

THE BRANSON INSIDER™

A MOTOWN
LEGEND
WELCOMES
US TO

THE RUBY ROOM!
THEATRE & LOUNGE!



— P 13

MADE FOR TV!
BRANSON
Star Theater
SUPERSTARS
& SUPER
SHOWS!

— P 19

SEASON 2021

ON WITH THE SHOW!

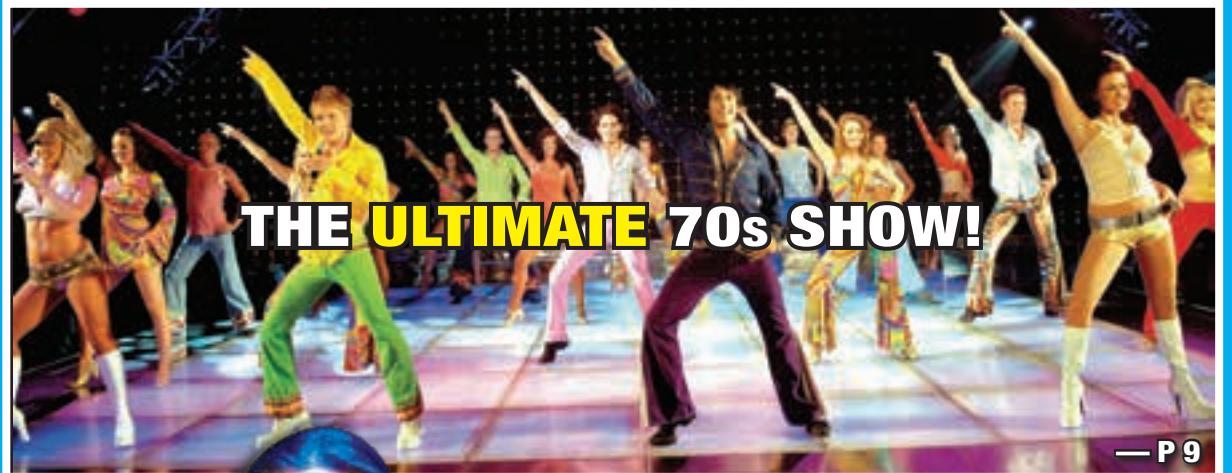
THE NEXT GENERATION



HAS ARRIVED!

— P 5

THE ULTIMATE 70s SHOW!



— P 9



— P 3



— P 8



— P 24



— P 22

It's happening.

SHOW GUIDE • MAP • FOOD • SHOPPING • **FUN!**

BRANSON'S FAMOUS

BALDKNOBBERS



THE SHOW THAT STARTED IT ALL
SINCE 1959



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60
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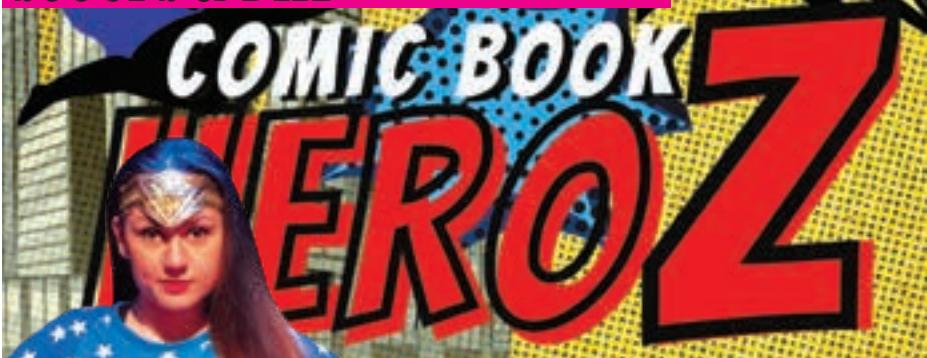
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SCOOPS & PIX

from our ROVING REPORTERS
& PROWLING PAPARAZZI!



WOOSH!

Here they come—a whole force of superheroes—swooping in to save the day starting May 13 and continuing to perform their mighty deeds until summer

FAMILY FRIENDLY IMPROV SHOW!

JUNE
4, 11, 18, 25

If you've seen the TV show *Whose Line is it Anyway?*, then you know improv is when

actors are thrown situations—their job being to come up with a highly entertaining piece of comedy on the spot. And it's all coming to Branson via **The Arena: Improv Show!** But wait, that's not all! This show was put together by a showbiz maestro by the name of **Doug Ewart** whose resume includes, let's see—music director for **The Second City of Chicago International Tour Company, Esther's Follies of Austin, Texas, ComedySportz, The Improv Olympic, Lonestar Comedy**, countless theater and comedy troupes across the US, has performed with such talents as **John Lovitz, John Goodman, Elvira (Mistress of the Dark)**, was owner/operator of **Dallas West End Comedy Theater**, producer of

ends and the schoolbells ring! For anyone looking for a family-friendly show that will cause even the squirmiest youngster age 3 to 10 to be thrilled, entertained (and even forget to misbehave,) this is your ticket! We have been told the show is highly interactive, silly, funny, and full of singing, dancing, and kids being part of the show! Sounds like a hoot! Catch it Tue, Thur & Sat, 10am at Jerry Presley's God & Country Thtr. (see pg. 12)



Part of the troupe.

countless productions, and on and on. In conclusion, expect a first rate performance which is family friendly, no politics, nothing sketchy, just light-hearted fun! *Whew!* At the Americana Theatre. (417-544-8700)

Acclaimed
show director
Doug Ewart.



JUNE 15-19 2021

Got a dream? There's no better place to learn the "biz" of showbiz than to show up for the **Song & Stage Bootcamp at Branson's Hughes Brothers Theatre**—which plenty of young rising stars from all over the great USA do each year!

◆ Student performers here get to partake of master classes taught by showbiz pros from LA, New York and even Branson! Total immersion classes include • **vocals • choreography • staging**, and much more. So, if you got that dream, go to Branson.Academy.

2021 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 2021.

Apr 30-May 3 —**The Complete Works of**

Shakespeare – Abridged Historic Owen Thtr

May 1 —**Bobby Marquez** Branson Star Thtr.

May 7-8 —**Collin Raye** Branson Star Thtr.

May 11-14 —**Texas Tenors Mickey Gilley** Grand Shanghai Thtr.

May 14-15 —**Confederate Railroad** Branson Star Thtr.

May 14-15 —**Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver** Silver Dollar City

May 14-15 —**Liam Purcell & Cane Mill Road** Silver Dollar City

May 16-17 —**Music Fest** Clay Cooper Thtr.

May 16 —**Casi Joy** Branson Star Thtr

May 20 —**Kenny & Amanda Smith Band** Silver Dollar City

May 21-22 —**Grand Ladies of Country with Leona Williams, Mary Lou Turner and Barbara Fairchild** Branson Star Thtr.

May 22-23 —**The Trailblazers** Silver Dollar City

May 28-29 —**T Graham Brown** Branson Star Thtr

May 28-29 —**KSMU Youth in Bluegrass Band Contest** Silver Dollar City

May 29 —**Route 3** Silver Dollar City

May 29 —**Matt Gumm & Company** Clay Cooper Thtr

Jun 2 —**Matt Gumm & Company** Clay Cooper Thtr

Jun 3-7 —**The Glass Menagerie** Historic Owen Thtr

Jun 4 —**Classical Mystery Tour: A Tribute to The Beatles' Abbey Road** Silver Dollar City

Jun 5 —**Abba Tribute: Dancing Dream** direct from New York Silver Dollar City

Jun 11 —**Mack Brock** Silver Dollar City

Jun 12 —**Vertical Worship** Silver Dollar City

Jun 18-19 —**Aaron Tippin** Branson Star Thtr

Jun 27 —**Russ Taff** Branson Star Thtr

Jul 2 —**Matt Gumm & Company** Clay Cooper Thtr

Jul 6-9 —**The Texas Tenors Mickey Gilley** Grand Shanghai Thtr.

Jul 11 —**Anthony Gomes** Branson Star Thtr

Jul 15 —**Peter Pan Jr.** Historic Owen Theatre

Jul 23-24 —**Branson Elvis Festival** Legends Thtr.

Jul 24 —**Chris Tomlin** Silver Dollar City

July 24-25 —**Kids Roc** Clay Cooper Thtr.

Aug 5-15 —**Mama Mia** Historic Owen Thtr.

Aug 6-7 —**Wahazhazhe, an Osage Ballet** The Mansion Thtr.

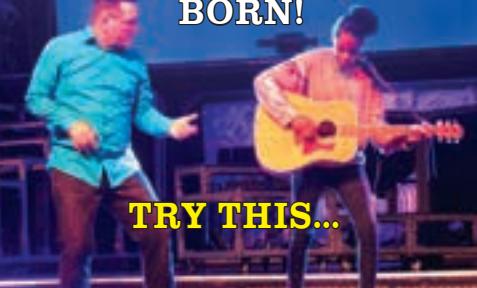
Aug 13 —**Matt Gumm & Company** Clay Cooper Thtr.

Aug 27 —**The Hyssongs, The Hoppers, Mark Trammell** Silver Dollar City

Aug 28 —**Joseph Habedank, The Whisnants** Silver Dollar City

Aug 29 —**Mark Bishop, Booth Brothers, Dr. Dennis** Silver Dollar City

WHERE STARS ARE BORN!



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Richard Freihofer
Wisdom & knowledge from His Majesty the Editor & Publisher

You're on vacation and you're here to see and do it all—so here goes!

Step inside a Branson theater and treat yourself to some of the world's greatest singers, dancers, musicians and performers of every kind. Note the feelings these shows leave you with. The lifted spirits. The joy. The

excitement. The carefree fun. The inspiration.

This Branson entertainment is not like entertainment elsewhere. It comes from a different place. It's inspired by a community that champions core values of faith, family and a love and appreciation of our country, our freedoms and our veterans. There is no better way to get to the heart of what this town is all about than to experience a Branson show. Or two. Or many.

So have fun wherever you roam, but then bring it all home. Check out our show guide, read our stories, make your picks, then kick back—and enjoy the show. ♦

 /TheBransonInsider

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WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

Well, since I'm here to preach at you all and you all is here to listen at me, I know by that look on your faces which I can't see ('cept in my head)—that you think you know the answer to the question I just threw at you all.

Well, I wonder.

Let me take you back to a Bible story that I been thinkin' on just about ever' day on this ol' earth since I first came acrossed it. It's when General Joshua had his army outside Jericho and ready to attack it back in the Old Testament. I'm sure just sayin' that gets the ol' song playin' in your heads. You know, "Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho, and them walls came-a tumblin' down!"

Anyways, since that was all part of The Good Lord leading The Children of Israel out of the desert and into The Promised Land to possess it, I'm sure Joshua got before The Lord and prayed before throwin' everybody into a big fight. That's why I'm pretty sure he knew Who that was Who he suddenly saw standing before him with a sword in His hand. Even so, Joshua was nery enough to go right up to Him and ask, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

The answer ol' Joshua got should be a wake-up call to ever' one of us, especially at times like this.

"Neither," said The Man With The Sword. "For I am the Commander of The Army of the Lord. Now I have come."

Then Joshua fell with his face to the ground and worshipped. Then he said, "What does My Lord wish to say to His servant?"

Folks, I gotta be honest. I'm almost shedding a tear right now just readin' you all this story! But I'll try to keep a-goin'.

The Commander of The Army of the Lord said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." So Joshua did this.

Well, this Bible story back in the Book of Joshua pretty much cuts right to the heart of things. At times like this, when it seems ever'body is either on one side or t'other and there ain't hardly no middle that gets folks on the same side of the fence—(Except when one side gets together to go after t'other side,) we come back to the Big Question—Whose side are you on?

Now some of you good folks are glad to chirp right up and say, 'Why, I'm on The Lord's

side, of course."

Yeah, right.

Now, let me ask us a question. How do we know which side The Lord is on?

Well, you know the answer, of course. At least you think you do. The Lord is on the side of what's right. What's good. Right?

Well, let's start with that right and wrong notion. That's what folks have such a hard time gettin' together on. Ever been to a church board meeting? Nevermind.

Some of you good folks see The Bible as stories about The Good Lord. But you don't see it as God's Word. If you go down that rocky road, then truth becomes a ping-pong ball that bounces all over Creation!

Let's go back to the beginning. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.* That there's all in the first Bible chapter of the Book of John.

How's about this one for a zinger? *I am the way, the truth and the life. (John 14:6)* For me, the real zinger is that all them three things are connected to each other and it all goes back to *The One from Whom all blessings flow!*

Which is all fine and dandy if you was able to believe all that nonsense from Spiritland, sez you. 'Cause truth be told, sez you, is that truth is whatever you make it to be.

Well, there you go. That's what makes ever'thing fall apart. Even the Founding Fathers of this God blessed USA wrote that our Constitution would never be able to hold up if it wasn't anchored by The Truth—which comes to us from our Judean-Christian foundation. In other words, from The Bible!

But let's take it one step further. We all know that truth is about what's right and what's wrong. Right?

Warning. Let's go back to the days of Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden. In that Garden, there was two trees. One was the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. The other was the tree of life. So if you get this right, you'll have the whole world figgered out in a heartbeat. It's this—there is good in this world that seems good, sounds good and looks good. But it leads to evil.

So what's good and what's evil, sez you.

Start by crackin' open that Bible, readin' The 10 Commandments, then readin' that Bible verse you see on signs at football games. John 3:16. Go look it up. When you find out which side The Lord is on, then you'll be able to figure out what's goin' on in the news. He's good news. Amen. ♦

THEY'VE ARRIVED! HUGHES YOUTH LAUNCH THEIR OWN SHOW!

This season 2021 the youngins of Branson's famous **Hughes Brothers** are revealing 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? You get this, the kiddos hirin' the dads to help them stage their own show! So VOILÀ **Re-Vibe!**

Here is an exclusive report we have just received from our undercover showbiz critics: Or spies, if you prefer. ● Re-Vibe stars young Hugheses between the ages of 14 and 22. ● There is modern, contemporary, and several varieties of music performed by this trans generational troupe of singers and dancers, (all Hughes cousins). ● The show consists of music young people like. ● It's high energy fun.

● To elaborate, we shall drop some song clues ● **We Will Rock You** ● **Livin' On a Prayer** ● **Carry On Wayward Son** ● **Sail Away** ● **Dynamite** ● **Stayin' Alive** ● **Van Halen's Jump**—We're talkin', soul, disco, doo-wop, 40's, hip-hop, tap, comedy, drums, guitars, fiddles, 70's & 80s rock ● High energy fun ● Yeah, we Know. We already said "high energy fun." Worth sayin' again. ♦



THE OFFICIAL COMPANY STATEMENT

To help us report honestly, accurately and professionally as we fill in the blanks of what this show is all about-- here's the official Hughes statement released to us hungry news hounds:

"From the amazing choreography to the soaring vocals, the youthful cast of Re-Vibe puts their own spin on these classics. Filled with 80's rock, R&B, pop, alternative, jazz, country, and more; Re-Vibe is a fast-moving show with all types of dazzling dancing, marvelous harmonies, fun costuming, incredible lighting, and great sound.

While the show is all NEW, the amazing vocalists and musicians are experienced performers from award-winning shows. Most of the cast has been performing on stage since their early childhood. Now they're debuting a show that reflects their own creative abilities to produce great entertainment for today's audiences."

That all pretty much paints a picture. It looks like little kids, big kids, youthful teens, and youthful adults of every age will find this show simply irresistible. ♦



*Vibe = good feeling or connecting/
connection and may be used as a
noun and verb. Experience those
positive vibes with Branson's most
excellent live music show – Re-Vibe!*





1959-2021 BRANSON'S FIRST SHOW:

ONCE AGAIN:
LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE!

SEASON 2021

We've said it before.

And we'll say it again. If you saw this show in Season 2020, then you haven't seen this show! Like they've been doing every year since back in 1959, **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers** still fights to top themselves. No wonder they've stayed so relevant every single year since way back yonder in the 1900s!

Honestly, we've just got to say it out loud: this outfit absolutely cannot be topped by anything coming out of Nashville, Hollywood, The Big Apple or any other place in the showbiz universe! They're *that good!* We think it's because unlike other players who perform on sporadic tours, recording sessions and the occasional gig in-between—this crew has been performing nearly every day and night for the better part of their entire lives! We call it the "Branson effect", one of the things that sets "Showtown" apart from all other musical gatherings!

And who on Planet Earth can compete with the Mabe family's **Baldknobbers** legacy—one which has dazzled crowds of adoring fans non-stop for an epic and unheard-of *sixty years straight!* That achievement alone got them a Baldknobbers display at the historic **Smithsonian Museum** in our nation's capital of **Washington, D.C.!**

BRANSON'S FAMOUS BALDKNOBBERS

Here it is in a nutshell: Award winning musicians, vocalists and comedy, plus huge new production enhancements of sound, lights, and whiz-bang special effects. Expect top country hits, traditional country favorites, southern rock, gospel, patriotic salutes, hilarious side-splitting comedy and more—the "more" being about the hottest musicians, vocalists and country comedy in particular galaxy! Expect some of that "outlaw country" with "attitude", some bluegrass, and even some classic rock. Shall we name names? Hows about Keith Urban, Eagles, Jason Aldean, Marshall Tucker, Loretta Lynn, Janis Joplin, Vince Gill, Trisha Yearwood, Lady Antebellum—are we painting a picture here?

WARNING!

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

Branson Show Awards' 2019 Lead Guitar Player of the Year Grant Moody, (right) jams with legendary music star Greg Moody, (his Dad!)



Star vocalist Megan Mabe!



All-Star Duo!

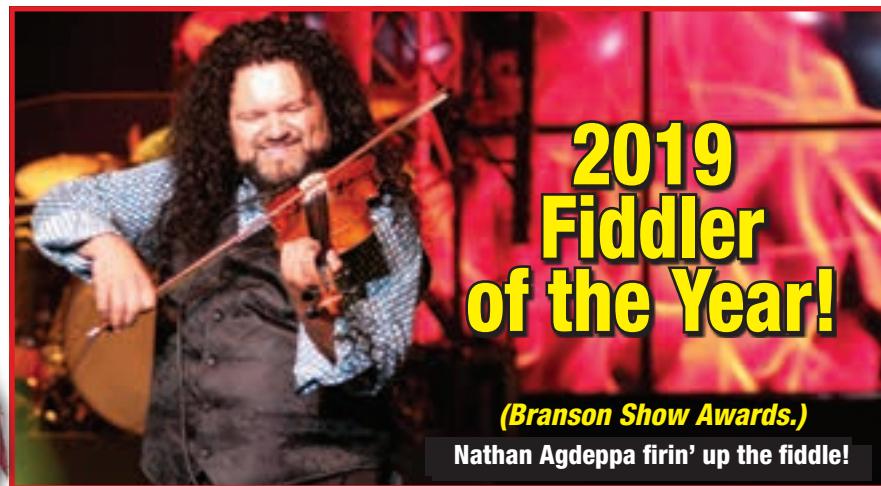
THE BALDKNOBBERS GOSPEL SHOW

This "Rock the House" Gospel show which premiered last season is all about the key element of what would later be known as the Branson show "formula" which Branson's first show pioneered: the straight-up Gospel segment. Now, **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Gospel Show!** is a full blown show of it's own! In it's first season, **The Branson Show Awards** crowned it **The 2019 Gospel Show of the Year**, as well as the show's legendary vocalist **Dan Keeton The 2019 Male Vocalist of the Year!**



Gospel Hall of Famer!

Legendary Gospel tenor Dan Keeton brings "rock-the-house" Gospel to both big shows!



2019 Fiddler of the Year!

(Branson Show Awards.)

Nathan Agdeppa firin' up the fiddle!

GOOD NEWS!

When longtime Gospel recording artist **Ashley Dawn** joined the cast last season that good news was quite literally music to our ears! Ashley's career began at an early age, singing with her family as **The Praters**, the acclaimed Gospel group whose career and multiple albums were popular with fans and critics alike. In addition to performing in all three Baldknobbers

shows, Ashley tours as lead vocalist with the **Missouri National Guard's 135th Army Band**. Ashley also writes songs, she's in the recording studio working on tracks which are already turning heads in Nashville, and (did we mention?) she's Mom to sons Tyler, 15, Casten, 12, and daughters Hali, 13, and Lakoda, 8. Of course there's more to this story, and that would be Ashley's husband Bo. Ashley's musical roots, besides contemporary Gospel, are country and bluegrass. That would make The Baldknobbers, in our not-necessarily-humble opinion, the perfect fit.



Ashley Dawn!

SHANE!

When Nashville star **Shane Vancamp** hits the Baldknobbers stage—jaws drop in a heartbeat! The reasons for that general audience reaction are many. First, of course, is the voice—a sometimes booming, sometimes Gospel soul-stirring, always heart-stealing



voice that resonates with fans of every age. Adding to that is a stage presence that, (as they say in Texas) is “all fired up!” Oh, and Ladies, just so you know, he looks like that because his number 2 passion, (after making music) is working out. Just sayin’!

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! ♦

PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS:

AUGUST-DECEMBER: THE VINTAGE BALDKNOBBERS SHOW!



An instant hit in its' 2020 debut season, this throwback “blast from the past” fires up the Classic Country, Bluegrass and funny business of the 60s, 70s and 80s that created generations of eternal Baldknobbers fans!

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

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER: BRANSON'S FAMOUS BALDKNOBBERS CHRISTMAS SHOW!

A holly, jolly fun-fest of music, laughs and Baldknobbers just being Baldknobbers! Expect a lively North Pole Revue—then everything that leads our hearts and minds to “The One” from “Whom all blessings flow!”



My Voice

by Megan McCombs Mabe

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

A YEAR TO COUNT OUR BLESSINGS!

We have made it. There is finally light at the end of the tunnel. Covid is looking to soon be an event we can place in our rearview mirror. I don't know about you, but I am driving away from that drab and unpleasant scene with the accelerator to the floor!

As we embark on this post-Covid journey, there is a commonly used expression that I have discovered holds even more true in these uncertain times. *There is always strength in numbers.* This saying is often flippantly thrown out and grossly overused in team settings, but in our current environment, it seems suddenly to hold a new weight of importance. The more individuals or organizations that can rally to a cause—the cause currently being to overcome the obstacles and struggles created after a pandemic—the better and more successful the outcome and overall health of the team. There is power and strength in like-minded folks coming together. A team of many always trumps a team of few.

At the Branson Famous Theater, we have been blessed with the most dedicated team in Branson.

Whether it be our front of house staff, our cast and tech crew, our suppliers, our marketing partners, our show partners or even our family support systems at home, I have never experienced such loyalty and dedication to the greater success of our theater. Each person in our business has had to work harder and longer hours, taking on more responsibilities and tasks and sacrificing more for the greater cause. Navigating the unknown has been a true challenge, but our team has proven that the strong only get stronger when put to the test. New and changing rules, regulations, and mandates have yet to phase our dedicated staff. At each new turn in this crazy pandemic journey, they have adapted and complied with ease and

grace. Change is difficult for the best of us, so when you find a staff that is willing to face constant and often frustrating modifications and alterations with a positive attitude, you know you have found your people.

Not only have we been blessed with a dedicated staff and crew, we have been blessed with two amazing partner shows in our theater—*Reza, Edge of Illusion* and *Doug Gabriel*. Any unknown waters are always easier to navigate and wade through when you have a swimming buddy. We could not have asked for two better partners. Not only have they supported the overall success of our theater, but they have operated their shows with professionalism and poise, even when the circumstances of Covid have been challenging. Putting on a show is a feat in itself, but putting on a show with social distancing, masks, sanitizing, and countless other new processes is another level. Doing it with grace and success—that is true professionalism.

It's been a crazy year, but it's been one that I wouldn't take back. It showed me blessings that God has granted that are sometimes easy to take for granted. It showed me that surrounding oneself with the right family of people is the only true way to navigate life—whether through a pandemic or just another “ordinary” year. God knew that 2020 was going to be a rough one, and I am so thankful that he gave our theater the team we needed to find our way to 2021 and beyond. Even more so, I am thankful that we had a God to lead us and our team when the path and final destinations at times seemed so difficult to navigate.

See ya later, 2020! We have new mountains to climb!

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” -Helen Keller ❀



Baldknobbers 2021: (Left to right: (front) Shane Vancamp, Josh Gabriel, Nathan Agdeppa, Dan Keeton, Megan and Brandon Mabe. Back: Greg Moody, Grant Moody, Randy McConnell and Lance Conque.

NEW DINNER SHOW IS DAZZLING ALL AGES!

YEARS IN VEGAS. ENDLESS WORLD TOURS. CHARITIES.



UNBELIEVABLE!

This crew swooped in from Vegas last year just in time for the Big COVID Pandemic of 2020—yet STILL—even in the midst of all that social distancing chaos—their dinner show was such a smash hit that they ended up swooping up a handful of Branson’s top showbiz awards in their debut season! Folks, in a town with this many live shows, magic shows included, it’s pretty obvious that those of us with lightning-fast minds that this Vegas outfit knows how to work their magic on us audience types! For those of us who thought we’d “seen it all”—well, we hadn’t.

2020: Magic’s Top Honors!

But wait—that’s not all! Not only did magicians **Garry & Janine Carson** sweep Branson off its feet, (so to speak)—in 2020 the entire magic world bestowed its highest



Garry and Janine receive their prestigious 2020 Merlin Awards in Las Vegas.

honors upon this dynamic duo! It definitely deserves a drumroll here as we announce that at an international event in Las Vegas, Garry and Janine Carson received the prestigious **Merlin Award** for “*The Best International Magic & Illusion Duo!*” To cite the award granted by 37,000 members of The International Magician’s Society: “*This magical duo has been traveling the world and seen in over 40 countries, performed for military troops overseas and has provided their show as a fundraiser for non-profits & service organizations for children and families for over 14 Years.*”

Wild Times!

For decades, international sensation **Garry Carson** reigned in Vegas. His magic astounded viewers on network TV and dazzled multitudes on world tours with his huge entourage of stage hands, props, performing assistants and (shall we mention?) a supporting cast of tigers, leopards and other wildcats that Vegas legend **Roy Horn** (of **Sigfried & Roy**) helped him train. Besides entertaining, Garry built illusions for other magicians, **David Copperfield** being one of many. But then, everything changed.



Garry during his “wilder” days!

A Whole New World!

After performing his show on a cruise ship in Hawaii, Garry was approached at the post show “meet’n’greet” by a Mom, a Grandma, two Aunts, and a young lady with them who immediately caught his eye. Turns out, like him, the young lady lived back in Vegas, a town that allowed the New York native to pursue all her interests, and even bring life to some of her dreams. She was an EMT nurse. That was her passion. But since childhood, she also loved to perform. That interest led to a side hobby of modeling, performing in Vegas, and eventually, to designing costumes: a craft she surely has mastered, (as us audience types will verify). For both of these two, it was the beginning of a whole new world.

Vegas & Beyond!

Back in Vegas, they reunited. First came love, then came marriage, then came this amazing twosome making magic together all over the world—Janine performing with her husband, designing costumes, managing a blizzard of showbiz details—and eventually adding “backstage Mom” to her resume. That came about by the birth of **Sophia**, now 3 years old. Which, once again, changed everything.

“By the time Sophia was sixteen months old,” as Garry told *The Insider*, “she had been on 42 planes and had a handful of passports and visas. We felt it was time to slow down a bit. We loved all our animals, but we knew it was time to get them off the road and to give them new homes. It was heartbreaking, but the regulations just began to get overwhelming. We had several offers to perform in Vegas, but what we liked about Branson was the concept of shows without gambling. We decided to offer something different from Branson’s other magic shows, all which are awesome by the way, so to Branson we came and here we are.

The New Dinner Theater!

Garry found the perfect venue for his new Branson production and immediately got involved in the legendary showplace’s mass transformation. **Branson Central Theater** not only was restored to its dinner theater glory days, it also became the home of **Golden Catering**, a food service perfect for serving meals on site. No buffet. “An elegant dinner,” says Garry. What is also obviously perfect for these masking times is the natural social distancing of all tables. Fortunes were spent on revamping the theater’s inside. Outside is still a work in progress. Hopefully, it won’t be too long before it begins to resemble the design envisioned by Janine. (Honestly, is there anything this lady can’t do?!”)

Continued on page 22

Garry works his magic with one of his many young volunteers.



3 year-old Sophia makes her grand entrance!

The new dinner theater.



SHOWS FIT FOR A KING'S CASTLE!



It goes without saying—only the best of the best are granted the honor of appearing at a King's Castle! That being said, the shows appearing here obviously fill the bill—for they are actually produced by a real King!

We speak of England's world famous, award-winning show producer **Mr. David King**, whose kingdom includes hit shows comprised of over 500 performers appearing and touring throughout the world! Behold the suits of armor and royal trappings as you enter **King's Castle Theatre**. Then, get ready for a command performance of one of The Castle's blockbuster productions!

RETURN OF THE IRISH STEP DANCE!



Back by popular demand, exciting Irish Stepdance returns to Branson as part of King's Castle's *Dublin Irish Tenors & The Celtic Ladies!*

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, Ireland and (can you believe it?) even Arkansas! Read all about them at [KingsCastleTheatre.com!](http://KingsCastleTheatre.com)

VEGAS HIT "BOOGIE'S" INTO SEASON 2021!

DANCING QUEEN!

The Ultimate 70's Show! Dig out your bell bottoms and put on your dancing shoes; **Dancing Queen** is returning from Las Vegas to the King's Castle Theatre this Season 2021! (Honestly, we can't even say "Dancing Queen" without hearing those heavenly Swedish voices serenading our imaginary ears!) 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"*, *Play That Funky Music*, *Waterloo*, *We Are Family*, *Superstition*, and wow—can you feel it? **Dancing Queen** is a show-stopping 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!



NEW SMASH HIT ROCKS BRANSON!

ANTHEMS OF ROCK! Even though it premiered during our 2020 pandemic season, this Branson-produced rock extravaganza is already on a roll! 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! Let's drop some names and let you guess how long it will take for you to rock along with this world class entourage of singers and dancers! How about *Queen*, *The Beatles*, *The Rolling Stones*, *Bon Jovi*, *Led Zeppelin*, *Journey*, *Elton John*, *Aerosmith*—or *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Rock on!



DUBLIN IRISH TENORS & The CELTIC LADIES: featuring Irish Dance Stars!

The sound of Irish tenors singing in 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 Irish step-dancing we enjoyed in The King's Castle hit show *Spirit of the Dance!*



NEW JERSEY NIGHTS!

THE MUSIC OF FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS!

Celebrating its 8th blockbuster season in Branson! A Broadway hit 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 performed by an international cast of world class dancers, the legendary crooners bring us *Sherry*, *Rag Doll*, *Big Girls Don't Cry*, *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*, *Walk Like a Man* and so much more.



COME BACK NOV-DEC FOR:

BRANSON'S CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND!

No yuletide trip to Branson would be complete without experiencing this holiday feast of music and dance! Expect a Christmas wonderland of high-energy dance, elaborate costumes, beautiful scenery, gorgeous production numbers and the highest kicking chorus girls this side of the North Pole!



**ON TOUR
THROUGHOUT 2021!
CALL (417)-464-8497 FOR
BRANSON SHOW DATES!**

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**. Diana is certainly no stranger to Branson, (nor these pages), for as our real Branson Insiders all know, Diana is the wife and frequent co-star of the gentleman we see on the page to our immediate right, who is of course **Neil Diamond**.

Correction: Diana is, on the contrary, married to **Keith Allyn**, the multi-award winning tribute artist who *performs as* Neil Diamond! Sorry for the fake news.

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 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.

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 Karen Carpenter channeled by the amazing talent of Diana Lynn!

Save the Dates!

Diana is no stranger to Branson, having starred in several shows of her own and having appeared in some of Showtown's premiere showplaces along with her husband Keith (a.k.a Neil Diamond). After several years in Branson, the two stars decided to expand their winter road tour, a decision which suddenly morphed into packed out shows throughout America for over two years! The stars did keep their home in Branson for a little vacay, but their Branson home became a full time residence with the arrival of COVID-19. But now that COVID is on the downswing, America craves both Diana's show and Keith's show to return. Booking demands quickly filled up their 2021 calendars, and then some, causing this dynamic duo to now hit the road throughout the summer months and some weekends. Better call the number seen here and grab your tickets for now or later before this outfit goes *Woosh!*



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. ♦



Diana with Wes Larson, who plays Karen's famous brother Richard Carpenter. Like Richard, Wes plays piano and just about every other instrument there is. He's also a music teacher, actor, minister, show producer, entertainer, businessman, and so much more. We're not sure if he sleeps, however.

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• ONE UNFORGETTABLE SHOW

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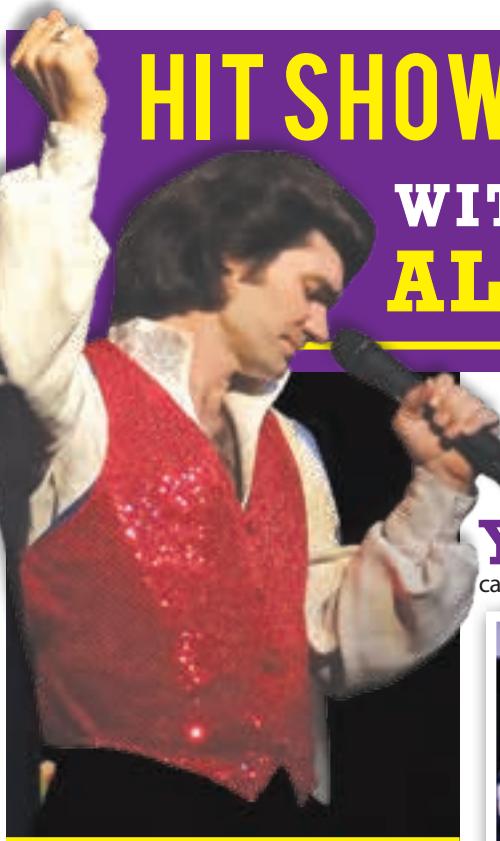
God and Country Theaters
1930 W 76 Country Blvd, Branson, MO

ROCKUMENTARY SERIES

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
May							1
	2	3	*	5	*	7	8
	9	10	*	12	*	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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HIT SHOW RETURNS

WITH BAND OF ALL-STARS!



Presley's God & Country Theatre! (More about Diana's show on page 10)

SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS!

Yes, we're going to do something outrageous! Actually, it was Keith who came up with the idea. Before his show



After packing out performance venues throughout North America for the past two years, **world renown Neil Diamond tribute artist Keith Allyn** has landed once again in the town where adoring fans flocked to his show (**A Neil Diamond Tribute**) for a whopping *ten years straight!*

But wait—*this* time, the fans are in for a surprise, for now Keith is backed up by a band of all-star musicians who, like Keith, are legendary performers in their own right! (More on that a tad later.) But as we probably too often like to say—*“folks, that's not all!”*

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**

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!*

So here goes: Let's have a drumroll for each introduction: **On lead guitar is Bogie Bohinc, formerly with Andy Williams, Tony Orlando**, and many more. **On bass is Robert Terry, from Jimmy Osmond** and many more. **On keyboards is Terry Laird from Lawrence Welk** and many more. **On percussion is Diana Allyn, (Mrs. Keith), on percussion and flute is Adrianna Fine from Fleetwood Mac Dreams, Jerry Presley's Elvis Live**, and many more, **on percussion**

is James McCall from Leon Russell and many more, on drums is Tim Pope, formerly with Ray Charles, Tony Orlando and many more.

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. ♦



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NEIL DIAMOND
TRIBUTE

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1840 W 76 Country Blvd, Branson, MO

ROCKUMENTARY
SERIES

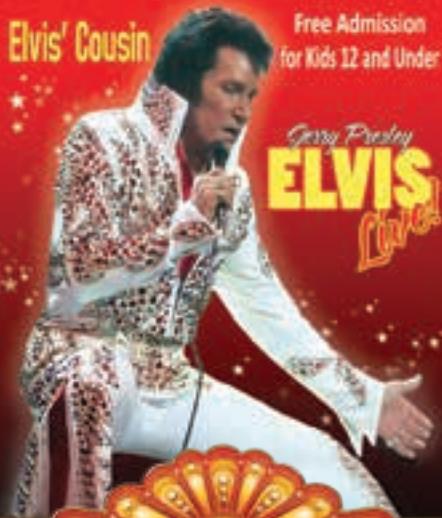
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
May				*	6	*	1
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June	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30			

*** Jerry Presleys ***
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 CHICAGO!**

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**NEIL DIAMOND
 starring Keith Allyn!**

**50 YRS OF KENNY ROGERS!
 FLEETWOOD MAC :DREAMS!**

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www.GodandCountryTheaters.com

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

Wow! Three full-blown productions of authentic Elvis shows—complete with the trademark Elvis entourage of keyboards, horns, electrics, percussion—and OF COURSE lady backup singers and a Gospel quartet! 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!"

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! 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 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-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 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.

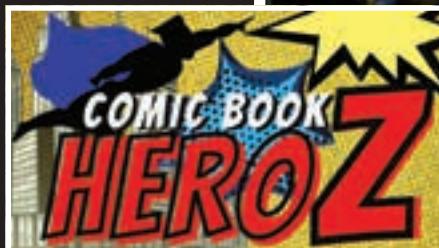


Says Jerry, "I'm not an impersonator, I'm a family member doing the songs of Elvis and I try to keep it as authentic as I can. You will never see me do things that Elvis didn't do."

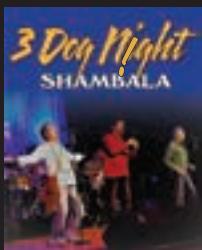
Elvis couldn't have found a better guy to carry on his legacy. A devout Christian, Jerry's life has not suffered the turbulence that befell Elvis—yet the kindness, respect, generosity and even heart for God that Elvis was known for—is alive and well in cousin Jerry Presley—the one we believe to be very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

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

**50 YRS OF
 KENNY
 ROGERS**



FLEETWOOD MAC



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 hung out with Elvis at Graceland
- He treasures several gifts Elvis gave him
- He met briefly with Elvis backstage in July 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."

POWERHOUSE PERFORMERS HEADLINE ELEGANT NEW SHOWPLACE FOR RHYTHM & BLUES!



Ruby Room Stars: (Left to Right) Earl Lee, Derek Ventura and Doc Hutchinson.

What all had just witnessed was a performance by a legendary entertainer and his entourage. Leading it is **Derek Ventura**, an original member of **The Drifters**, the iconic music group who gave us those immortal classics of **Under the Boardwalk, Up on the Roof, There Goes My Baby, Save the Last Dance for Me**, and over thirteen other chart hits—all which landed The Drifters in the **Vocal Group Hall of Fame!** (Note: Read more

about Derek on p. 20)

This Season 2021, Derek and company are starring in two electrifying performances at their elegant new venue which is certainly unique in the Branson music scene. The shows, as we see here—are **Dancing in the Streets- A Motown Revue** and **DooWop & the Drifters**. And for the showplace: allow us to introduce **The Ruby Room at the Majestic Theater & Lounge!**

THE SHOWS

Dancing in the Streets: A Motown Revue

(which obviously recalls the immortal classic of Motown's Martha & the Vandellas) is aptly described as a production presenting the greatest hits of the biggest Motown artists in history. And to educate all youngsters, we will elaborate by explaining that "Motown" is that historic "Motor City" record company

in Detroit which took rhythm and blues and soul music to the world. What began with one kid, (Barry Gordy) and \$800 became a music explosion—and you'll hear it all here. **Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye, The Supremes, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops**, and many more. And the songs: **My Girl, I Heard it Through the Grapevine, Tracks of My Tears, I Can't Help Myself, Get Ready, Stop in the Name of Love**, and more. Many more. Oh, and one more thing: surprise guests include **The Supremes!** (Hint, Hint!)

DooWop & The Drifters.

Again, to educate all youngsters, we will explain "DooWop" as that early rock n' roll music style that originated with Harlem teenagers singing four-part harmonies on street-corners back in the 1950s and early 60s. But come to think of it, thanks to the popularity of oldies stations and Internet, kids today are highly educated in popular music, so most everybody under seventy probably knows all about Doo-Wop. This show takes us back to those golden sounds of **The Drifters, Frankie Lymon & The**

Teenagers, The Five Satins, Dion and the Belmonts, The Del Vikings, The Coasters and so many more.

THE RUBY ROOM'S SHOCKING SURPRISE!

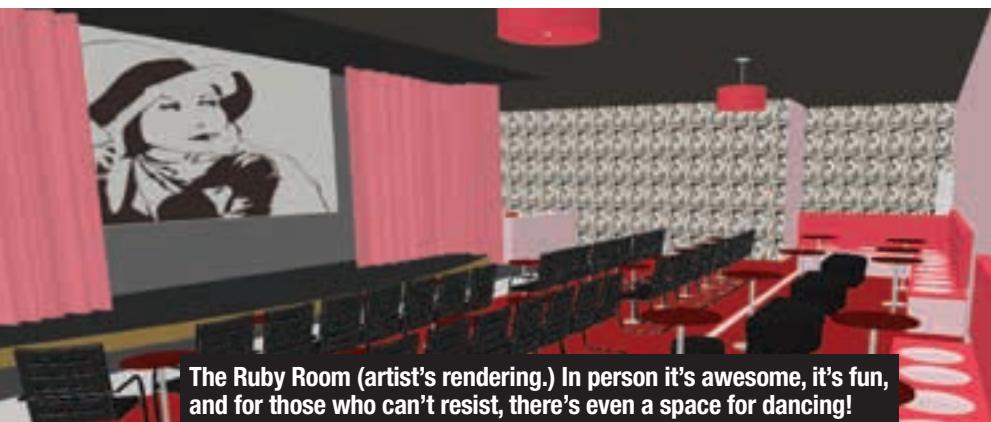
We will just simply describe this exciting new showplace at The Majestic as an elegant, intimate theater and a lounge. Table service offers the appetizers and bar service described at the top of our story—and it all comes with a shocking surprise! (For those of you restless souls too impatient to discover the surprise before heading to the Ruby Room, we'll go ahead and blab it here, although we're turning it upside down for the rest of us who don't like spoiling the fun ahead of time! Either way, you're going to love this place. We're insiders. We saw it under construction. We've seen these guys perform. We know!

Your table will be served by the stars of the show!

Talk about a Branson trend setter! Introducing: a theater that seats like a lounge, serves hot appetizers, flatbreads, street tacos and homemade desserts at table side with service during the show—complete with a full bar offering beer, wine, Starbucks coffee, teas and soft drinks!. Oh, and there's even a small dance floor. Now for the shows.

When they exploded on stage at the prestigious 2018 Terry Awards, the place went nuts! The whole Branson entertainment community was instantly swept away by a powerhouse performance that rocked like an earthquake and rolled like a shockwave! Made a body wanna "move and groove!"

What Branson experienced that night was a medley of rhythm and blues, some doo-wop and soul, and some Motown memories that lit a fire in every heart! Made it tough to resist leaping up and to just start dancing—. You could feel it!



The Ruby Room (artist's rendering.) In person it's awesome, it's fun, and for those who can't resist, there's even a space for dancing!

the sounds of **Motown**

A Motown Production
Dancing in the Streets
Experience over 40 of
Motown's Greatest Hits
Thursday & Saturday
Evenings at 7

Doo Wop & the Drifters
Featuring Derek Ventura
Original Member of the
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It's Show Time!

2021 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

Shows appearing in **THE BRANSON INSIDER** are listed in **RED!**
*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				
Awesome 80's			18,27,28	APR-DEC		
The Blackwoods	theblackwoods.com		18,27,28	APR-OCT		
The Blackwoods Christmas Show	theblackwoods.com		18,27,28	NOV-DEC		
British Invasion			18,27,28	APR-DEC		
Broadway to Buble: George Dyer			18,27,28	APR-OCT		
CJ Newsome's Classic Country & Comedy	patsyclineandfriends.com		16,27,28	THRU DEC		
The Johnson Strings	thejohnsonstrings.com		18,27,28	APR-OCT		
The Johnson Strings Christmas Show	thejohnsonstrings.com		18,27,28	NOV-DEC		
A Janice Martin Cirque Show	janicemartinshow.com		18,27,28	SEP-NOV		
Raiding the Country Vault	raidingthecountryvault.com		17,27,28	APR-OCT		
Rock n' Roll Royalty	rocknrollroyaltybranson.com		18,27,28	APR-OCT		
Rock n' Roll Royalty Christmas Show	rocknrollroyaltybranson.com		18,27,28	NOV-DEC		
<i>Branson Central Theatre</i> 625 St. Hwy 165 • 417-231-4112		F-5	14			
Escape Reality: Up Close Comedy & Magic	carsonentertainment.com		1,8,27,28	THRU DEC	D	
The Steve Morris Lunchtime Break: Comedy, Music	bransoncentraltheatre.com			THRU DEC	L	
<i>Branson Famous Theatre</i> 645 Hwy 165 • 417-231-4999	baldknobbers.com	F-4	2			
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers			6,7,27,28	THRU OCT		
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Christmas			6,7,27,28	NOV-DEC		
Vintage Baldknobbers Show			6,7,27,28	AUG-DEC		
Baldknobbers Gospel Show			6,7,27,28	THRU DEC		
Baldknobbers Gospel Christmas Show			6,7,27,28	NOV-DEC		
The Doug Gabriel Show	douggabriel.com			THRU DEC		
Reza: Edge of Illusion	rezalive.com			THRU DEC		
<i>Branson Hot Hits Theatre</i> 206 South Commercial St • 417-337-7426	bransonhothits.com	F-13				
Motown Downtown				THRU DEC		
Doo Wop & More				APR-DEC		
Patsy to Patsy, Music of Patsy Cline, Reba & More				THRU DEC		
Marvin Gaye & The Masters of Soul				APR-DEC		
Platters Golden Sounds				THRU DEC		
From Broadway to Hollywood to Branson				MAY-DEC		
James Taylor & the Soft Rock of the 70s & 80s				APR-NOV		
<i>Branson Star Theatre</i> 3750 W 76 Blvd • 417-693-4432	bransonstartheatre.com	C-3	4			
Nashville Roadhouse Live starring Stevie Lee Woods			1,19,27,28	THRU DEC	D,A	
Phil Dalton: Theatre of Illusion				APR-NOV		
Mark Aldred's Jukebox Live				MARCH		
Wildman Pebo Wilson				THRU JUNE		
Outlaw Eagles				THRU DEC		
Creedence Coolwater				THRU DEC		
Brian Clarke: Out of the Basement				THRU JULY		

2021 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
Clay Cooper Theatre 3216 W. Hwy 76 • 888-222-8910	claycoopertheatre.com	E-5				
Clay Cooper's Country Express				THRU OCT		
#1 Hits of the 60's (& 50's too)!				THRU OCT		
#1 Hits of the 60's Christmas Show				NOV-DEC		
Dean Z - The Ultimate Elvis				THRU JUNE		
Dean Z's Rockin' Christmas Show				NOV-DEC		
The Haygoods				THRU SEPT		
The Shoji Tabuchi show				TBA		
Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre 1600 W. Hwy 76 • 417-339-3003	legendsinconcert.com/Branson	E-10				
Legends in Concert				THRU SEPT	D,A	
SIX (Real Brothers)	thesixshow.com			THRU OCT		
Buckets N Boards	bucketsnboards.com			THRU OCT		
A Brett Family Christmas	thebrettshow.com			NOV-DEC		
Dolly Parton's Stampede 1525 W. Hwy 76 • 800-520-5544	dpstampede.com	E-10				
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				MAY-OCT		
The Duttons Christmas Show				NOV-DEC		
The Magic & Comedy of Taylor Reed	taylorreed.com			THRU DEC		
Leroy New Tribute to Marty Robbins				TBA		
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 OCT		
Comedy Jamboree Christmas Show				NOV-DEC		
Down Home Country				APR		
Grand Jubilee				THRU OCT		
New South Gospel				THRU APR		
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				THRU DEC		
Beach Boys "California Dreamin"				THRU DEC		
Back to the BeeGees				THRU DEC		
Magnificent 7 Music Variety Show				APR-DEC		
Mike Walker: Lasting Impressions				THRU DEC		
The Hughes Brothers Theatre 3425 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-0076	Hughes-Brothers.com	E-4	15			
The Hughes Music Show			3,20,21, 27,28	THRU OCT	L, D	

ALL NEW!

the HUGHES Music Show

BORN TO ENTERTAIN!



New for 2021! 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!

Shows appearing in **THE BRANSON INSIDER** are listed in **RED!**
 *MEAL GUIDE: B (BREAKFAST), L (LUNCH), D (DINNER), A (ALCOHOL AVAILABLE)



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 2021—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 star-studded supershow! We're talkin **CJ Newsom's Classic Country & Comedy**, 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, award-winning comedy legend

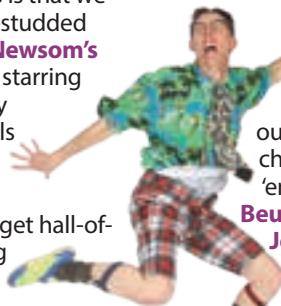
(and

Hee-Haw TV veteran) **Terry Wayne Sanders**—all in the same show!

But yes, folks—that's not all! (We love saying that!) Here's what you also get with

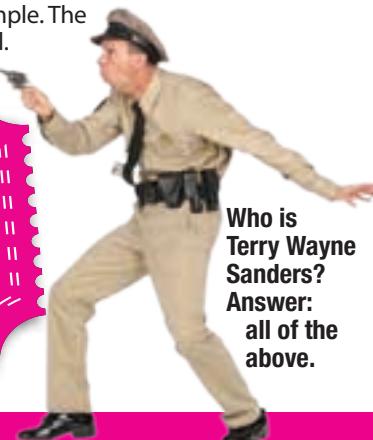
your ticket—the show's all-star band, **(The Recliners)** PLUS a stellar entourage of singers and dancers! And it all happens at the iconic **Americana Theatre**, right in the heart of the Branson strip! Such a deal!

To describe this country music extravaganza, we are reminded of the **Country Tonite Show**, that dazzling Vegas production that enjoyed several blockbuster seasons here in Showtown. Likewise, this full blown country variety show comes at us fast and furious with a catalogue of country hits that spans the decades.



About that Terry Wayne Sanders character—honestly, that hilarious outfit represents so many goofy characters its hard to keep track of 'em all! Let's see, there's **Grandma Beulah, Barney Fife, Fred Smoot, Joan Rivers**—aww, we give up! Terry's 40 year career has accumulated so many characters, (and awards) who can honestly remember them all?

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.



Who is Terry Wayne Sanders?
Answer:
 all of the above.

TICKETS:

CJ NEWSOM'S CLASSIC COUNTRY & COMEDY
 THE AMERICANA THEATRE
 2905 W Hwy. 76 Branson
 Phone: 417-544-8700

Please See Theatre Website for Show Times

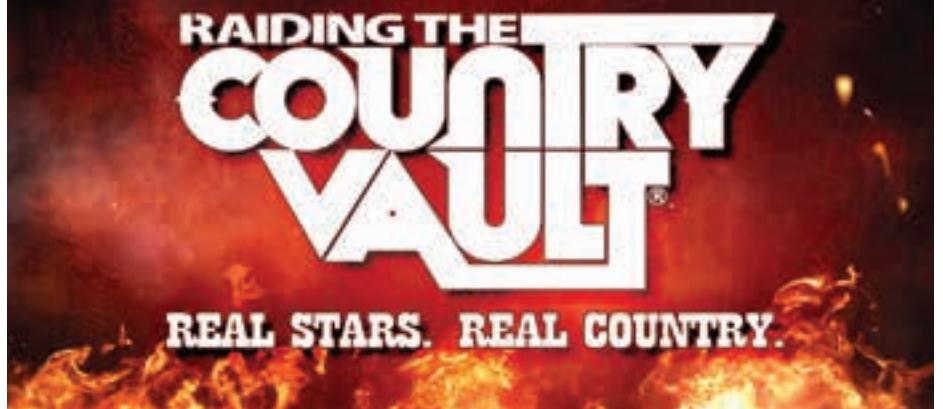
		Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
<i>The Hughes Brothers Theatre Continued</i>						
The Hughes Family Christmas				Nov-Dec	L, D	
Hughes Brothers Country			21,27,28	THRU DEC	L, D	
Oh Happy Day: Goin Back to Gospel!				APR-JUN	L	
Re-Vibe!			1,5,21,27,28	THRU NOV	L, D	
Famous Impressions				THRU DEC		
Branson's IMAX™ Little Opry Theatre 3562 Shep. of the Hills Exp • 417-335-4832	bransonimax.com	B-4		SEE WEBSITE		
George Jones & Friends				THRU JUL		
Hank Williams Revisited				THRU DEC		
Smoke on the Mountain				THRU OCT		
Sanders Family Christmas				NOV-DEC		
The Petersens				THRU DEC		
The Petersens Gospel				THRU OCT		
Sons of Britches				MAR-DEC		
George Jones & Friends Remembered				SEP-DEC		
Rick McEwen's Big Show				THRU NOV		
Jackie B Goodes Uptown Café W. Hwy 175 at 65 • 417-336-3535	Bransonuptown.com	E-4				
Tribute to George Strait Dinner Show				MAY-DEC	D,A	
Country Legends				MAY-DEC	L,A	
Jerry Presley's God and Country Theatre 1840 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-6806	GodandCountryTheaters.com	E-10	10,11,12	SEE WEBSITE		
Cowboy Church			12,27,28	THRU DEC		
Elvis Live! Request Night			12,27,28	APR-DEC		
Elvis Live! Aloha From Hawaii			12,27,28	THRU DEC		
Elvis Live! Madison Square Garden Concert			12,27,28	THRU DEC		
Elvis Live! Gospel Concert			12,27,28	SELECT DATES		
Christmas with Elvis			12	NOV-DEC		
Comic Book HeroZ			1,3,27,28	APR-DEC		
3 Dog Night: Shambala			12,27,28	APR-DEC		
Best of Neil Sedaka: Tribute			12,27,28	AUG-DEC		
Carpenters Once More			10,27,28	APR-OCT		
Carpenters Christmas				NOV-DEC		
Chicago: A Tribute			12,20,27,28	APR-DEC		
Temptations: Soul & Motown			12,27,28	APR-DEC		
Neil Diamond Tribute			11,27,28	APR-DEC		
50 Yrs of Kenny Rogers			12,27,28	APR-DEC		
Fleetwood Mac Dreams			12,27,28	APR-DEC		
Waylon, Willie & The Good Ol Boys			12,27,28	APR-DEC		
Jim Stafford Theatre 2835 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-4528	jimstaffordtickets.com	E-4				
Jim Stafford				TBA		
Jimmy Buffett Tribute: Parrotville				TBA		

2021 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

Shows appearing in **THE BRANSON INSIDER** are listed in **RED!**
 *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
King's Castle Theater 2701 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-2500	kingscastletheatre.com	E-8	1,3,9,20,27,28			
Anthems of Rock			3,9,20,27,28	THRU DEC		
Dancing Queen			1,9,27,28	THRU OCT		
Dublin's Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies			9,27,28	THRU DEC		
New Jersey Nights: Music of The Four Seasons			9,27,28	THRU DEC		
Branson's Christmas Wonderland			9,27,28	Nov-DEC		
Majestic Theatre 2849 Gretna Rd. • 417-231-2420		C-7				
Doo-Wop & The Drifters The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge • 417-231-2420	therubyyroomatthemajestic.com		1,13,20,27,28	THRU DEC	DA	
Dancin' in the Street: a Motown Revue The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge • 417-231-2420	therubyyroomatthemajestic.com		1,13,20,27,28	THRU DEC	DA	
Absolutely Country, Definitely Gospel • 417-218-0808	acdgranson.com			THRU DEC	DA	
Branson Murder Mystery Dinner Show • 417-849-8331	bransonmurdermystery.com			THRU DEC	DA	
Murder by Eggnog • 417-849-8331	bransonmurdermystery.com			Nov-DEC	DA	
Comedy Hypnosis Dinner Show • 417-849-8331	jecobiesmindplay.com			TBA	DA	
Mickey Gilley Grand Shanghai Theatre 3455 W Hwy 76 • 417-336-0888	amazingacrobats.com	D-3				
Shanghai Circus				THRU DEC		
Mickey Gilley & Johnny Lee				APR-MAY SEP-NOV		
The Texas Tenors				SEL DATES		
Rick Thomas, Illusionist: Mansion of Dreams				THRU DEC		
Pierce Arrow Theatre 3069 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 417-336-8742	piercearrowtheater.com	C-5				
Pierce Arrow Country				THRU SEP		
Pierce Arrow :Decades				THRU SEP		
Pierce Arrow: Decades Vol. 2				THRU SEP		
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				
Jesus				THRU DEC		
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	
Ventriloquist Jim Barber & Friends				THRU AUG		
WhoDunnit Hoedown				THRU DEC	D	
Shepherd's Chuckwagon				SEP-DEC	D	
A Shepherd's Christmas Carol				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-DEC		

THE AMERICANA THEATRE PRESENTS:



This acclaimed Vegas-style country music showcase features the all-time classics from country's biggest acts. Dropping a few names, we can't help but mention the likes of **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 many more.

In one spectacular production, **Raiding the Country Vault** tells the story of country music—from all the way back to the 1960's to all the way up to this

millennial year of 2020!

Performed by an all-star cast of award-winning Branson musicians and Nashville stars, **Raiding the Country Vault** in three years has won multiple awards; including "**Entertainers of the Year**", "**Best Band**", and many individual band awards. In addition, the show enjoyed an unprecedented rise to number 3 on TripAdvisor within 12 weeks of opening due to fan reviews. The following year it was ranked **#1 Branson show** and voted "**Best of Branson**" in 2018. ♦



TICKETS:
RAIDING THE COUNTRY VAULT
 THE AMERICANA THEATRE
 2905 W Hwy. 76 Branson
 Phone: 417-544-8700

THE AMERICANA THEATRE PRESENTS:

The Johnson Strings

TheJohnsonStrings.com



Fifteen dazzling instruments, seven voices in tight harmonies—plenty of laughs—and it's all in the family! (The Johnson family). Our recommendation is simple: kick back, relax, and behold things the likes of which your eyes and ears have never experienced! The Johnson Strings routinely sweep audiences off their feet—(so to speak). They set hearts and minds sailing into musical dreamlands. In-between, they manage to serve up all kinds of family fun! (Their comedy is the whole package: musical, physical and whimsical!) Their musical brilliance is spectacular, their performances emotional, playful and fun. Within minutes, they have kids turning to their parents and asking for music lessons! Now *that's* an inspiring show! From classical to pop, from country to Hollywood, from bluegrass to Disney, from the hits of today to Gospel, we recommend riding the musical landscape along with the incredibly entertaining Johnson Strings!



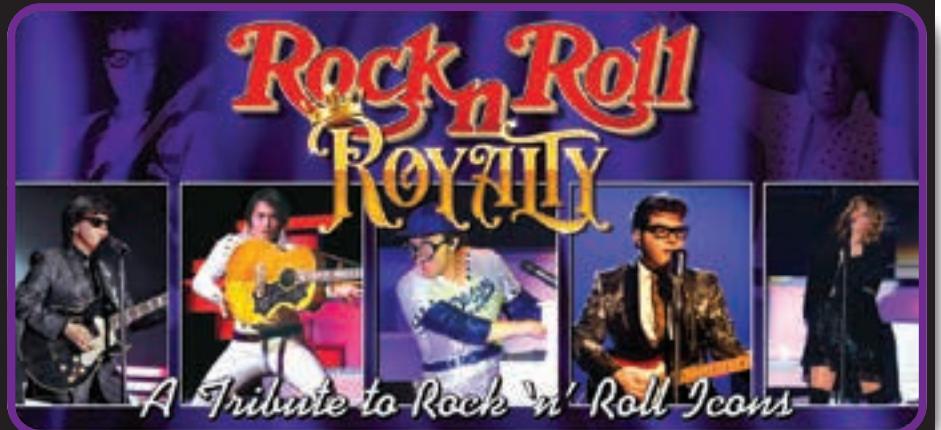
Yeah, the 80s were awesome. Totally. Dude, compared to the music of the 80's, everything today is all bogus. (Kidding, of course) Some say the 80s was the best decade of music for launching songs that both kids and adults still know and love. Well, dudes and dudettes, this show takes us on a *Journey* of the artists and groups that will make a body wanna *Jump* out of it's "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!* *We've Got the Beat*, but the moment you *Relax, WHAM!*, you are right back in the *Danger Zone!* Yes, the minute the music of this show launches, it's hard for a body to stay seated! It just wants to get *Footloose!* Our recommendation: *Don't Stop Believing* because *Who You Gonna Call* to get tickets? Answer: Call the number you see here!

TICKETS:
TO ALL 4 SHOWS!
THE AMERICANA THEATRE
2905 W Hwy. 76 Branson
Phone: 417-544-8700

18 SHOWS



It all began in 1964 when The Beatles of Liverpool crossed "The Pond", landed in New York, appeared on The Ed Sullivan TV Show which was viewed that night by just about every North American who had a TV and could pull in the 3 available stations. What began was hysteria, screaming, girls fainting, Beatlemania, and what history has dubbed The British Invasion, when North America suddenly craved and could not live without just about every rock n' roll band whose members had heavy British accents and whose music seemed to magically strike a chord in every heart! Now, live on stage in Branson, Missouri, experience the incredible music of **The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Who, Queen, The Kinks, Dusty Springfield, Elton John**—and wow, who can even read those names without that British music invading our heads yet again! Experience this show. It's groovy. Fab. And totally Gear.



So who, one might ask, do we consider to be Rock n' Roll Royalty? Well, here's definitely one way to find out. We can best describe this lively trip back in time by dropping some names. There is not a one among them that isn't a trigger of both memories and music that seem forever embedded in every heart and mind that has been on planet earth for the past seventy odd years. Here goes: **Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elton John.** That should give a few clues. Other clues are songs. Songs like **Great Balls of Fire, Hound Dog, Walk the Line** or **Crocodile Rock.** To capture the spirit of that era which has honestly never left us, there's no better way than treating ourselves to an award-winning casts of musicians, vocalists and tribute artists who not only will bring it all back—they will take you there. And here's the cherry on top: after the show, all are invited to a meet'n greet and photo op' with the stars in the theatre lobby, where in addition, we can browse a vast array of nostalgic merchandise—all which will surely recall a memory or two, or even stir up many a long ago dream.

THE BRANSON INSIDER



NETWORK TV, AND A-LIST GUEST STARS FIRE UP ICONIC BRANSON STAR THEATRE!

(SEE AD ON PG 4)

**MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT:
COMING SOON!**

Nashville RoadHouseLive starring Stevie Lee Woods & The NRL Band—and featuring some of music's top stars as weekly guests—will begin their broadcasts on network TV in the very near future! (Note: these will be ticketed shows!)

Originating from The Branson Star Theatre, the worldwide telecast will be available to viewers on GAC TV (Great American Country), Telemundo, I-Tickets, I-Tunes and Virtual Pay Per View! To attend the broadcasts and keep up with the guest star announcements, visit: BransonStarTheater.com



This show's first season in Branson is already winning awards, bringing in the A-List superstars, and launching Branson into the wide world via radio and TV!

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.

During a powerful segment of the show, for all to see, that love is expressed to our veterans, our flag, and to the ideals

The ALL STAR CAST OF NASHVILLE RoadHouseLive!

(Left to right) Rick McEwen, Mark Boyd, Stevie Lee Woods, Paul Oney, Steve Leach and Robbie Springfield.

our nation represents. It's that kind of show. As one prominent musician was overheard saying, "these guys aren't just good, they're crazy good!"

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! ♦



Your Host:
Country/Rock Star Stevie Lee Woods

BRANSON STAR THEATER AMENITIES!

DINNER: Pot Roast, bourbon street chicken, seasoned red potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, Apple cobbler, yeast roll, iced tea and water.

CONCESSIONS: Yes

BEVERAGES: Beer, wine, spirits, Soft drinks, bottled waters, coffee, tea, etc. (all can be taken into the theater) Enjoy!



NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE CONCERT SERIES!

**MAY 1
BOBBY MARQUEZ**

**MAY 7 & 8
COLLIN RAYE**

**MAY 14-15
CONFEDERATE RAILROAD**

**MAY 21 & 22
GRAND LADIES OF COUNTRY
LEONA WILLIAMS,
MARY LOU TURNER
AND BARBARA FAIRCHILD**

**MAY 28-29
T GRAHAM BROWN**

**JUNE 18-19
AARON TIPPIN**

**TICKETS
800-320-3418**

**UPDATES
Bansonstartheater.com**



FOR OLDE TIMEY PHOTO FUN MRS. BRENDA'S GOTCHA COVERED!



Photos, which you'll easily find right across the street from Grand Country. (Whew—that was a long sentence!)

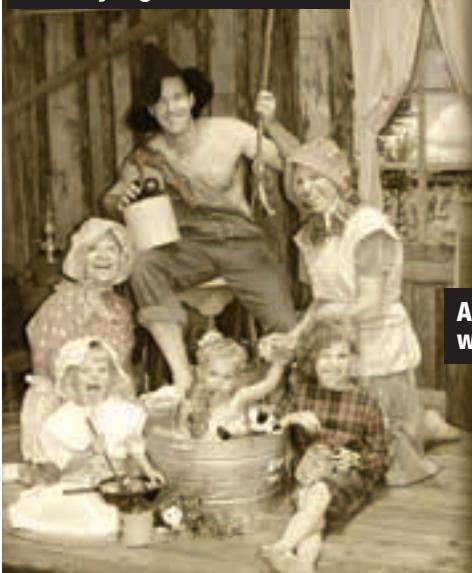
We gladly recommend either place for three good reasons: One. Those high-pressure sales tactics to get you to spend big bucks on pictures of yourself are not allowed here. Two. Both of these high class photo studios have amazing costumes and sets that will make you

feel like you're in a Hollywood movie! And three: The folks taking the pictures are an absolute hoot!

As plainly seen here, Mrs. Brenda's paparazzi caught some Wild West varmints acting up at the local saloon!

In our not-so-humble opinion, your best shot for having some photo fun will come by heading Easterly down the Branson strip to **Mr. Brenda's Old Time**

Saturday night in the Ozarks!



A Victorian belle primps with perfume....

herd of cats eating jalapenos—plus they are fun to have fun with!

Check out the ad below, see some of the foto phun on their facebook page and website—then let the good folks at Mrs. Brenda's give you and your good folks their best shot. ♦



We agree with **Trip Advisor**, who rates **Mrs Brenda's Old Time Photos** right up there at the top of the list for old timey photo phun!

The folks here are creative nuts and funnier than a

SCOOPS & PIX

from our ROVING REPORTERS
& PROWLING PAPARAZZI!

That's right, folks—not only is our own **Derek Ventura** appearing in both shows at the new **Ruby Room** inside **The Majestic**, (as we learned on page 13)—the former New York City bandleader was *actually the lead singer* of Motown's legendary doo-wop quartet **The Drifters** from 1972-1984, a singing career that soon had him touring both North America and Europe for over a decade! Generations both past and present continue to dance, groove and cherish the memories and dreams stirred up by such Drifter classics as **Under the Boardwalk**, **Up on the Roof**, and over thirteen other chart hits—all which landed The Drifters in the **Vocal Group Hall of Fame!** Lucky us, for now we get to hear The former Drifters lead singer up

A MOTOWN LEGEND IN OUR MIDST!



Derek (far right) back in the day!
Derek today!

close and personal in both the **Doo-Wop & The Drifters** show and the **Dancing in the Streets Motown Revue**, now playing in that way cool **Ruby Room Theatre & Lounge**, (with dance floor) For more: see p. 13.) ♦

YOUR BEST SHOT!

SHOWBIZ ROYALTY ROCKS KING'S CASTLE!

We'd expect royalty in a castle, right? Well, even though we speak of a showbiz castle, we appropriately speak of what we, and millions of others would consider to be of some showbiz royalty who appears at said castle. We thusly describe a young royal who this season is absolutely rocking the castle on electric guitar as he shreds the licks of **Van Halen** and others in this season's smash hit production of **Anthems of Rock**, (as seen back on pages 3 and 9) His name is **Jack Cathcart**, a graduate of Missouri State with a BFA in acting. Besides being a guitar maestro, Jack has chalked up a long resume of theater, film and TV credits—everything from Shakespeare to an award-winning music video. All should be of no surprise, for Jack descends from a showbiz dynasty which includes, among many others, Grandpa **Dick Cathcart**,



Jack Cathcart.

the trumpet maestro of TV's iconic **Lawrence Welk TV Show**, and Grandma **Peggy Lennon**, of the legendary **Lennon Sisters!** Warning: Do not miss this royal performance. If thou art worthy. ♦



Music history was made when brass horns joined electric guitars, power vocals, and the drumbeat of rock 'n roll to create the iconic band **Chicago!** Now, all of us in Branson get to see and hear up close and in person, the musicianship that helped create the soundtrack of the

past fifty years! It's all happening at **Jerry Presley's God & Country Theatre!** The stats say it all: **Grammy Hall of Fame, 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award**, some of the world's best-selling albums of all time, and so many other accolades to list, but you get the picture. How about some memory triggers? **Make Me Smile, Hard to Say I'm sorry, You're the Inspiration, Will You Still Love Me?, Look Away, If You Leave Me Now**—should we keep going? For tickets to this tribute entourage of world class musicians, see pg. 12. ♦

Branson's Largest Bar For BIG Groups! **Mrs. Brenda's** Southern Belle & Gentleman **Biggest Studio In Branson**

Saloon Girl N Cowboy **Old Time Photo** Gangster & Flipper

417-320-6221 1940 W. Hwy 76 Branson

Hughes News

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

Season 2021



WHAT A YEAR!

Over at the **Hughes Family Theatre**, Season 2021 has just about launched into another galaxy!

First, the youngsters of this outfit which **USA Today** calls "*the world's largest performing family*"—have launched their own new show, (RE-VIBE. which you already knew if you read carefully back on page 5!)

Then, of course, is the multi-award-winning mega production starring over 50 members of the huge Hughes Brothers family nation which has reigned in Branson for over 20 years! A drumroll, please, as we speak of the spectacular **Hughes Music Show!**, which, as fans all know, is way more than 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!

Although the four Hughes Brothers and their ever-expanding family of star

performers have been playing to packed out Branson audiences for decades, we are issuing this **ADVISORY**: If you haven't seen **The Hughes Music Show** lately, then you haven't seen the latest incarnation of this showbiz masterpiece!



So what can one expect? 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!

NEW THROWBACK SHOW

Yes, it's a brand new show at The Hughes Family Theatre. Sort of.

We speak of the new **Hughes Brothers Country Show** which premiered last fall

and has already kicked up a cyclone of high praises! Yes, it's new, but here's the catch: Country Music is what originally brought The Hughes Brothers to the dance, so to speak. So here we are, a whole new show bringing back that good ol' Country & Western music,

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 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 Regnall! 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 p. 15)



June 15-19, 2021

(See page 3)

BOOTCAMP INFO:

417-334-0076



WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE GOING!



Wilder Animals. No Extra Charge!

This just in: a shocking piece of news: On a cold, snowy day way back in April, (yikes, just this past April!) **Branson's Wild World** owner **James Kelly** was kind enough to show us where lions, tigers, cougars (*Oh my!*) and wolves, dingoes, arctic foxes, jackals and more will be added to a massive new outdoor area as part of the attraction described in the ad below. And here's the shocking news: No Extra Charge!

But wait—that's not all! As the folks find out quick, this is already one of the price friendliest animal attractions out there! So this is huge! But there's even more!

Despite being expanded outdoors, we'll still be able to get up close and personal with our wildlife friends, as they lock eyes with us mere inches away! Yet besides more animals, we get more surprises, like being able to get our pictures taken in a safari vehicle with an actual, living, breathing tiger in the back seat! *Woah!*

Says James, the new **Wild Valley, should be up and ready some time in May.** "For the last six months I've been literally living and breathing this project," he tells us.

Are us folks ready to take a walk on the wild side? Oh yeah!

New Dinner Show

continued from page 8

Blowing up Social Media!

When **Escape Reality (Magic & Illusions) Comedy & Magic Dinner Show** premiered in Branson, it literally blew up social media, (at this writing ranking **#2 on Trip Advisor**) In our opinion, here's why: It's family friendly. The illusions are incredible, the magician and his wife are lovable, and Garry is non-stop hilarious! But here's what's really special: the show is rapid-fire, funny and astounding, but not at all hyper. In fact, it's so relaxed and casual that audiences are stunned when the 90 minutes are over! (No intermission. Just *woosh!* And it's over!) **Dinner at 5, show gets out by 7.** Then it's *woosh!* On to an 8pm show elsewhere, or *woosh,* back to the lodging to just kick back and chill.

The Magic of Helping Others!

Years ago Garry founded a charity which has long since outgrown him and to this day works a different kind of magic throughout the world. His heart for people less fortunate has dominated his life since childhood. The result: sponsormagiclink.com, a link-up of entertainers performing at charity fund-raising events and networking with corporate sponsorships. Their way cool slogan is: **The Magic of Helping Others!**

All in The Family!

Providing she is in the mood, you are very likely to see the appearance of three year-old **Sophia Carson**, the show's rising star. And at the end of many an illusion, you will for sure see Garry and Janine flow into each others arms as they take their bows. But as this behind-the-scenes *Insider* reporter has observed, that's not just part of the act—it's a glimpse into their lives. *



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

Whether you've been there before, or never before—Season 2021 is a whole new world at **Branson's Wild World!**

Expect new adventures, stunning new attractions and **a transformed shopping area** whose specialty gifts, toys, and educational 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.

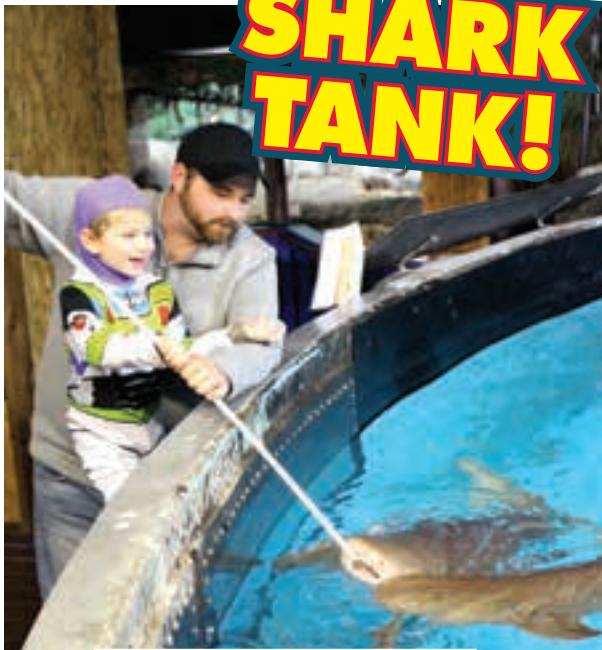
NEW STUFF!

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.



Snake Hugs!

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?



GLOBETROTTERS!

World renown attractions designer James Kelly & his wife Lisa.

More anything?

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!

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!



THE FUN KEEPS GROWING! World's LARGEST Toy Museum

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!

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! 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!



The Story of You

Welcome to your happy place. Like we say, it may feel like a theme park at first, but the theme doesn't come from Hollywood or from some other fixture in our pop culture. The theme is you. Your life. So get ready for an emotional journey, where memories are awakened—and stories begin to flow like a river. What you see and experience here will cause storytelling without even trying. They will likely be stories from childhood, told from family member to family member. They may be reunion stories—describing objects and experiences with them that had not been remembered for years—maybe for decades.



Seven year-old **Ralphie Grim** of Branson engineers the attraction's 37 foot long HO gauge train complex. That involves running the switchyard for three main lines and controlling the direction and speed of each train. *Go Ralphie!*

Museum Host **Michael Morgan** shows us **Daisy's** latest signature model in The National BB Gun Museum's gift shop.

find a whole lot here that will flip your switch or flick your trigger!

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!"

Be Prepared

Be prepared for two things. 1. There is much to see. 2. There is much to DO! There are retro toy rides. There are costumes for the kids to play dress-up and to pose for freebie pictures. There are dolls to play with. Tinker toys. Checkers—(located in the museum's world's biggest checkers collection—which includes checker sets going back to the 1700s!)

To say there is much to see is putting it mildly. Think of it like this: no matter what you were interested in while growing up, you will find it here. You will also find that you have probably not entirely grown out of that interest. Perhaps it has just been matured, modified, or slightly redirected! You can be sure of one thing—no matter the age of either you, the kids, or anybody else—you are going to

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**, **Marvell**, **Barbie**, **TV Westerns from the 1950s**, **G.I-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 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!



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.

RETRO FUN!

THE OUTSIDE LOOKS FUN, BUT THE INSIDE IS FUN!

Who is Harold Bell Wright?

He's the namesake of the Harold Bell Wright Museum, which is all part of the show here. Oh, and he probably had a lot to do with changing the world. He came to this area and wrote a book about it, which became the third best-selling book of all time. It was called **The Shepherd of the Hills**. But even more amazing, he wrote a book called *The Printer of Udell's*. When a young **Ronald Reagan** read the book, he was so inspired he immediately sought out a local pastor and dedicated his life to Jesus Christ. And the rest is history.

Massive doll collections and doll houses spanning the centuries!



and everything else."

We asked if the kids, (Cecily, age 2 and Amelie, age 8) were enjoying themselves. "Oh yes," said Anna. They've been playing with the GI Joes, Lincoln Logs and that big train set."

So folks, there's your testimonial.

Tom & Wendy's Toy Story

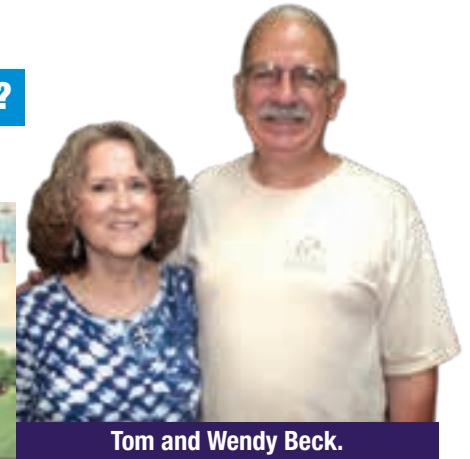
Let's meet the people behind all this: **Tom and Wendy Beck**. Seriously—go ahead and meet them. They're usually right there!

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?"

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.



Tom and Wendy Beck.

Feedback

For some impromptu feedback, we ambushed the Brian and Anna Barros family from Oklahoma City during their journey through the museum. "It's great," Brian told us. "Brings back a lot of memories from my childhood. Also brings back a lot of memories of my parents telling me what they grew up with."

"I really enjoyed all the Western toys," said Anna. "And the nostalgia toys like **Howdy Doody**."

Confused, we reminded Anna that she



His book changed the life of a future president—and the rest is history!

was much too young to remember that TV puppet star from the 1950s. "Well, my parents introduced me to that. They watched old videos and I got to see them. It's fun to see all the things they were always talking about—the tin toys, wind-up toys,



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



Museum host Ron Howard shows us the prehistoric V-8 engine of a 1927 Cadillac, one with those legendary "suicide doors."

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RETURN OF THE SUPERSTAR CRAFTERS!

Good News! Some of Branson's most popular, (and world-famous) crafters continue to be sought out and welcomed to their new home at the new **Ozark Mountain Craft Mall**, located right across from Grand Country on W. Highway 76, (the Branson strip!)

For that we can high-five the efforts of Ozark craft connoisseurs Mark and Jennifer Grant, who have managed to re-gather Branson's superstar crafters and working vendors from such legendary Branson venues as **Engler Block**, (razed after the 2013 Leap Day Tornado), and the popular **Branson Mill**, (later

converted by developers into a trampoline Park). But the good news, like we said, is—*they're back!*

For this we can thank the aforementioned venue owners Mark and Jennifer, who also own **Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos** just a few doors down and just a few pages back, (page 20). As Mark tells us, "Jennifer and I also had an old time photo attraction at The Branson Mill. A lot of real friendships with other vendors came out of that. We were like family. We ate our meals together every day. We worked together. When that location changed hands and broke up that family, it really hurt."

Local resident Heather Anderson shops quilts.



But things would later change—for the better! Says Mark, "When we saw that we could bring part of that family of vendors back together in a new location, we jumped on it. Having these crafters,

artisans and working vendors come back together, each with their own talents and uniqueness—is something really special. It's representing the heritage of Branson."

Briefly described, every booth in the **Ozark Mountain Craft Mall** features unique items not found elsewhere. Some include classes offered by the crafters themselves. Manning the attraction is Mark's

wife Jennifer, a self-described, life-long fan of working with retail items she personally enjoys. When it comes to customer service, Jennifer has no equal. "We really care about our customers," she tells us. "If you're looking for something, we will do whatever we can to help track it down. We'll answer questions. We just want to create a great experience for all ages."

Our conclusion is this: Mission Accomplished. ♦



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

Emergency Alert:
Electronics necessities at a fraction of retail prices!



Meanwhile, Heather's 3-year-old daughter Miah shops the toy department!

Ozark Mountain Craft Mall

See Our Working Crafters!
Quilts, Scroll saw artist, Paparazzi, Painting classes, Serendipity jewelry, Papa Brown's BBQ, Pet supplies, Toys, Sugar scrubs, Lamps, Custom tumblers, decals and MORE!

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Branson MO
417-320-1221
www.ozarkmountaincraftmall.com
or Facebook



COLOR ME CRAZY!



Master Craftsman Gaylen Montgomery (right) disciples a student in the art of the scroll saw.

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!

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!

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



Brian shows us his star attraction.

20,000 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!*

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 in this store's entire department of veterans items, plus clothing and merchandise all celebrating love for our good ol' USA! Hats, all kinds of veterans gear, collectables, décor, memorabilia—you name it, this place has got it! Let's shout out a shocking statement here: **THIS IS THE LARGEST SELECTION OF AMERICAN MADE MILITARY THEMED MERCH ANYWHERE!**

THE MERCHANDISE

Folks like you will also enjoy perusing the Men's, Women's & Children's clothing, the



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

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!



Kids discover the toy department!

MAP LOCATOR

See Map on opposite 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**
- **Raiding the Country Vault**
- **The Johnson Strings**
- **Awesome 80s**
- **British Invasion**
- **Rock 'N Roll Royalty**

At The Branson Central Thtr F-4

- **Escape Reality, Magic & Illusions, Dinner Show, starring Garry & Janine Carson**

At the Branson Famous Thtr F-4

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

At The Branson Star Thtr C-3

- **Nashville Roadhouse Live**
- **Guest Stars**

At The Hughes Family Thtr E-4

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

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 The Majestic Theatre C-7

- **The Ruby Room**
- **Doo Wop & The Drifters**
- **"Dancin' in the Streets" Motown Revue**

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

- **Elvis Live! Aloha from Hawaii Show**
- **Elvis: Madison Square Garden Show**
- **Elvis Request Night**
- **Christmas With Elvis**
- **3 Dog Night Show**
- **50 Years of Kenny Rogers**
- **Carpenters Once More**
- **Chicago Tribute Show**
- **Comic Book Heroz!**
- **Fleetwood Mac Tribute**
- **James Taylor & Friends Tribute**
- **Neil Diamond Tribute starring Keith Allyn**
- **Neil Sedaka: His Music, His Legacy**
- **The Temptations: Soul & Motown**
- **Waylon, Willie & The Good Ol' Boys**

ATTRACTIONS

- **Branson's Wild World F-9**
- **Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos E-9**
- **World's Largest Toy Museum D-4**

SHOPPING

- **Made in the USA General Store The Shoppes at Branson Meadows C-9**
- **World's Largest Toy Museum D-4**
- **Ozark Mountain Craft Mall E-9**



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BRANSON MAP

MAP KEY

- Red Time Saver Route
- Blue Time Saver Route
- Yellow Time Saver Route
- ★ Insider Theaters
- ◆ Insider Attractions
- ★ Other Theaters
- ◆ Other Attractions
- Shopping
- Ⓜ Traffic Lights
- ⌂ Golf Course
- 🍴 Restaurants/Dinner Theatre