

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THE BECK MUSEUMS OF BRANSON PRESENT THE WORLD'S LARGEST TOY MUSEUM PLUS:

If you haven't been there lately, then you haven't been there. Giant new add-ons to this mega attraction have been rolling out over the last few months faster than a 1925 Lionel freight train!

Let's get one thing straight—yes it truly is the **World's Largest Toy Museum**, (over 1 million toys), but don't get stuck on that word "museum". This isn't just some relic show. For most folks, a trip here turns into one of the funnest experiences ever—whether the folks be Moms and Dads with the kids in tow, the grandfolks—or even (no kidding) newlyweds! Yes, you heard right—*newlyweds!* Seems toys spark memories that the newbies begin to vocalize—pretty much a giant leap in their new life of getting to know each other!

Fun Stuff Galore!

The minute you step inside this monster attraction comprised of six different inside pavilions, you'll feel more like you've walked into a lively theme park than some still-life-of-a museum!



US Army Veteran Tom Beck, owner (and host) of The World's Largest Toy Museum

The family of Doug and Andrea Fritz from Lakeland, Florida gazes excitedly at the attraction's 37 foot long HO gauge train complex. Four year-old Julia looks particularly fascinated, while little one-year-old Olivia appears borderline mesmerized! The exciting "show" includes switchyards running three main lines, freight loading, tunnels through mountains and valleys, and of course the sounds of those chugging locomotives and those "lonesome" whistles!

Among all the pleasant background noises of toys and games both mechanical and electronic, you are likely to hear shrieks

of delight, giggling kiddos—and the unmistakable soundtrack of voices telling the stories this place so magically inspires!

Just Go!

Just so you know, this is not just old stuff from flea markets or garage sales. These are enormous collections gathered from all over. We'll explain that later. First, a little name-dropping here to help paint a picture of what you can expect to see—a giant Star Wars Collection, Star Trek, Marvel, Barbie, TV Westerns from the 1950s, GI-Joes wearing just about every uniform in history, the most spectacular model train set up ever, courtesy of The Roark Valley Modular Railroad Club, model circuses (created by The Circus Model Builders Association), sports memorabilia, Native American artifacts, bicycles, cap guns, car toys, (probably more than you'll see in your lifetime,) planes toys, pedal toys, models, farm toys, firemen toys, police toys, Care

The Inside Scoop

Let's take a look around. To orient ourselves in this huge toyland, know that there are six distinct areas located in three adjoined buildings on three levels, each with amazing gift shops that you're going to love. (A set of chattering teeth, anyone? How about some **Pez? Hot Wheels? Yo-yos? Tinker Toys? Retro Barbies? Lincoln Logs?** Some **magic tricks** the store hosts will be glad to demonstrate for you? Perhaps a set of **ball and jacks**, or a **Daisy BB gun?**



Says longtime museum host Ron Howard, (not the Opie guy), "We've got lots of nostalgia items you won't find anywhere else. Some don't have buttons or screens or batteries," he laughs,—"so kids today sometimes don't know what to do with them!"

RETRO FUN!



Neil and Karen Bruner of Little Rock, Arkansas help the kiddos discover the fascinating world of tinker toys and legos at one of the museum's interactive play areas. 8 year-old Gavin seems to be building upwards while 4 yr. old Gabby works on a new set of wheels.

Experience the **ONE AND ONLY...**

WORLD'S LARGEST TOY MUSEUM COMPLEX

SEE OVER 1 MILLION TOYS!

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www.worldslargesttoymuseum.com

7 MUSEUMS: 1 PRICE!

- HAROLD BELL WRIGHT HISTORICAL MUSEUM!
- NATIONAL BB GUN MUSEUM!
- PAUL HARVEY Jr. '50s MUSEUM
- STEARNSY BEAR MUSEUM
- WORLD OF CHECKERS MUSEUM
- MEMORY BARN MUSEUM
- DUSTY BARN FINDS MUSEUM!

Bears, Trolls, Shirley Temple, metal toys, cast iron toys, Red Ryder, Stearnsy Bears—Disney, and then there's big stuff, like a real stagecoach, a real car used by Queen Elizabeth II—the toy collection from the household of legendary broadcaster Paul Harvey—oh, we give up! There's no way to describe this place! Just go!

BUY, SELL, TRADE?

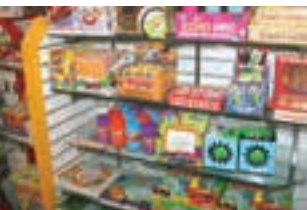
Perhaps. This place is on the hot list of both TV's *American Pickers* and *The Antiques Roadshow*, so anything can happen. To be appraised by toy expert Tom Beck, toys must appear in person and be arranged for appraisal in advance. Offers to purchase any museum item will be considered. ♦



Massive doll collections and doll houses spanning the centuries!

Mom teaches 8 year-old Amelie all about Raggedy Ann & Andy while 2-year-old Cecily kicks back in a Raggedy Ann EZ chair!

3 NOSTALGIA TOY SHOPS! JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!



Aisles and aisles of classic toys and games!



Doll house collectibles! And everything else!

ATTENTION CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS!

Decades of collectable Hot Wheels, Matchbox, Ertl, Tonka and much, much more! (Cars, trucks, airplanes, trains, fire engines, police cars, tractors, antique vehicles—oh, where do we stop? Y'all just come see for yourselves!

Tom & Wendy's Toy Story

Let's meet the people behind all this: **Tom and Wendy Beck**. Seriously—go ahead and meet them. They're usually right there! Besides being a Veteran, Tom had a long career in the retail store business. Wendy taught school. "I wanted to do something that was fun," Tom tells *The Insider*. "So—what could be more fun than toys?" ♦



Tom & Wendy.

THE BRANSON INSIDER

SCOOPS & PIX

from our ROVING REPORTERS & PROWLING PAPARAZZI!

continued from page 7.

NEW FRIENDS

This gathering of wheelchair providers arrived as strangers, yet in one week's time, parted as close friends. They came from different geographical areas, backgrounds and professions, yet their Christ-centered lives and their common purpose for coming bonded them quickly both in the tasks at hand and their plans for reunions. Yes, it wasn't long before all in the group were making plans to come to Branson—to do the fun stuff, to take in the Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Show, (of course), and to learn more about how Branson Cares was operating and raising money throughout Showtown.

THE CAUSE

As Branson visitors are fast finding out this Season 2023, theater lobbies all over town have eye-catching displays and information tables providing everything we would need to know about **Branson Cares**, **Hope Haven** and their incredible outreach to paraplegic children throughout the world. Donations can be made at the theater box office (which are sent straight to Branson Cares) or they can be made online at: www.hopehaven.org/bransonicares.

BRANSON CARES

Besides being the title of a local charity, it's actually a true statement, as Baldknobbers star Megan Mabe reminded us. "I'm proud to be a part of it," says Megan. "I'm proud to live in a community that supports such things openly, unashamedly. I love the fact that our guests see these things even before they see the lights, hear the music, or sit back to enjoy a show. It's just so refreshing to live and perform in a place where you're not afraid to talk about God and family and country. It's what Branson is known for. It's a place where you can

sing a Gospel song and people are okay with it. As a community, this is a wonderful opportunity for us all to demonstrate the values we celebrate on stage. We can put those values to work by being a part of Branson Cares. From our stage, our audience and our community, our values need to be taken to the world.

THE TOUGH QUESTION

Being *The Branson Insider*, asking tough questions is just part of the job. So we had to put one to poor Brandon. We didn't want to, but if we want to stay legit, we had to. It wasn't easy. It wasn't pretty. But we did it. We sucked it up and asked him straight out. It went something like this; "Brandon, we know you were working 24-7 to put together the Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Show for the 2023 season and your trip to Mexico was just days away from opening. That had to put you under stress beyond belief. So how did it go when you got back? Were you close to getting the

Talkin' the talk!



Brandon and Megan use fingers and hands to "speak" with a nurse while Bob Nichols of Branson Cares "listens" in.

show the way you wanted it? The songs? The costumes? The comedy? The lighting? The special effects?"

Brandon answered with a big, wide, almost glowing Baldknobber grin. "We came back," he said calmly, "we started rehearsals the next day, and right away, the show started coming together *great*. I knew right then; we were going to be *just fine*."

The Lord works in mysterious ways. ♦



Photos by Todd Scroggins, Indianapolis, Indiana

JUST OPENED! LOCAL FAVORITES LAUNCH NEW SHOPPING FUN!

And yeah, we mean fun for all—guys and gals, kiddos and Grandfolks—the whole *enchilada* (so to speak)!

Step inside a brand new fun spot put together by some of Branson's most popular locals! Introducing (a drumroll, please) **Ozark Mountain T-Shirt Co.**, which, trust us, is way more shopping fun than just t-shirts, (yet t-shirt fun is pretty awesome too, as revealed to all who keep reading this!)

Look for it right on the Branson strip, across from Grand Country and right next door to that big Duck boat!

Inside you're gonna find t-shirts, (of

course), which can be custom made, or ordered in bulk—(hundreds of designs

to choose from) but you're also gonna find men's, women's & kids clothing, hoodies, gifts, souvenirs—oh we give up—there's just so much we just gotta paint a picture with some pictures! Check out the ad below, then come have fun!

Oh, and us Branson Insiders, (maybe you too) can probably guess who those fun local owners are, (hint, hint). It might even be fun to let them know you knew! ♦



Clothing, swim suits, and (oh yes, even T-shirts!)



Boatloads of Branson souvenirs. Way too many to show here, (obviously.) Just come see!



UNBELIEVABLY TRUE! AT THIS AMAZING SHOPPING ATTRACTION EVERYTHING IS

★★★★ **MADE IN THE USA!** ★★★★★



Forget imports. What better time is there to BUY AMERICAN than during these pandemically, politically, and economically challenging times? The answer is: there is no better time to buy American than TODAY! But wait—this is no charity appeal! An old timey styled General Store right here in Branson, Missouri offers a bona-fide shopper's wonderland loaded with just about everything you can think of—and here's the catch—every item, repeat, every item is made right here in the Good Ol' USA! Hard to believe, but it's true!



Brian shows us his star attraction.

To see for yourself, go directly to **Made in the USA General Store**, inside **The Shoppes at Branson Meadows**! Upon arriving you will no doubt be amazed as you discover here a full buffet of incredible merchandise! And here's an added treat: if you drop everything and head there right now, bargains will await you, as well as a vast treasure trove of awesome items you'd be lucky to find back home! ♦

★ MUSIC TO A HOMEMAKER'S EARS! ★

One item in particular is a genuine **star attraction** in this shopper's dream! It's also been selling like hotcakes ever since our Branson visitors first got wind of it! So far, over **25,000** of these have been sold here!—probably because nobody has reported seeing them anywhere else! We're talking about a colorful collection of cotton dish cloths and dish towels which **NEVER** sour, mildew or stink—attributes which, going by the expressions seen on many faces, are music to a homemaker's

ears! Most want at least two, or three, or a handful! Need a gift idea? *Voila* 'l!

★ A SHOCKER FOR VETERANS & PATRIOTS ★

When was the last time you saw veterans' merchandise, Americana items, or even American flags that were actually **MADE IN THE USA**? Well, you will here! We're gonna even shout out a shocking statement: **THIS IS THE LARGEST SELECTION OF AMERICAN MADE MILITARY THEMED MERCH ANYWHERE!**

A shock for VETERANS! and all Patriots! SEE BELOW!





Bed, Bath...



...and Everything Else!

★ THE MERCHANDISE ★

Folks like you will also enjoy perusing the Men's, Women's & Children's clothing, the kitchen department's high-grade cast iron cookware, the bed and bath area, the home décor, the Christian themed area, the vast toy department, the tools, the old timey candies, spices, gourmet food, gifts, jams, jellies...the old time ice-cream parlor & soda shop and--wow, where do we stop?

★ MAN ON A MISSION ★

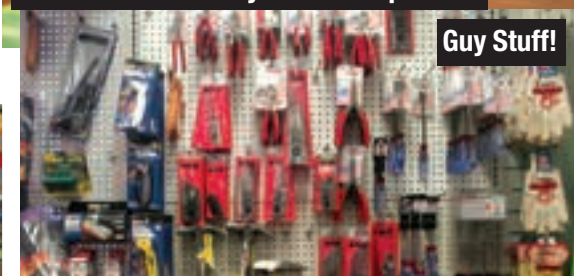
Made in the USA's owner Brian Karn aims to do his part to bring back American manufacturing and create new jobs in our good ol' USA! To that idea, we throw in a hearty "Amen!"



TOYS GALORE!



Brian serves up all-American treats at the store's old timey ice cream parlor!



Guy Stuff!



The old Candy Shop!



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AT THE SHOPPES AT BRANSON MEADOWS 417-336-USA (8721)

MAP LOCATOR

See Map on back page. **KEY:** Listings are followed by their location on the map grid.

SHOWS

At the Americana Thtr E-6

- **CJ Newsome's Classic Country & Comedy**
- **America's Top Country Hits**
- **Awesome 80s**
- **Elvis: Story of the King**

At the Branson Famous Thtr F-4

- **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers**
- **Baldknobbers Vintage Country Show**

At Dick Clark's American Bandstand Thtr E-10

- **Legends in Concert**
- **Branson Elvis Festival**

At Freedom Journey Thtr G-5

- **Freedom Journey Show**

At The Hughes Family Thtr E-4

- **The Hughes Music Show**
- **Hughes Brothers Country Show**
- **ReVibe**

At IMAX® Little Opry Thtr. B-4

- **Rick McEwen Presents: The Gambler**

At Jerry Presley's God & Country Thtr E-10

- **Elvis/Blackwoods: The Last Concert**
- **Elvis/Blackwoods: Aloha from Hawaii**
- **Elvis/Blackwoods: Madison Square Garden Concert**
- **Christmas: Elvis/Blackwoods**
- **Elvis/Blackwoods: Gospel**
- **Absolutely Country, Definitely Gospel**
- **50 Years of Kenny Rogers**
- **A Neil Diamond Tribute starring Keith Allyn**
- **Neil Sedaka Songbook**

- **Carpenters Once More starring Diana Allyn**
- **Chicago: A Tribute**
- **Cowboy Church**
- **George Strait: A Country Legend**
- **Sons of Branson Show**
- **Rocket Man: Elton John Tribute**
- **Waylon, Willie & The Good Ol Boys**

At King's Castle Thtr E-8

- **Anthems of Rock**
- **Dancing Queen**
- **Dublin's Irish Tenors & The Celtic Ladies**
- **New Jersey Nights: The Four Seasons**
- **Branson's Christmas Wonderland**

At Mickey Gilley Grand Shanghai Thtr B-3

- **The Magic of Rick Thomas: Mansion of Dreams**

Nashville Roadhouse Live at The Branson Star Thtr C-3

- **Nashville Roadhouse Live**
- **Phil Dalton: Theatre of Illusion**
- **The Kendalls**
- **Listen to the Music: The Morace Family**
- **Steve Sanders - That Mentalist Guy**

ATTRACTIONS

Branson's Wild World F-9

New Wave Café E-5

Retro Mania E-4

World's Largest Toy Museum D-3

SHOPPING

Made in the USA General Store

The Shoppes at Branson Meadows C-9

Branson T-Shirt Co. E-13

Ozark Mountain T-Shirt Co E-9

World's Largest Toy Museum D-3

DINING

New Wave Café at RetroMania E-4

COME BACK!

NOVEMBER-

DECEMBER

OZARK MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS

**CHRISTMAS SHOWS
ATTRACTIONS & SHOPPING FUN!**

