

THE BRANSON INSIDER



SAVE THE DATES!

YAKOV!

A COMEDY LEGEND

UNMASKED!

— P 3

A MOTOWN
LEGEND

WELCOMES US TO
THE RUBY ROOM!

— P 21

SEASON 2021

ON WITH THE SHOW!

ILLUSIONIST
RICK THOMAS
**MANSION
DREAMS**

NEW LOCATION. NEW **WOWS!!!**

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LADIES OF THE CASTLE!

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Lady Sarah Marie and young Lady Faith



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MADE FOR TV!
SUPERSTARS
& SUPER
SHOWS!

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Lucky us that a genuine comedy legend of global proportions has temporarily returned to his adoring Branson fan base, (including us!) to treat us to his latest comedy masterpiece!

ADVENTURES WITH YAKOV!



At The White House!



Dr. Yakov!



Adventures with Olivia!



pilots (a sitcom, a reality show, a talk show) teaching his college courses at Missouri State, earning his **Masters Degree** at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating from California's Pepperdine University with a **Doctorate in Psychology** and Global Leadership, traveling the globe on comedy tours and, did we mention?—he's also been enjoying world travels with his lovely Russian wife **Olivia!**

Of course, all this is woven into his comedy, along with laughs inspired by current events, our funny lives here in The USA, and his own amazing life—as duly noted in our sidebar.

Yakov's comedy first blasted onto the world stage back in the '80s, soon coming to the attention of **President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan**. The President's fandom resulted in several invitations to **The White House** and several lengthy laugh-a-thons of Yakov and The President trading stories and quips. Later, White House advisors saw an opportunity and sought Yakov's help and advice during the tense meetings between The President and Soviet leader **Mikhail Gorbachev**. Yakov's insight and comedic contributions greatly helped thaw relations between the two leaders—building a genuine rapport between both them and their delegations. Those first encounters marked the beginning of the end of the Cold War, and ultimately of the Soviet Union's socialist empire.

For Yakov, it was the role of a lifetime. He grew up in **Joseph Stalin's USSR**, his family sharing a small apartment with eight other families. Somehow, he was able to find joy in making others laugh.

After two years of required service in the Soviet Army, he landed a comedy job on a cruise ship, yet always under the watchful eye of the KGB and Soviet authorities who carefully reviewed all his material.

After two years of paperwork, Yakov and his family were finally allowed to emigrate to America. They arrived in New York with less than a hundred dollars in their pockets.

As always, Yakov's comedy draws from the news and from life—ours as well as his. His comedy is not politically correct enough to be largely embraced by the national media—but for the rest of us, Yakov makes us "laugh our Yakov," he causes our hearts to swell with pride and gratitude for the country we live in—and his every performance leaves us with no small amount of faith, hope and love. ♦

AMERICA WHAT A COUNTRY!



The comedy star who President Ronald Reagan called "a national treasure!"

BREAKING NEWS: This just in: Both a TV series and a documentary are now in the works celebrating Yakov's vast catalogue of comedy, as well as his amazing journey—from a penniless immigrant fleeing Soviet communism, to an internationally renown comedy star of stage, screen and television! What a country! What a story! And what an amazing comedy legend!

Come Back for Christmas!
(Nov-Dec)

About Yakov

Early Years:

Russian-born and raised. Served two years in the Soviet Army. Emigrates to US in 1977 with \$100 in his pocket. Sworn in as American citizen by Chief Justice Warren Burger at the Statue of Liberty, 4th of July, 1986. Gets his start in American funny business at the famed **Comedy Store** in Los Angeles, where legendary owner **Mitzi Shore** showcases Yakov and fellow struggling comics such as **David Letterman, Jay Leno, Robin Williams, Richard Pryor, Jim Carrey** and others.

Artist: Art degree from a prestigious Russian institute. Later teaches art professionally. New York Art Expo: 2003. Painted giant mural at New

York's "Ground Zero" 2001.

Movies: *Moscow on the Hudson* with Robin Williams, *Brewster's Millions* with Richard Pryor, *The Money Pit* with Tom Hanks, *Heartburn* with Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep.

TV: Has appeared on virtually every major network entertainment show, Showtime's ACE Award nominee for "Yakov Smirnoff from Moscow...Idaho," "What a Country," syndicated series, guest stars regularly.

Book: "America on Six Rubles a Day"

Broadway: One-man show, "As Long As We Both Shall Laugh" 2003

Career Highlights: Friendship with three

US Presidents. Arrived in Branson in 1992. Headlined his own 1400 seat theater for 23 years.

Greatest Achievement: Grew up under communism, yet was able to realize his American dream.

Wife: Olivia

Children: Natasha & Alexander

His comedy: It reflects the dynamics between men and women, the happiness that can be found inside oneself, and a celebration of the spirit of life. Mission Statement: "to experience happiness and teach it with passion through comedy and sensitivity."

INSIDER Revelations



Richard Freihofer

Wisdom & knowledge from His Majesty the Editor & Publisher

Do It All!

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. ♦

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INDEPENDENCE
BIRTHDAY!**

That's the Spirit

Theo N. Cider

Local expert, part-time preacher.



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 threwed 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.

Hows 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. ♦

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ILLUSIONIST RICK THOMAS MANSION DREAMS



Master Illusionist Rick Thomas and ballet star Tara, Rick's wife and leading lady!

After years of world travels and reigning as the top family show in Las Vegas for over 15 years, **Master Illusionist Rick Thomas** premiered **Mansion of Dreams** at Branson's iconic Andy Williams Moon River Theater. Having labored on Mansion of Dreams for over twenty-five years, it's appropriate that Rick calls the production his "show of a lifetime". Audience reactions? Pretty much what you see in the headline here. And that goes for kids, Moms and Dads, Grandmas and Grandpas, fans of magic, and even fans who don't much care for magic! It's *that* spectacular!

This season, the "wows" have multiplied into an even mightier chorus of excited children, oohs and ahhs of mesmerized adults and waves of laughter among them all. In short, Mansion of Dreams is simply a masterpiece of entertainment, imagination—and pure joy! If you've seen this show before, know this: like Einstein's revelation about our universe—the magical wonders here are ever-expanding! They can be surprising,

**NOW AT
Mickey Gilley's
New Shanghai
Theatre.
(See page 15)**

and even astounding, but they don't appear strictly like puzzles to solve. On the contrary, they are just purely entertaining. Inspiring. Funny. Dreamlike. Beautiful. The typical audience comment: "Beyond our expectations."

The curtain opens. Immediately, things happen. Jaws drop. Reality is suspended. We are stupefied, as one unbelievable event transforms into another at almost breakneck speed. Special effects are

- THE TOP FAMILY SHOW IN VEGAS FOR 15 YEARS!
- 2-TIME BRANSON "ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR" AWARD!

astounding. The music, the dancing and theatrics are spectacular. Rick is a world champion ballroom dancer, and it shows, especially when he takes the hand of lead dancer Tara, his dancing (and marriage) partner. The performance is mesmerizing. Then, something happens that is almost shocking. The music stops. Rick breaks character. He grins. Turns around and looks at the stage, then shrugs, looking almost bewildered. "Wow," he says. "That was pretty cool!"

We laugh. Then we see the other side of Rick. He's a fun guy. He makes us laugh. He's relaxed. He plays with our heads. He invites kids up on stage. The kids are instantly so crazy about this guy that every kid hand goes up when he asks for volunteers, all in a kid chorus of "Me, me, pick ME!"

Rick's interaction with the kids, both in the audience and with the volunteers on stage, is absolutely brilliant. He has fun with them. They have fun with him. The rest of us have fun watching! Somehow, he gets on their level—never talking down to them, never acting like them, just seamlessly connecting with them. They get his jokes, which are amazing, for the jokes are the kind that kids understand, yet

only the adults understand on another level!

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

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

About Rick Thomas

Awarded Magician of the World!

World Magic Award

Headlined in Las Vegas for 15 years!

Tropicana, Bally's, Planet Hollywood, Mandalay Bay, Mirage, Bellagio, Orleans, SunCoast, Sahara, Stardust!

5 World Tours in over 50 countries!

5 Continents!

Awarded Stage Magician of the Year!

Academy of Magical Arts

As Seen on TV!

ABC, CBS, NBC, Discovery Channel, MTV, Animal Planet, Hallmark, History Channel and many more!

About Tara

Rick's wife and leading lady!

Lead Dancer, Mansion of Dreams!

Raised in the country of Zimbabwe, Tara has been trained in ballet since the age of 5, earning her the prestigious honor of being Senior Member of the National Ballet and Tambuka Dance Company. She has performed in numerous national productions of classical ballet, including Swan Lake, The Nutcracker, and Copellia. Tara has also received her Advanced Acrobatics Teachers Certificate with Honors with Distinction. She attended Northern Ballet School in the United Kingdom, graduating again with Distinction. Her dancing career took her to stages and cruise ships around the world before appearing in Rick's Vegas production as Dance Company Director, featured soloist and Lead Magical Assistant. Before long, Tara became Mrs. Rick Thomas, and later, Mom of the magical couple's son Preston!

KIDS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!



And they came to the right place, which is why nearly every kid hand goes up when Rick asks for volunteers!





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 that 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 Mabel!



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 Kyler, 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!

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!”



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



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.



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 🌸

SCOOPS & PIX

from our ROVING REPORTERS & PROWLING PAPARAZZI!

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 VOILÁ **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. ♦



HUGHES STARS ALIGN— AT THE ALTAR!

ALEX & HANNAH!

FEBRUARY 13!

That's right folks—the day *before* Valentine's Day—**Hughes Music Show** star **Hannah Hughes** added her life-changing "I do" to **Alex Chandler's** in front of a massive gathering of Chandlers and Hugheses right here in Showtown! (Valentine's Eve—how *romantic!*)

As multitudes of us Branson Insiders know, Hannah is the 21 year-old daughter of **Hughes Music Show** stars **Jason Hughes**, (one of *the Hughes Brothers*), and Jason's co-star (and wife) **Mara Hughes**. Many of us have watched Hannah grow up on stage, (not saying that we're old or anything—just sayin'!) We've watched her develop from an entertaining youngster into a brilliant violin virtuoso, dancer and singer—but wait, there's more! Hannah also works with her new husband Alex—booking groups for the Hughes Music Show!

And about Alex—here's what we know so far: He's 24, he books big audiences for his wife's big show, and we are told that there is quite a glam factor when both he and Hannah are seen together. Just sayin'! We're sure there is much more to know, but that's hitting some of the main points. If you call the Hughes

Family Theatre to book a group, Alex will probably take your call—unless he's busy and you get Hannah, his assistant. And newlywed. (Kinda tough to keep these two apart!) ♦

MARCH 13!



BENJAMIN & GRACIE!

What is it about these huge Hughes love stories all happening on the thirteenth day of two consecutive months all in the same year?

Well, like the headline says, the Hughes stars have definitely aligned on many levels! The groom seen here is **Benjamin Hughes**—definitely a familiar face to the huge Hughes Music Show fan base, for not only is he the show's top dancer and gravity-defying acrobat—he's also got the pipes to belt out a vocal showstopper! Oh, and did we mention?—he's also the director of **Re-Vibe**, (plus associate producer and performer)—that red hot, high energy youthful extravaganza seen at our immediate left! And yes, he's also the 20 year-old son of one of *the Hughes Brothers*—**Marty Hughes** and Marty's wife and co-star **Cindy Hughes**.

Now let's meet **Gracie**, (formerly Gracie West). If we're lucky, we can catch Gracie working The Hughes Family Theatre box office, in-between her classes at Ozarks Technical Community College where she's studying marketing. (Perfect compliment to a showbiz husband!) Gracie's storybook romance with Benjamin was years in the making—yet for the 21 year-old bride, it's definitely a love story with a happy ending. Or to be more accurate—an even happier *beginning!* ♦

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

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. 14)



THE AMERICANA THEATRE PRESENTS:

RAIDING THE COUNTRY VAULT

REAL STARS. REAL COUNTRY.

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. ♦



BUY ONE TICKET, GET ONE
50% OFF
TO ANY OTHER SHOW
AT THE AMERICANA THEATRE!

See pages 13, 16 PLUS all Americana shows listed on pg. 14

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



SCOOPS & PIX

from our ROVING REPORTERS & PROWLING PAPARAZZI!

BEHIND THE CASTLE WALLS...

Once again, our snoopy, scoop-hungry reporters successfully scaled the walls of Branson's **Kings Castle Theatre**, (crossing the "moat" behind the curtain, so to speak)—and have discovered the dossier of yet another amazing performer, and her protege! So *Voila!* (Look for more star reveals in future issues!)

RISING STAR!



Faith, a six year old up-and-comer, mirrors the moves of Kings Castle star Sarah Marie La Beau, (a.k.a. Mom.) Note to casting directors: Ya gotta have Faith!

Sarah Marie La Beau

St. Louis native Sarah Marie is one of the original cast members of **Anthems of Rock** at **King's Castle Theatre**. She was brought up in a musical world as her father was a jazz musician and her mother was a musical theatre/arts teacher. Her parents tell us she was singing before she could talk!!!! Sarah Marie and her husband Jake have 3 children—Noah, Jadon and Faith, (pictured here with her mom.) These kids are no stranger to the theatre and often spend time at the "castle" whilst mom rehearses or performs. It has all become very normal for them to see mom strutting her stuff and wowing the audiences with her amazing talents! To them she is still MOM and they are her number 1 fans. Sarah Marie also teaches voice lessons locally. For more details on how to be trained by the best contact her at [Facebook.com/sarahmarielive](https://www.facebook.com/sarahmarielive).

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 grandfolds 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'S 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!*

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!



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 to 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



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

highest honors upon this dynamic duo! It definitely deserves a drumroll as we make the announcement here: 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 representing 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!

It all changed when Gary met Janine, an EMT nurse with side hobbies that included dancing, costume design and modeling. For both of these two, it was the beginning of a whole new world! 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.

World tours with wild animals got to be a bit much for these new parents. Although they had several offers for resident shows in Vegas, they were attracted by the family atmosphere and family values championed by Branson. Lucky us, for to us they have come!

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.

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



The new dinner theater.

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.

All in The Family!

Here's a NEWS FLASH: During the performance, 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. *

Garry is the founder of **sponsormagiclink.com**, a huge organization providing entertainers for charity events. Their slogan, appropriately, is: **The Magic of Helping Others!**

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



3 year-old Sophia makes her grand entrance.



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



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

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

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**

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

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

YOUR BEST SHOT!

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

Saloon Girl N Cowboy **Old Time Photo** **417-320-6221** **1940 W. Hwy 76 Branson**

Loggster & Flapper

THE AMERICANA THEATRE PRESENTS:



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.

BUY ONE TICKET, GET ONE 50% OFF TO ANY OTHER SHOW AT THE AMERICANA THEATRE!
See pages 10, 16, PLUS all Americana shows listed on pg. 14



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.

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

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!

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
Andy Williams Performing Arts Center 1 Andy Williams Boulevard • 417-334-4500	andywilliamspac.com	E-8				
Merrill Osmond/Todd Oliver & Friends				THRU OCT		
Irving the Talking Dog: w/ Comedian Todd Oliver						
<i>The Americana Theatre</i> 2905 W Hwy 76 • 417-544-8700	americanatheatre.com	E-6				
Awesome 80's			16	THRU DEC		
The Blackwoods	theblackwoods.com			THRU OCT		
British Invasion			13	THRU DEC		
Broadway to Buble: George Dyer				THRU OCT		
CJ Newsome's Classic Country & Comedy	patsyclineandfriends.com		16	THRU DEC		
The Johnson Strings	thejohnsonstrings.com		16	THRU OCT		
A Janice Martin Cirque Show	janicemartinshow.com			SEP-NOV		
Raiding the Country Vault	raidingthecountryvault.com		10	THRU OCT		
Rock n' Roll Royalty	rocknrollroyaltybranson.com		13	THRU OCT		
<i>Branson Central Theatre</i> 625 St. Hwy 165 • 417-231-4112		F-5				
Escape Reality: Up Close Comedy & Magic	carsonentertainment.com		4,12	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	2,6,7			
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers			2,6,7	THRU OCT		
Vintage Baldknobbers Show			2,6,7	AUG-DEC		
Baldknobbers Gospel Show			2,6,7	THRU DEC		
The Doug Gabriel Show	douggabriel.com			THRU DEC		
Reza: Edge of Illusion	rezalive.com			THRU DEC		
Branson Hot Hits Theatre 206 South Commercial St • 417-337-7426	bransonhothits.com	F-13				
For All Shows Visit our Website						
<i>Branson Star Theater</i> 3750 W 76 Blvd • 417-693-4432	bransonstartheater.com	C-3	1,18,19			
Acrobats of Branson: iCircus			1,18,19			
Acrobats of Branson Present MINI iCircus			1,18,19			
Nashville Roadhouse Live starring Stevie Lee Woods			1,18,19	THRU DEC	DA	
Phil Dalton: Theatre of Illusion			1,18,19	THRU NOV		
Mark Aldred's Jukebox Live			1,18,19	MARCH		
Outlaw Eagles			1,18,19	THRU DEC		
Credence Cool Water Revue			1,18,19	THRU DEC		
Branson Clarke: Out of the Basement			1,18,19	THRU JULY		
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		
Hot Rods & High Heels				AUG-SEP		
Dean Z - The Ultimate Elvis				THRU JUNE		
The Haygoods				THRU SEPT		
The Shoji Tabuchi show				TBA		

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Please See Theatre Website for Show Times

Map Grid See Pages Show Season Meal Avail* Menu Page

Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre 1600 W. Hwy 76 • 417-339-3003	legendsinconcert.com/Branson	E-10				
Legends in Concert				THRU SEPT	DA	
SIX (Real Brothers)	thesixshow.com			THRU OCT		
Buckets N Boards	bucketsnboards.com			THRU OCT		
Dolly Parton's Stampede 1525 W. Hwy 76 • 800-520-5544	dpstampede.com	E-10				
Dolly Parton's Stampede				THRU OCT	LD	
The Dutton Family Theatre 3454 W Hwy 76 • 417-332-2772	theduttons.com	E3				
The Duttons				THRU OCT		
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		
Grand Jubilee				THRU OCT		
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		
Abba Tribute				THRU DEC		
Beach Boys "California Dreamin"				THRU DEC		
Back to the BeeGees				THRU DEC		
Magnificent 7 Music Variety Show				THRU DEC		
Mike Walker: Lasting Impressions				THRU DEC		
The Hughes Brothers Theatre 3425 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-0076	Hughes-Brothers.com	E-4	1,8,9,14			
The Hughes Music Show			1,8,9,14	THRU OCT	L, D	
Hughes Brothers Country			1,8,9,14	THRU DEC	L, D	
Oh Happy Day: Goin Back to Gospel!				SEP/OCT	L	
Re-Vibe!			1,8	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, Haggard & Friends				JULY/SEP-DEC		
Smoke on the Mountain				THRU OCT		
The Petersens				THRU DEC		
The Petersens Gospel				THRU OCT		
Sons of Britches				THRU DEC		
Rick McEwen's Big Show				THRU NOV		
The Sons Music Celebration				THRU DEC		
Melody Hart Family				THRU AUG		
Chris Stanley's Comedy Magic Hour						
Country Evolution with Dalena				THRU DEC		

ILLUSIONIST
RICK THOMAS

MANSION of DREAMS

"EPIC!"
 - New York Times - BROADWAY

No Doubt...
The Greatest Illusionist Worldwide!
 - TripAdvisor -

★★★★★
GRAND SHANGHAI THEATRE
 3455 W 76 Country Blvd • GrandShanghaiTheatre.com • Phone: 417.336.0888

SCAN TO WATCH VIDEO

THE AMERICANA THEATRE PRESENTS:



CJ NEWSOM'S Classic Country AND COMEDY

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 it's 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.



BUY ONE TICKET, GET ONE 50% OFF TO ANY OTHER SHOW AT THE AMERICANA THEATRE!
See pages 10, 13, PLUS all Americana shows listed on pg. 14

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

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Jackie B Goodes Uptown Café W. Hwy 175 at 65 • 417-336-3535	Bransonuptown.com	E-4				
Tribute to George Strait Dinner Show				THRU DEC	DA	
Country Legends				THRU DEC	LA	
Jerry Presley's God and Country Theatre 1840 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-6806	GodandCountryTheaters.com	E-10	20	SEE WEBSITE		
See All Shows on Page 20						
Jim Stafford Theatre 2835 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-4528	jimstaffordtickets.com	E-4				
Jim Stafford				TBA		
Jimmy Buffett Tribute: Parrotville				TBA		
King's Castle Theater 2701 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-2500	kingscastletheatre.com	E-8		1,10,11,17		
Anthems of Rock				1,10,11,17	THRU DEC	
Dancing Queen				1,10,11,17	THRU OCT	
Dublin's Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies				1,10,11,17	THRU DEC	
New Jersey Nights: Music of The Four Seasons				1,10,11,17	THRU DEC	
Majestic Theatre 2849 Gretna Rd. • 417-231-2420		C-7				
Doo-Wop & The Drifters The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge • 417-231-2420		therubyroomatthemajestic.com		1,21	THRU DEC	DA
Dancin' in the Street: a Motown Revue The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge • 417-231-2420		therubyroomatthemajestic.com		1,21	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				
Rick Thomas, Illusionist: Mansion of Dreams				1,5,15	THRU DEC	
Shanghai Circus					THRU DEC	
Mickey Gilley & Johnny Lee					SEP-NOV	
The Texas Tenors					SEL DATES	
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					THRU OCT	D
Ventriloquist Jim Barber & Friends					THRU AUG	
WhoDunnit Hoedown					THRU DEC	D
Shepherd's Chuckwagon					SEP-DEC	D
Showboat Branson Belle 4800 W. Hwy 76 • 800-475-9370	bransonsilverdollarcity.com	J-3			THRU DEC	LD
Yakov Theatre 470 St. Hwy 248 • 417-336-3838	yakov.com	B-12	1,3	JULY/AUG TO OCT-DEC		
Comedy Star Yakov Smirnoff					OCT-DEC	

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KING'S CASTLE THEATRE



COUNTRY, ROCK, MAGIC, VARIETY, FAMILY SEE IT ALL AT THE BRANSON STAR THEATER!

iCircus Acrobats of Branson!

An amazing International cast of the world's top acrobatic performers are wowing Branson audiences with this fun-filled circus of incredible (and entertaining) feats of strength, beauty, and no shortage of laughs! Stars of the circus come from such faraway places as China, Belarus, Russia, Argentina, Chili, The Philippines—and yes, even from our good ol' USA! Expect many jaw-dropping performances, some wildly entertaining furry creatures, and plenty of *oohs* and *ahhs*! Let's drop a few hints to paint a picture: Pink Poodles, an award-winning female magician, dramatic Argentina Gauchos, spectacular juggling, high-flying high-wire artistry, and well—just plenty of fun for all ages!



Mini Circus!

Saturday mornings the iCircus superstars perform a shortened version of their super-show—tailored to delight the youngsters and to keep the little squirmy ones wide-eyed and entertained throughout most if not all of the show—(before that annoying “squirmy” kicks back



in!) These are world renown professionals, so expect the show to be both performed, tailored and timed to perfection. 60 minutes, no intermission, hardly any tears, lots of fun—end of story!

Brian Clarke Out of the Basement A Tribute to The Classics

Nominated by The Best of Branson Awards as both *Male Vocalist of the Year* and *Best New Show of The Year*, **Brian Clarke's Out of the Basement** is an acoustic musical journey through the decades, styled after both MTV Unplugged and VHI Storytellers. As a National Recording Artist and a member of the International Singer Songwriter Association Brian is widely recognized not only as a masterful storyteller, weaving fascinating factoids in-between his full buffet of the classics—he's also known for handily picking and singing his way through a vast catalogue of country, rock, pop, and even hard rock. Expect anything from **Marshall Tucker, John Cougar Mellancamp, Creed, Nickelback, Garth Brooks, Johnny Cash**—or even **Alice in Chains, Guns'n Roses or Poison!** (And that's why we're calling it the “full buffet!”)



Phil Dalton Theater of Illusion A True Family Show!

One of the hottest family magic shows out there! All seven members of the Dalton family are literally astounding! Yes, the show is family friendly, yet some of its many entertaining escapes can be real nail biters! But it's all in good fun, as we enjoy watching master Illusionist Phil hilariously divide himself in half, (while still standing up), or as we watch young Silas float effortlessly in the air, or Eli suddenly appearing from somewhere “out there”, if not from “nowhere!” It's all in the family, but no, this isn't just kids stuff, for these stars have been featured on **ABC, NBC, FOX, CBS, National Geographic**, and in many other venues far and wide. **Warning:** You shall see Phil attempt three death-defying escapes—(one underwater!) This is the guy who is the only illusionist ever to be buried alive *twice!* And yet here he is—father of a family show, still alive and well in Branson! Go figure!



Creedence Cool Water Review

The music of the legendary **Creedence Clearwater Revival** (a.k.a. “Creedence”) couldn't be in better hands, for who can better present dead-on accurate, live performances of Creedence's timeless hits than some of the hottest musicians and singers in Branson, (as well as the entire music industry, as audiences discover in a heartbeat!) All have showbiz resumes “a mile long” as we too often like to say. We're glad we caught Georgina in the shot, for when not with her husband Larry (seen here at her right) and Creedence, she's often out singing with country legends **Johnny Lee** and **Mickey Gilley!** About the show: *Have You Ever Seen The Rain? Fortunate Son, Bad Moon Rising, Run thru the Jungle, Born on the Bayou, Down on the Corner, Lookin' Out My Back Door, Suzy Q, and of course, Proud Mary!* Welcome to the soundtrack of the last two or three generations!



Outlaw Eagles

THEY'RE BACK!!!! That great Eagles Tribute Show that was in Branson for so long is back with a NEW name and NEW Show, featuring Larry Holiday, **2019 lead guitar player of the year** from the Branson Terry Music Awards—and his **Award Winning Vocalist** wife Georgina Holiday—(as we remember from the Creedence write-up way back in the last paragraph!) The group is rounded out with Aaron Napier on guitar and vocals as well as seasoned pros Doug Clifford on drums, Kenny Christenson on piano and vocals and Steve Leach on bass and vocals. Along with a full repertoire of Eagles classics, the show highlights a few other megahits from the era—coming from the likes of **Linda Ronstadt, Jackson Browne, and Joe Walsh.** Want some Eagles memory triggers? Hows about *Peaceful, Easy Feeling, Hotel California, Take it to The Limit, Take it Easy, or Lyin Eyes?* Of course there are many more, but we expect those ones are already calling your name!



PLUS, ON SELECT DATES:

Wild Man Pebo Wilson

International Male Vocalist Of The Year and Multi Award Winning Nashville Recording Artist Wild Man Pebo Wilson is known for his vast repertoire of over 1,000, songs, his five albums and his captivating live performances. Our advice, visit Bransonstartheater.com and Save the Dates!

PLUS

**Mark Aldred
JUKEBOX LIVE
SPECIAL GUEST STARS!**

July 11, **Anthony Gomes**, award-winning blues guitarist. July 25: From the TV Show “Happy Days”, **Anson Williams & Donny Most.** Also on stage, **Randy Jones** from Village People.

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PHIL DALTON MAGIC

THE OUTLAW EAGLES!

CREEDENCE COOL WATER REVUE

**BRIAN CLARKE
OUT OF THE BASEMENT**

**PLUS
WILD MAN PEBO WILSON**

**MARK ALDRED'S
JUKEBOX LIVE**



NETWORK TV, AND A-LIST GUEST STARS SEE IT ALL AT THE BRANSON STAR THEATER!

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

The ALL STAR CAST OF NASHVILLE RoadHouseLive!

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

ideals 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! ♦



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!



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

GUEST STARS!

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TY HERNDON

JULY 4
SAVING ABEL

JULY 9-10
WHITE SNAKE: A TRIBUTE
BY BAD BOYS

JULY 16-17
TIM ATWOOD

JULY 23-24
ADRIANNA & HER
GROOVE CUTTERS

AUG 6-7
SOUTHSIDE JOHNNY BAND

AUG 27-28
PENNY GILLEY



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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

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!)

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!

alk 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!

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

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**

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

the sounds of Motown



A Motown Production Dancing in the Streets

Experience over 40 of Motown's Greatest Hits

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Doo Wop & the Drifters

Featuring Derek Ventura
Original Member of the
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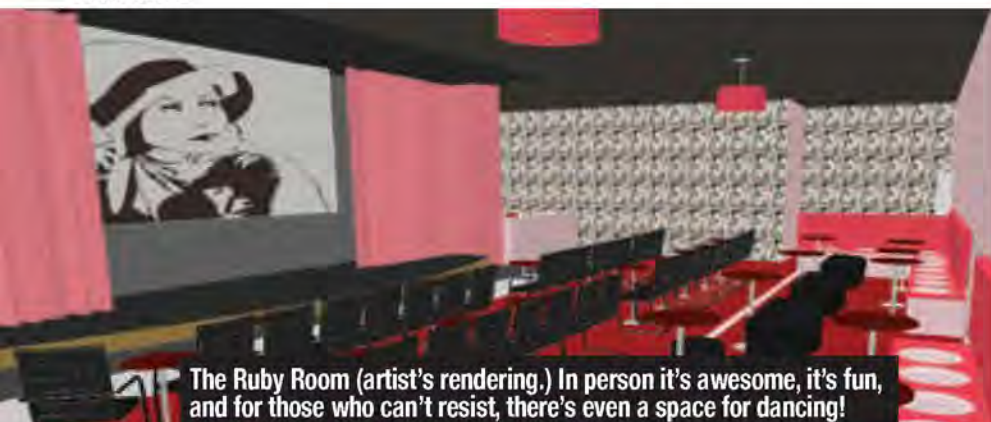
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Table-side food & drink service during the shows



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!

IT'S GOTTEN WAY WILDER

Thanks to

Wild Valley

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

**UP CLOSE
& PERSONAL!**

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

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

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

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

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

PHOTO OPS!



Efrain shows us the jeep attraction which should be done by press time. Here, families can pose for pictures in the jeep with real, living lions and tigers in the back seat, (thanks to that sturdy, yet invisible glass!) We officially rate that option as “simply irresistible!”



THE BRANSON INSIDER



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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!

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

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

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

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

LEMUR LOVE!



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.

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

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

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**, **GI-Joes** wearing just about every uniform in history, the most spectacular **model train** set up ever, courtesy of The Roark Valley Modular Railroad Club, **model circuses** (created by The Circus Model Builders Association), **sports memorabilia**, **Native American artifacts**, **bicycles**, **cap guns**, **car toys**, (probably more than you'll see in your lifetime,) **planes toys**, **pedal toys**, **models**, **farm toys**, **firemen toys**, **police toys**, **Care 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.



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! (I O!)



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!

1940 W. HWY 76 Suite 120
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 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? *Voilà!*

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
- iCircus -Acrobats of Branson
- Mini - Circus - Acrobats of Branson
- The Outlaw Eagles
- Credence Cool Water Revue
- Brian Clarke: Out of The Basement: A Tribute to the Classics
- Phil Dalton Magic
- Mark Aldred Jukebox Live

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
- Elvis: Madison Square Garden
- 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

At Mickey Gilley Grand Shanghai Theatre D-4

- Illusionist Rick Thomas - Mansion of Dreams

At Yakov Theatre B-12

- Comedy star Yakov Smimoff

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

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