

THE BRANSON INSIDER

ILLUSIONIST
RICK THOMAS

MANSION DREAMS

NEW LOCATION. NEW
WOWS!!!

— P 9

SEASON 2021

ON WITH THE SHOW!

DUBLIN'S IRISH TENORS

&
THE CELTIC LADIES

NEW!



PLUS IRISH STEP DANCERS! — P 4

TO JERRY
FROM
ELVIS —
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1959-2021 BALDKNOBBERS ON



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A MOTOWN LEGEND

MADE FOR TV!



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& SUPER
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WOAH! WHAT'S THIS?

Answer: See page 25.



Remembering
Randy

— P 7

SHOW GUIDE • MAP • FOOD • SHOPPING • FUN!

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WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

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

Well, I wonder.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now some of you good folks are glad to

chirp right up and say, "Why, I'm on The Lord's side, of course."

Yeah, right.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**INSIDER
Revelations**



Richard Frehofer

Wisdom & knowledge from His Majesty
the Editor & Publisher

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

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

excitement. The carefree fun. The inspiration.

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

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

/TheBransonInsider

COME BACK NOV-DEC FOR

- ★ CHRISTMAS SHOWS
- ★ A CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND
- ★ THE TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

OZARK MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS

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At Dublin's Irish Tenors & The Celtic Ladies!

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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!

VEGAS HIT "BOOGIE'S" INTO SEASON 2021!

Dancing Queen

The Ultimate 70's Show! Dig out your bell bottoms and put on your dancing shoes; *Dancing Queen*



is returning from Las Vegas to the King's Castle Theatre this Season 2021! (Honestly, we can't even say "Dancing Queen" without hearing those heavenly Swedish voices serenading our imaginary ears!) Celebrating the Classic #1 Hits of the 70's, this high octane music fest stars The Castle's international troupe of singers and dancers performing those eternal 70's sounds! Here, we get to groove to disco classics like *Y.M.C.A.*, "Disco Inferno", *Play That Funky Music*, *Waterloo*, *We Are Family*, *Superstition*, and wow—can you feel it? *Dancing Queen* is a show-stopping psychedelic kaleidoscope of singing, dancing and spectacular costumes that gets multitudes singing along and even dancing in the aisles! Get ready to get your groove on at the biggest 70's party ever!

NEW SMASH HIT ROCKS BRANSON!

ANTHEMS OF ROCK

Even though it premiered during our 2020 pandemic season, this Branson-produced rock extravaganza is already on a roll! Fans of every age seem to be ready to rock, for everybody from youngsters to grandfolks are packing out this rockfest of amazing music and explosive dancing! Let's drop some names and let you guess how long it will take for you to rock along with this world class entourage of singers and dancers! How about *Queen*, *The Beatles*, *The Rolling Stones*, *Bon Jovi*, *Led Zeppelin*, *Journey*, *Elton John*, *Aerosmith*—or *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Rock on!



DUBLIN'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!



BEHIND THE CASTLE WALLS...

Isn't it about time we got the inside scoop on the international stars of those awesome royal performances at Branson's **King's Castle**?

Who, we wonder, are these amazing singers and dancers who have come from foreign lands beyond the seas to entertain us here in Branson, Missouri, USA?

Well, we're in luck, for our snoopy, scoop-hungry reporters successfully scaled the walls of King's Castle, (crossing the "moat" behind the curtain, so to speak)—and have discovered the dossiers of a few of these amazing international sensations! So here they are: Voila! (stay tuned for more star reveals in future issues!) But folks, as we see here, there's *more to this story!* ♦

ROBERT QUIBELL

MESA MITCHELL



Rob was born and raised in South Wales, United Kingdom. He has performed all over Europe and the U.K. and has been an entertainer at King's Castle Theatre since 2014.

Rob attributes his Celtic upbringing to his love of song. Music was a huge part of his early life in both school and in Church. After many different career paths, Rob finally decided to become a professional singer at age 28. With no formal training—he has nevertheless been lucky enough to be performing professionally ever since!

Rob thrives on performing the many different music genres in the shows at Kings Castle Theatre—all which allow him to showcase over three octaves of his vocal range. He particularly enjoys taking on the iconic Frankie Valli in *New Jersey Nights!* ♦

Mesa began her professional theater career in 2002 when she joined the team at Paramount Productions for their children's tour, (*Scooby Doo's Movie Madness/Flintstones Go Hollyrock*). She has since performed in the most beautiful and creative venues while paying tribute to timeless music (*Lost in the Fifties/50s at the Hop/Magnificent 7/ and the lead role of Velma Kelly in the hit musical CHICAGO!*)

More recently, Mesa joined the cast of *Shrek the Musical* at Welk Resorts (Dragon/Humpty Dumpty) and also performed as Raggedy Ann in *Tinker Jr's Toyshop* at Silver Dollar City. Passionate about the merging of education and children's theater, Mesa serves as an Educational Specialist for the Youth Summer Institute at the Branson Regional Arts Council. ♦

SCOOPS & PIX

from our ROVING REPORTERS & PROWLING PAPARAZZI!

And the award goes to...

Our annual awards show galas skipped a beat last year due to all the you-know-what was goin' on, but let's have a drumroll please, for once again 'TIS AWARDS SEASON: 2021!

BRANSON SHOW AWARDS

Sunday, August 28, 2021
Jerry Presley's God & Country Theater

Branson Terry Music Awards

Sunday, September 26, 2021
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Theater

Note: In the lists below, nominations for the Branson Show Awards are indicated by the abbreviations BSA. Likewise, nominations for The Branson Terry Music Awards are indicated by the abbreviations BTMA.

AND HERE ARE THE NOMINEES for 2021!

At least the ones we are proud to reveal are featured in this issue!

Stars of The Americana Theatre!

CJ Newsom (Page 19) Female Vocalist of the Year BTMA, Female Vocalist of the Year BSA, Female Entertainer of the Year BSA **CJ Newsom's Classic Country & Comedy Band** of the Year BTMA, Comedy Show of the Year BSA **Alexis Solheid** Female Entertainer of the Year BSA **Karen Johnson** (Page 19) Violinist of the Year, Fiddler of the Year, BSA **Luke Johnson** (Page 19) Violinist of the Year BSA, **Forest Herzog** Instrumentalist of the Year BTMA, Steel Player of the Year BSA, instrumentalist of the Year BSA **Awesome 80s** (Page 19) New Show of the Year BSA **Michael Jason Frost** Male Vocalist of the Year BTMA, Male Entertainer of the Year BSA, Vocal Duo of the Year (with Jena) BTMA, Vocal Duet (w Jena) of the Year BSA **Josh Carroll** Lead Guitar Player of the Year BTMA, Lead Guitar of the Year BSA **Terry Wayne Sanders** (Page 19) Comedian of the Year BTMA Impressionist of the Year BSA **The Recliners Band** of the Year BSA **Justin Herzog** Bass Player of the Year BTMA **The Johnson Strings** Matinee Show of the Year BTMA

Stars of The Branson Central Theater!

(Page 12) **Escape Reality Magic: starring Garry & Janine Carson** Matinee Show of the Year BTMA

Stars of The Branson Famous Baldknobbers Theater!

(Page 6-7) **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Show** of the Year BTMA, Evening Show of the Year BSA, Entertainers of the Year BSA **Brandon & Megan Mabe** Vocal Duo of the Year BTMA, Duet of the Year BSA **Megan Mabe** Female Vocalist of the Year BTMA **Greg Moody** Steel Guitar Player of the Year BTMA, Instrumentalist of the Year BTMA, Steel Player of the Year BSA **Grant Moody** Lead Guitar Player of the Year BTMA,

2021 MALE ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR!

Stevie Lee Woods, star of Branson Star Theater's *Nashville Roadhouse Live*, shows his award to reporters at The Branson Show Awards gala August 29. (Read all about Stevie and his show on page 22!)



Lead Guitar of the Year BSA **Baldknobbers: Gospel** Gospel Group of the Year BTMA, Gospel Show of the Year BSA **Nathan Agdeppa** Fiddle Player of the Year BTMA, Fiddler of the Year BSA **Josh Gabriel** Drummer of the Year BSA **Jeri Adams** Comedian of the Year BTMA **Lance Conque** Keyboard Player of the Year BTMA

Stars of The Branson Star Theater

(Page 22-23) **Stevie Lee Woods** Male Vocalist of the Year BTMA, Entertainer of the Year BTMA, Male Entertainer of the Year BSA **Nashville Roadhouse Live** Band of the Year BTMA, Evening Show of the Year BSA, Entertainers of the Year BSA, Band of the Year BSA **Georgina Holiday** Female Vocalist of the Year BSA **Creedence Cool Water Revue**, Tribute Show of the Year BSA, Band of the Year BSA **Robbie Springfield** Steel Guitar Player of the Year BTMA, Steel Player of the Year BSA **Mark Boyd** Lead Guitar Player of the Year BTMA, Lead Guitar of the Year BSA **Larry Holiday**

Continued on Page 8



1959-2021 BRANSON'S FIRST SHOW:

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

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 this particular galaxy! Expect some of that “outlaw country” with “attitude”, some bluegrass, and even some classic rock.

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.!**



Multi-award winning guitarist **Grant Moody** (right), jams with award-winning music legend **Greg Moody**, (his Dad.)

All-Star Duo!



WARNING!

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



Star vocalist **Megan Mabe!**



AWARD WINNING FIDDLER!

Nathan Agdeppa firin' up the fiddle!



GOOD NEWS!

Ashley Dawn!

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



Shane!

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



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

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!

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!** ♦

THE VINTAGE BALDKNOBBERS SHOW



WOW! Original songs, comedy and even COSTUMES from vintage versions of Branson's first show—all the way from the 50s, 60s—thru the 90s! We're talkin' sequins, shoulder pads, fringe—the works! Plus of course, the country classics and funny business that sparked the Branson explosion that turned our small Ozarks village into the Showtown we see today!

Here's our big chance to take ourselves, the kids, and even the grandkids to experience the spark that blew up into a national and even international sensation! For the Baldknobbers cast, which is headed up by Brandon Mabe, (fourth generation Mabe of the family that "started it all") this new/ old show is the joy of their lives. "I grew up with this show," Branson tells us. "This is a tribute to my family. I'm doing two songs from my Uncle **Dennis (Mabe)** who I adored growing up. Everything in this show is a tribute to all those who came before us. It's what helped shape us to who and what we are. It's our attempt to pay respects to that. It's what started everything we see in Branson today."

To say that Brandon grew up in this show is an understatement. At the age of six he had already memorized all the show's comedy routines and confidently strode out on stage to perform them—which was not planned! The elders had to quickly give him "the hook"—but the audience thought it was all part of the comedy and they roared!

Says Megan, Brandon's wife and co-star, "I'm going to sing two Dolly Parton songs—two which **Joy Bilyeu** sang back in the day. I would be far more nervous singing those two songs in front of Joy than if I had to sing them in front of Dolly! Even though Dolly is an idol, those people like Baldknobbers stars **Joy, Dennis,**

Gene Dove, Bob Leftridge and all the rest—those folks are *our* idols! It's almost nerve-wracking to sing the songs that they sang! And wearing those iconic costumes—wearing what your idols wore is just stunning! Brandon grew up with it, but soon after I fell in love with Brandon, I fell in love with The Baldknobbers! Our passion is to carry on what was handed down to us. The history, how it evolved—for us it's paying tribute and honoring all the Baldknobbers performers who came before us. I have a love affair with my husband but I also have a love affair with the legacy of the Baldknobbers. In a very strange yet special way, our life *is* the Baldknobbers. Even though we weren't there in 1959 or 1989, we want to make sure people see how special it is, as we help carry it on and hopefully hand it to someone else to carry on further." ♦



Randy McConnell

My Voice

by Megan McCombs Mabe

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

Randy McConnell

November 5, 1961 – July 18, 2021

On the 18th of July, we lost our beloved bass player, Randy McConnell. He became one of the thousands who have fallen victim to the deadly virus plaguing our world. To us, Randy was more than a number—more than a statistic—he was family. He was not only a loving husband and father, but he was also an incredible talent and one of the strongest and most passionate Christians I have had the honor to know.

In his final days, Randy was on fire for God. He had witnessed so much pain and heartache during his time in the hospital, but he couldn't wait to get out and tell as many as he could about the way God had deeply touched him and strengthened his faith. He wanted to be a testimony for God. He wanted to share how God had blessed him with incredible doctors and nurses. They had shown him a compassion, love and respect that truly affected him deeply. Even in the darkest and most difficult period of his life—struggling moment by moment for each breath—Randy was looking for the beauty and blessing of God.

If he knew how his final days impacted me and so many others, Randy would know that he will forever live on as a testimony of faith, perseverance and love.

Randy showed me that faith can lead us through the darkest and most trying storms of life. He showed me that problems are only blessings—tiny mountains to climb. With a Randy-sized faith, the struggles we face are just beautiful opportunities God gifts us. They are a chance to "hang a little deeper with Jesus". Struggles are where the deepest blessings rest. In

darkness comes the strongest faith—the reminder that there is a hand reaching for each of us. We simply need to find the trust to grab it.

Randy knew this. In his final days, he was holding the hand of God so tightly, he couldn't wait to share the peace and joy that God had given him. His savior was beside him and all around him. He was inspired to fight harder—not only for his own desires to return home to his loved ones—but for the opportunity to spread his knowledge of Christ to others. He had a new outlook on life, and he was ready to start sharing that light with as many as he could.

How could a man going through so much be so joyous in faith?

When we found out Randy's condition was worsening, we prayed for a miracle—for Randy to come home. When he passed, my heart felt broken. Why didn't we get our miracle? It wasn't until days later that I realized, we did receive a miracle, it just wasn't as simple as the one for which we had prayed.

Randy left this world with an impassioned and renewed faith. He left as an example of how to handle life's pain and struggle. He sought the Lord and found him in the darkness. He left with an open and loving heart. He gave us the definition of faith—faith through pain. He showed us joy through grief. He taught us love through trial.

Randy was the miracle.

His lasting impact will live on in all of those who knew him. Randy taught me to live in faith, love deeply and persevere through the storms of life. He taught me to focus on Christ and a constant goal to spread His love to as many as we can in our short time on this earth. He made me a better person for knowing him, and for that I am eternally thankful.

Fly high, Randy. You will live on in all those you touched. #lovelikeRandy

"The Lord saves his anointed; He answers him from His holy heaven with the saving power of His right hand." Psalm 20:6 ❀

THE AMERICANA THEATRE PRESENTS:

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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. ♦



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See pages 13, 19 PLUS all Americana shows listed on pg. 16

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SCOOPS & PIX

from our ROVING REPORTERS & PROWLING PAPARAZZI!

TO JERRY FROM ELVIS: THE GIFT

Jerry and the giver, former head of Nashville's famed Castle Records, Ed Russell.

Recently, Branson's beloved Elvis Presley tribute artist (and Elvis's cousin) **Jerry Presley** received the surprise of a lifetime from his iconic cousin. Although Jerry had received several gifts from Elvis during the music legend's lifetime, what happened on Jerry's Branson stage a few weeks ago left him speechless, if not absolutely *flabbergasted!* He recognized Elvis's longtime personal friend **Ed Russell** approaching the stage, but what Ed had in his hand was a show stopper if there ever was one! Jerry recognized it immediately, which is why he was quick to hand his microphone over to Ed. **The famous Nashville record producer and former president of Castle Records** then began his story. It was the story of how Elvis had given him one of the legendary TCB necklaces (Taking Care of Business) that he had given to several other friends and admirers, which today are worth fortunes and which inspired millions of replicas. As Ed told the Branson audience, "Since Jerry was one of the original Elvis tribute artists out there, and since he was Elvis's cousin, and was working so hard to keep Elvis's name alive, well," said Ed, pausing to gather his words—and emotions, "I really just thought Jerry ought to have it."

We couldn't agree more. There was scarcely a dry eye in the house.



Continued from Page 5

Lead Guitar of the Year BSA **Phil Dalton Magic Illusionist of the Year BSA Paul Oney Drummer of the Year BSA Steve Leech, Ryan Lawson Bass/upright of the Year BSA Doug Clifford Drummer of the Year BTMA Lyman Clark Keyboard Player of the Year BTMA Kenny Christianson: Outlaw Eagles Keyboard Player of the Year BTMA Outlaw Eagles Tribute Show of the Year BTMA**

Stars of The Hughes Family Theatre!

(Page 10-11) **The Hughes Music Show Vocal Group of the Year BTMA, Patriotic Salute of the Year BSA, Entertainers of the Year BSA Hannah Hughes Violinist of the Year BSA Re-Vibe Vocal Group of the Year BTMA, New Show of the Year BSA, Matinee of the Year BSA, Dance Troupe of the Year BSA Jacob Hughes Drummer of the Year BSA Marty Wilhite Bass Player of the Year BTMA**

Stars of The Branson IMAX Theatre!

(Page 24) **Kari Garrison Rick McEwen Show Female Vocalist of the Year BTMA, Female Vocalist of the Year BSA**

Stars of King's Castle Theatre!

(Page 4-5) **Jack Cathcart Lead Guitar of the Year BSA Anthems of Rock Show of the Year BTMA, Production Show of the Year BTMA, Evening Show of the Year BSA, Entertainers of the Year BSA Dancing Queen, Spirit of the Dance Dance Troupe of the Year BSA**

Stars of The Majestic Theatre!

Dancin' in the Street (P 15) Little Big Show of the Year BTMA Vocal Group of the Year BSA

Stars of Mickey Gilley's New Shanghai Theatre

Page 9) **Rick Thomas: Mansion of Dreams Illusionist of the Year BSA, Family Show of the Year BSA**

Stars of Jerry Presley's God & Country Theatre

(Page 14) **Elvis Live! (P 14) Tribute Show of the Year BTMA Tribute Show of the Year BSA, Tribute Artist of the Year BSA Jerry Presley (P 14) Male Entertainer of the Year BSA Elvis Gospel Gospel Group of the Year BTMA, Gospel Show of the Year BSA A Neil Diamond Tribute (P 21) Little Big Show of the Year BTMA, Tribute Show of the Year BSA, Tribute Artist of the Year BSA, Impressionist of the Year BSA Diana Lynn (P 20) Tribute Artist of the Year BSA Keith Allynn & Diana Lynn (P 20-21) Shane Vorhaven/Heather Gentry Vocal Duo of the Year BTMA, Duet of the Year BSA Fleetwood Mac: Dreams Little Big Show of the Year BTMA, Tribute Show of the Year BTMA, Matinee of the Year BSA Cole Lee Instrumentalist of the Year BSA Bill Foster Bass/upright of the Year BSA Double Diamond Band Band of the Year BSA Dino Phillips Drummer of the Year BTMA Kevin Clemmons Steel Guitar Player of the Year BTMA**

**NEW LOCATION, NEW
WOW, WOW,**

WOWS!!!

ILLUSIONIST
RICK THOMAS

**MANSION
of
DREAMS**



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

**STUNNING MAGIC. EXTREME COMEDY. EXQUISITE DANCERS.
& BREATHTAKING MOMENTS OF PURE INSPIRATION!**

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

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

Rick's interaction with us out here in the audience is absolutely brilliant. He has fun with us. We have fun with him. He never makes fun of us, yet he still keeps us laughing. The result: Rick launches our concept of entertainment to a whole new level. We end up both inspired with wonder and sublimely uplifted!

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

other times just absolutely beautiful.

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

"Epic!"
New York Times

"Stunning!"
LA Times

"Fabulous
Entertainment for
the Entire Family!"
Chicago Tribune

After years of world travels and reigning as the top family show in the history of Las Vegas, **Master Illusionist Rick Thomas** premiered **Mansion of Dreams** at Branson's iconic Andy Williams Moon River Theater. Having labored on Mansion of Dreams for over twenty-five years, it's appropriate that Rick calls the production his "show of a lifetime".

Audience reactions?

a masterpiece of entertainment, imagination—and pure joy! If you've seen this show before, know this: like Einstein's revelation about our universe—the magical wonders here are ever-expanding! They can be surprising, and even astounding, but they don't appear strictly like puzzles to solve. (Trying to figure out illusions can make brains hurt!) On the contrary, this show is just masterfully entertaining. Inspiring. Funny. Dreamlike. Beautiful. The typical audience comment: "Beyond our expectations."

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

THE SHOCK!

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

We laugh. Then we see the other side of

**NOW AT
Mickey Gilley's
New Shanghai
Theatre.**
(See page 17)

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 folks who, until this show, didn't give a hoot about magic! It's *that* spectacular! This season, the "wows" have exploded into *oohs, ahhs*—and no shortage of laughs! **Mansion of Dreams** is simply

**FROM
ZIMBABWE—**



Tara, world-renowned dance star, Rick's wife and leading lady—plus Mom to the magical couple's son Preston

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!

About Tara

Rick's wife and leading lady! Lead Dancer, Mansion of Dreams!

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



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 VOILÀ **Re-Vibe!**

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

● To elaborate, we shall drop some song clues ● **We Will Rock You** ● **Live 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 WEDDING NEWS!

The world's largest performing family is seeing so many of their all-star kids marrying off this Season 2021 that even us Branson Insiders are having trouble keeping up with all the love stories!

Let's all take a breath and do a little news review for all you good folks who've been out of town until now and might not be up on whassup! Actually, better yet, we'll just do a little "show and tell". Observe the names and dates on the pictures. First came **Hannah**, (daughter of **Hughes Brother Jason and Jason's wife and co-star Mara**, then came **Benjamin**, son of **Hughes Brother Marty and Marty's wife and co-star Cindy**. And now this—**Marty and Cindy's daughter Kaitlyn!** WOWZER! Two of Marty and Cindy's kiddos marrying off in the same year! Big hug from us goin' out to Mom & Dad! We feel you!



BRADEN & KAITLYN

We got the inside scoop from Kaitlyn who called us from her cell phone while zipping across the country with her new husband to catch her honeymoon cruise to The Virgin Islands! What an entertaining conversation, which I guess shouldn't be a surprise, being as how she's an entertainer and all! But seriously, this new bride was a hoot!

First the facts: They met at a church dance. At that time Braden was working as a photographer.

Alex & Hannah
February 13!

When he showed up at the Hughes Family Theater the two ended up talking, which later ended up with the two going out on a date. And it went on from there.

Braden is now studying at Missouri S & T, (Science and Technology) where he is



Benjamin & Gracie!
MARCH 13!

majoring in engineering. The school is located in Rolla, a few hours down the road from Branson, which means yes, Kaitlyn is moving to Rolla, yet will commute to Branson twice a week to appear in The RE-VIBE show. But alas, her singing, dancing, fiddling and violin-ing will now be absent from The Hughes Music Show, where she has been appearing since the age of three months, when she played the baby Jesus in The Hughes Brothers Christmas Show. "If you want to be in the show," she tells us, "that's how you have to start. If you're small enough!"

After a



morning wedding and post wedding lunch and reception in St. Louis, the newlyweds rushed to Branson for a mega Hughes family reception that evening. Quite an eventful day! "My feet and my toe hurt a little bit," the bride confessed to The Insider. "My Dad stepped on it during the Daddy Dance. When we were taking pictures there was a fly in my dress."

We of course asked if there were any plans for Braden to join the Hughes Family Show. "He's very handsome," Kaitlyn told us. "He has a great voice too. I'm trying to get him in the show. I told him I could get him in RE-VIBE but he hasn't accepted my offer yet."

Kaitlyn also told us that after returning from the honeymoon she will have her wisdom teeth taken out. Then, starting in September, it's "on with the show."

Like we say, the lady is very entertaining. FYI: That famous Hughes Music Show dancer at the top left of the opposite page is Kaitlyn. With talent like hers, we can't help but predict that she will one day be back. ♦

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 way back on page 10!)

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

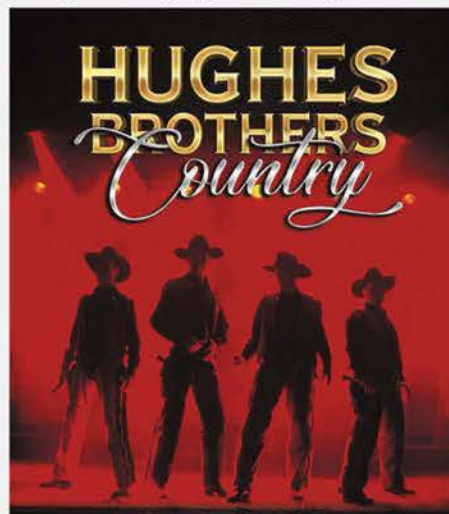
Yes, it's a brand new show at The Hughes Family Theatre. Sort of. We speak of the new **Hughes Brothers Country Show** which has already kicked up a cyclone of high praises! Yes, it's new, yet only kinda sorta, since Country Music is what originally stole the hearts of Branson audiences back in the day and made this outfit a showbiz legend! Yet with all the changing whims of us

audience types, The Hughes boys expanded into all our musical cravings—but their country roots have always remained.

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



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. ♦



FREE CHOW AT THE CHUCKWAGON!

Can you believe it? It comes with every country show, both afternoon or evening! We're talkin' pulled pork sandwich with pickles and onions, home-made BBQ sauce, fresh coleslaw, baked beans and pork chunks and plenty of cool water! (Other beverages available). Meals can be et at tables before the show, or served during!

But we're saving the best for last, so here it is—The harmonies of this band of



ADD A MEAL AT THE HUGHES MUSIC SHOW

Celebrity Dinner Theatre

Save time, avoid traffic and stress— and enjoy a relaxing gourmet dinner before the show—prepared by acclaimed Swedish chef Reggie 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. 16)



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 highest honors upon this dynamic duo! It definitely deserves a drumroll as



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

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 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!

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!**



The beautifully revamped **Branson Central Theatre**, home of **Escape Reality** and **Golden Catering**, (a top tier food service providing elegant dining on site!) Served before the show, guests are treated to relaxing music and entertaining visuals as they dine on fresh green salad, skinless, boneless, marinated, grilled chicken breast,—(Janine says, "It's REALLY good!")—slow roasted beef drizzled with gravy, seasoned vegetables, red roasted potatoes, a bread basket, coffee, tea and a brownie delight desert! (Other drinks available.) Vegetarian fare includes penne pasta, antipasto vegetables with Chef's special marinara sauce, gluten free rolls and sugar free mousse YUM!

CONGRATULATIONS!

ESCAPE REALITY MAGIC
Starring Garry & Janine Carson

YOU'RE IN
THE TOP 10 PERCENT OF
ATTRACTIONS WORLDWIDE!



What the folks are saying...
August 2021

Great! Do it! You'll love it!

Absolutely magnificent! Superbly run and executed from check in through exit.. Dinner is good, wait staff friendly and excellent. Best part, the illusions are spectacular and funny. Vegas quality through and through. You can meet the performers after the show too, nice people and fun to talk to! Money well spent. We took our three grand daughters. They loved it, we loved it!

Phenomenal!

Great food, INCREDIBLE show!! We've been to tons of shows in Branson and they're all great but this one is phenomenal!!!! Loved every bit of it! Garry & Janine are a must see, hands down!!

Family Friendly Fun!

The dinner before the show was wonderful and the SHOW was AMAZING! They are funny and the illusions are spectacular! Would pay to see it again!

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 this cool 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. This high class photo studios have amazing costumes and sets that will make you feel like

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**

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 pun on their facebook page and website—then let the good folks at Mrs. Brenda's give you and your good folks their best shot. ♦

YOUR 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 pun!

The folks here are creative nuts and funnier than a

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 8, 19, PLUS all Americana shows listed on pg. 16



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

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

Saloon Girl N Cowboy
Gangster & Flapper

Old Time Photo

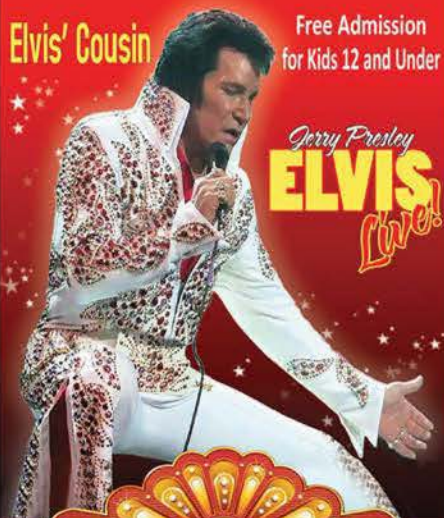
417-320-6221 1940 W. Hwy 76 Branson

★★★ Jerry Presley's ★★★
**GOD AND COUNTRY
 THEATERS**

Branson's LIVE Showplace for The Music You Love!

Elvis' Cousin

Free Admission
 for Kids 12 and Under



Jerry Presley
**ELVIS
 Live!**

**ELVIS LIVE!
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50 YRS OF KENNY ROGERS!

**NEIL DIAMOND
 starring Keith Allyn!**

**NEIL SEDAKA
 His Music: His Legacy!**

**TEMPTATIONS:
 SOUL & MOTOWN!**

**WAYLON, WILLIE &
 THE GOOD OL BOYS!**

417-334-6806

1840 W. Hwy 76

www.GodandCountryTheaters.com

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

Wow! Three full-blown productions of authentic Elvis shows—complete with the 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!**

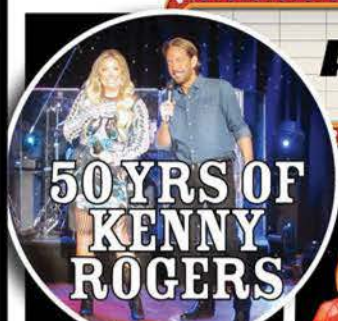
What we love most about Jerry's Elvis concerts is that they are real. No over-the-top Elvis exaggeration and schtick—just amazing performances crafted to recreate Elvis live shows as they really were. We also love the fact that in between numbers, Jerry too is real. He's not Elvis. But what a guy. A 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.



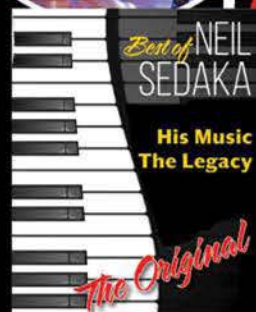
Says Jerry, "I'm not an impersonator, I'm a family member doing the songs of Elvis and I try to keep it as authentic as I can. You will never see me do things that Elvis didn't do."

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**



Best of
**NEIL
 SEDAKA**
 His Music
 The Legacy

The Original



FLEETWOOD MAC



**3 Dog Night
 SHAMBALA**



**WAYLON * WILLIE
 and the
 GOOD OL' BOYS**



**The
 Temptations
 Motown Legends**

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: The Keystone State's Justin Lampkins, (a.k.a. "J"), legendary Drifter Derek Ventura, and Alabama's Michael Loman.

Talk about a Branson trend setter! Introducing: **The Ruby Room Theater and Lounge**, located inside Branson's iconic **Majestic!** Unique to Branson, this elegant new venue seats like a lounge, serves hot appetizers, flatbreads, street tacos and homemade desserts at table side—all during powerhouse performances of rhythm & blues headed up by a true Motown legend! And yet there's more—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 riveting 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!*

Heading up that unforgettable performance was the amazing **Derek Ventura**, former member of **Motown's** legendary **Drifters!** Now Derek is at it again, this season heading up two electrifying shows and introducing Branson to some of the hottest stars in showbiz—(who Derek was fortunately able to woo here to meet the needs of us entertainment—hungry Midwesterners!)

Little did show owners and producers Derek and his wife Kay know, they would end up recruiting two red hot performers who proved to take both Ruby Room shows to a whole new level! 60 applied—yet two, Michael and Justin, proved to be the most worthy, as Branson audiences fast found out!



A MOTOWN LEGEND IN OUR MIDST!

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



MICHAEL LOMAN

Hailing from the great state of Alabama, Michael Loman spent much of his career as a top notch performer for Carnival Cruise Lines. He brings his skills as a trained dancer, singer and choreographer to an all time high in both shows!



J LAMPKINS

Coming to us from the great keystone state, (a.k.a. Pennsylvania), J is an accomplished stage and screen actor, comedian, dancer, choreographer, singer and songwriter! Whew! Yet another *tour de force* of talent!

THE SHOWS

Dancing in the Streets: A Motown Revue

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

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

Doo Wop & 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 ninety-nine-plus probably knows all about Doo-Wop. This show takes us back to those golden sounds of **The Drifters, Frankie Lymon & The Teenagers, The Five Satins, Dion and the Belmonts, The Del Vikings, The Coasters** and so many more. ♦

The Sounds of Motown
Dancing in the Streets
Thursday & Saturday
Evenings at 7

DOO WOP & THE DRIFTERS
Wednesday & Friday
Evenings at 7

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ADD DINNER IN THE THEATRE BEFORE THE SHOW!

2021 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

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

Please See Theatre Website for Show Times		Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
Andy Williams Moon River Theatre 1 Andy Williams Boulevard • 417-334-4500	andywilliamspac.com	E-8				
Irving the Talking Dog: w/ Comedian Todd Oliver				THRU SEPT		
The Americana Theatre 2905 W Hwy 76 • 417-544-8700	americanatheatre.com	E-6				
Awesome 80's			19	THRU DEC		
The Blackwoods	theblackwoods.com			THRU DEC		
British Invasion			13	THRU DEC		
Broadway to Buble: George Dyer				THRU DEC		
CJ Newsome's Classic Country & Comedy	patsyclineandfriends.com		19	THRU DEC		
The Johnson Strings	thejohnsonstrings.com		19	THRU DEC		
A Janice Martin Cirque Show	janicemartinshow.com			SEP-NOV		
Raiding the Country Vault	raidingthecountryvault.com		8	THRU DEC		
Rock n' Roll Royalty	rocknrollroyaltybranson.com		13	THRU DEC		
Branson Central Theatre 625 St. Hwy 165 • 417-231-4112		F-5				
Escape Reality: Up Close Comedy & Magic	carsonentertainment.com		12,18	THRU DEC	D	
The Steve Morris Lunchtime Break: Comedy, Music	bransoncentraltheatre.com			THRU DEC	L	
Branson Famous Theatre 645 Hwy 165 • 417-231-4999	baldknobbers.com	F-4	1,2,6			
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers			1,2,6	THRU DEC		
Vintage Baldknobbers Show			1,2,6	AUG-DEC		
Baldknobbers Gospel Show			1,2,6	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						
Branson Star Theater 3750 W 76 Blvd • 417-320-3418	bransonstartheater.com	C-3	1,22			
Credence Cool Water Revue			23	THRU DEC		
Famous Impressions			23	THRU DEC		
Nashville Roadhouse Live starring Stevie Lee Woods			1,5,22	THRU DEC	DA	
Outlaw Eagles			23	THRU DEC		
Phil Dalton: Theatre of Illusion			23	THRU NOV		
Steve Sanders, that mentalist guy!			23	THRU DEC		
Clay Cooper Theatre 3216 W. Hwy 76 • 888-222-8910	claycoopertheatre.com	E-5				
Clay Cooper's Country Express				THRU DEC		
#1 Hits of the 60's (& 50's too!)				THRU DEC		
Hot Rods & High Heels				SEP		
Dean Z - The Ultimate Elvis				THRU JUNE		
The Haygoods				THRU SEPT		
The Shoji Tabuchi show				TBA		
Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre 1600 W. Hwy 76 • 417-339-3003	legendsinconcert.com/Branson	E-10				
Legends in Concert				THRU SEPT	DA	
SIX (Real Brothers)	thesixshow.com			THRU DEC		
Buckets N Boards	bucketsnboards.com			THRU DEC		

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Please See Theatre Website for Show Times

	Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
Dolly Parton's Stampede 1525 W. Hwy 76 • 800-520-5544 dpstampede.com	E-10				
Dolly Parton's Stampede			THRU Dec	L,D	
The Dutton Family Theatre 3454 W Hwy 76 • 417-332-2772 theduttons.com	E3				
The Duttons			THRU Dec		
The Magic & Comedy of Taylor Reed taylorreed.com			THRU Dec		
Leroy New Tribute to Marty Robbins			TBA		
Grand Country Music Hall 1945 W Hwy 76 • 417-335-2484 GrandCountry.com	E-10				
Amazing Pets!			THRU Dec		
Branson Country USA live TV Broadcast			THRU Dec		
Comedy Jamboree			THRU Dec		
Grand Jubilee			THRU Dec		
Ozarks Gospel			THRU Dec		
Ozarks Country			THRU Dec		
Hamner's Variety Theater 3090 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 417-334-4363 hamnersunbelievable.com	C-6		SEE WEBSITE		
Hamner's Unbelievable Variety			THRU Dec		
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	1,11,16			
The Hughes Music Show		1,11,16	THRU Oct	L, D	
Hughes Brothers Country		1,11,16	THRU Dec	L, D	
Oh Happy Day: Goin Back to Gospel!			SEP/Oct	L	
Re-Vibe!		1,10,16	THRU Nov	L, D	
Branson's IMAX™ Little Opry Theatre 3562 Shep. of the Hills Exp • 417-335-4832 bransanimax.com	B-4		SEE WEBSITE		
George Jones, Haggard & Friends			SEP-DEC		
Smoke on the Mountain			THRU Dec		
The Petersens			THRU Dec		
The Petersens Gospel			THRU Dec		
Sons of Britches			THRU Dec		
Rick McEwen's Big Show		24	THRU Dec		
The Sons Music Celebration			THRU Dec		
Melody Hart Family			THRU Aug		
Chris Stanley's Comedy Magic Hour					
Country Evolution with Dalena			THRU Dec		
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	D,A	
Country Legends			THRU Dec	L,A	
Jerry Presley's God and Country Theatre 1840 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-6806 GodandCountryTheaters.com	E-10	1,8,14	SEE WEBSITE		

See All Shows on Page 14

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Please See Theatre Website for Show Times		Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
<i>King's Castle Theater</i> 2701 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-2500	kingscastletheatre.com	E-8	1,4,5			
Anthems of Rock			1,4,5,18	THRU DEC		
Dancing Queen			4,5	THRU DEC		
Dublin's Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies			1,3,4,5	THRU DEC		
New Jersey Nights: Music of The Four Seasons			4	THRU DEC		
<i>Majestic Theatre</i> 2849 Gretna Rd. • 417-231-2420		C-7				
Doo-Wop & The Drifters The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge • 417-231-2420		therubyroomatthemajestic.com	1,15	THRU DEC	DA	
Dancin' in the Street: a Motown Revue The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge • 417-231-2420		therubyroomatthemajestic.com	1,15	THRU DEC	DA	
Branson Murder Mystery Dinner Show • 417-849-8331		bransonmurdermystery.com		THRU DEC	DA	
Murder by Egg nog • 417-849-8331		bransonmurdermystery.com		Nov-Dec	DA	
Comedy Hypnosis Dinner Show • 417-849-8331		jecobiesmindplay.com		TBA	DA	
Sedaka Songbook				THRU DEC		
<i>Mickey Gilley Grand Shanghai Theatre</i> 3455 W Hwy 76 • 417-336-0888	amazingacrobats.com	D-3				
Rick Thomas, Illusionist: Mansion of Dreams			1,9	THRU DEC		
Shanghai Circus				THRU DEC		
Mickey Gilley & Johnny Lee				SEP-NOV		
The Texas Tenors				SEL DATES		
<i>Pierce Arrow Theatre</i> 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		
<i>Presleys' Country Jubilee</i> 2920 W. Hwy 76 • 800-336-4874	presleys.com	E-6		THRU DEC		
<i>Sight & Sound Theatres</i> 1001 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 800-377-1277	sight-sound.com	B-8				
Jesus				THRU DEC		
<i>Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Thtr.</i> 13260 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-7469	ShepherdoftheHills.com	A-3		SEE WEBSITE		
Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Drama				THRU DEC	D	
Ventriloquist Jim Barber & Friends				THRU AUG		
WhoDunnit Hoedown				THRU DEC	D	
Shepherd's Chuckwagon				SEP-DEC	D	
<i>Showboat Branson Belle</i> 4800 W. Hwy 76 • 800-475-9370	bransonsilverdollarcity.com	J-3		THRU DEC	LD	
<i>Yakov Theatre</i> 470 St. Hwy 248 • 417-336-3838	yakov.com	B-12		OCT-DEC		
Comedy Star Yakov Smirnoff				OCT-DEC		

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THE AMERICANA THEATRE PRESENTS:



Let's get real. If you want the "real deal" in your search for a Country Music Show that serves up everything from classic country all the way up to hot country 2021—this is your show!

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

The unbelievably good news is that we get a "two-fer" all in one star-studded supershow! We're talkin' **CJ Newsom's Classic Country & Comedy**, starring multi award-winning country singer (and one who channels Patsy Cline like no other) **CJ Newsom!**

And just for laughs, you also get hall-of-fame, award-winning comedy legend (and

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

But yes, folks—that's not all! (We love saying that!) Here's what you also get with your ticket—the show's all-star band,

(**The Recliners**) PLUS a stellar entourage of singers and dancers! And it all happens at the iconic **Americana Theatre**, right in the heart of the Branson strip! Such a deal!

To describe this country music extravaganza, we are reminded of the **Country Tonite Show**, that dazzling Vegas production that enjoyed several

blockbuster seasons here in Showtown. Likewise, this full blown country variety show comes at us fast and furious with a catalogue of country hits that spans the decades.

About that Terry Wayne Sanders character—honestly, that hilarious outfit represents so many goofy characters its hard to keep track of 'em all! Let's see, there's **Grandma Beulah, Barney Fife, Fred Smoot, Joan Rivers**—aww, we give up!

Terry's 40 year career has accumulated so many characters, (and awards) who can honestly remember them all?

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

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

BUY ONE TICKET, GET ONE 50% OFF TO ANY OTHER SHOW AT THE AMERICANA THEATRE!
See pages 8, 13, PLUS all Americana shows listed on pg. 16

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

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

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

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

Bringing to life these musical treasures that generations of us all love is multi-award winning singing star **Diana Lynn**. Diana is certainly no stranger to Branson, (nor these pages), for as us real Branson Insiders all know, Diana is the wife and frequent co-star of the gentleman we see on the page to our immediate right, who is of course **Neil Diamond**.

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

About The Carpenters

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

You might not remember her name, but trust us,

you know her hit songs and you know her story—one which frankly, changed history.

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

The Shock!

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

We've Only Just Begun!

The show begins with a gentleman taking a seat at the piano to portray Karen's brother **Richard Carpenter**. He

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

Save the Dates!

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

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



The Dream

Diana grew up in a family of entertainers and has been an entertainer all her life, (even during those years as a registered nurse, but we digress, for that's *another* amazing story.) Her showbiz experience comes across the moment she takes the stage, for her sunny personality, both warm and upbeat, is literally contagious. Audiences love her.

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

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



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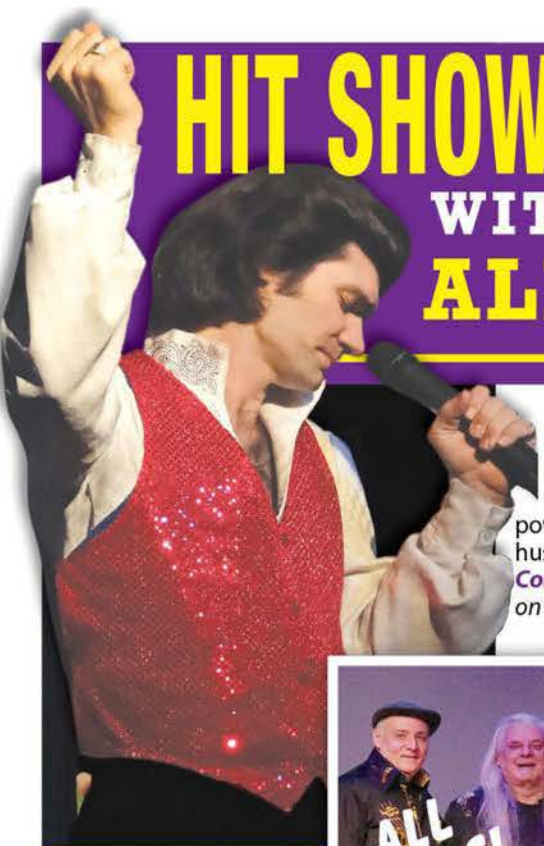
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HIT SHOW RETURNS WITH BAND OF ALL-STARS!



Branson Insiders, Keith's return is in the company of his lovely wife **Diana Lynn**, who opens her own award-winning **Carpenters Once More** show at the same power-packed performance venue as her husband—namely, **Jerry Presley's God & Country Theatre!** (More about Diana's show on page 20)



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

SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS!

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

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

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

As might be guessed by all genuine

WHO'S NEIL DIAMOND?

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



WHO'S KEITH ALLYNN?

Besides being an amazing Neil Diamond tribute artist, Keith Allyn is one of the most captivating

entertainers you are likely to ever experience. Entertaining is not just his vocation—it's his lifelong passion. He's brilliant, he's warm, he's funny, he's full of mesmerizing Neil Diamond stories, and he literally “owns” not only the stage, but the hearts of most all of us audience types. Example: He recently performed a one-nighter for 5,000 people. No band. Just him and a guitar. The audience was so

SEE IT
BEFORE IT'S BACK
“ON THE ROAD AGAIN”!

overwhelmed, the venue pleaded that Keith would stay for another show. Then another. 5,000 packed out each one. That says it all.

END OF STORY

At the show's finale, drums begin pounding. On screen is a flag waving. Keith begins singing—“*Far, we've been traveling far, without a home, but now without a star. Free, only want to be free, we huddle close, hang on to a dream. On the boats and on the planes, they're coming to*

America. Never looking back again, they're coming to America. Home, don't it seem so far away, Oh, we're traveling light today, in the eye of the storm, in the eye of the storm. Freedom's light burning warm. Got a dream to take them there, they're

coming to America. Got a dream they've come to share, they're coming to America. My Country 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing—”

During these times in which we live, the words, the music, of Neil Diamond's **America**—resonates deep in our heart of hearts. The drums are pounding as the music swells, the audience rising to their feet. Many are wiping away tears. There is scarcely a dry eye in the house. End of story. ♦



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Starring Stevie Lee Woods and The NRL Band

WHERE COUNTRY MEETS ROCK & ROLL!

The ALL STAR CAST of NASHVILLE RoadHouseLive!

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

BREAKING NEWS!

This just in: Branson Star Theatre's **Stevie Lee Woods** and **Nashville Roadhouse Live** will be dropping a new record the first week of October which will be launched across all radio genres, (Country, Pop and Easy Listening)—and will be distributed throughout both the US and Europe! **Something About The Way You Look Tonight**, a remake of the Elton John classic, is not only released with **Sir Elton John's blessing**—the pop icon actually appears in the new release's accompanying music video, which will soon hit all the video outlets around the world! But it gets even better, for the song was recorded in Branson, yet was sent to the U.K. where Sir

Elton's legendary producer **Stuart Epps** (who also produced classics by such music icons as **George Harrison** and **Led Zeppelin**) assisted in "mixing" and creating the master of the recording! As our INSIDER reporter interviewed Stevie, the Branson star had just received an email from the office of the song's co-writer and 50 year writing partner of Sir Elton, **the legendary Bernie Taupin**! "Outstanding! So well done!" said Mr. Taupin's email!

Says Stevie, "that puts a lump in your throat!" That and more, for while the song was being mixed in London, a woman who heard it in the studio suddenly let out a shriek of delight! Turns out, the

lady was music promoter **Lisa Davies** of **Epic Records** and **CBS**, a lady credited as being largely responsible for the success of **Michael Jackson's Thriller** and **Bad**, which, as the world knows, became the most successful records of all time! Not only that, Ms Davies has also been a promoter of **Abba**, and is largely credited for getting **Sir Paul McCartney's** last two albums and his classical album to the perch of #1! But we've saved the best for last, for Ms Davies quickly got on the phone "across The Pond" and contacted Stevie to sign him up exclusively for all of Europe! "I thank God," Stevie tells *The Insider*. "We'll just see how it goes."

Us too.

ABOUT NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE!

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, (as we report below).



ABOUT STEVIE LEE WOODS

Heading up this all-star supershow is powerhouse performer **Stevie Lee Woods**, whose music career in both country and rock music charted hits all the way to #1 (*Is there anything left?*) for example—and for years had him on the road opening for the likes of **Lorrie Morgan, Martina McBride, Brooks & Dunn, Diamond Rio** and just about everyone in-between. On stage, he's explosive—consuming it like a hybrid of **Mick Jagger, Garth Brooks** and maybe even **Brooks & Dunn**—all while backed up by a lovely troupe of high-steppin', boot-scootin' dancers and one of the hottest band of all-stars ever assembled, each one a Branson legend with a big league showbiz resume a mile long!



Folks, this show is a high energy fun fest that moves fast and furious—but with plenty of heart, soul and a whole lotta love. The level of performance and musicianship is an absolute showbiz earthquake! It's that awesome! You can see the love the performers have for the music, for each other, and even for us audience types. You can feel it.

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



Your Host:
Country/Rock Star
Stevie Lee Woods

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AMERICAN IDOL!

OCT 1, 2
GRAND LADIES OF COUNTRY!

NOV 5
NASHVILLE CARTEL!
JARED BLAKE!
(THE VOICE: SEASON 1)
BIG VINNY!
(TV's Biggest Loser)



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!

THE BRANSON INSIDER



BRANSON STAR'S VARIETY SHOWS!

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!



Credence Cool Water Review

The music of the legendary **Credence Clearwater Revival** (a.k.a. "Credence") couldn't be in better hands, for who can better present dead-on accurate, live performances of Credence'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 Credence, 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 Credence 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 Lyrin Eyes?* Of course there are many more, but we expect those ones are already calling your name!



FAMOUS IMPRESSIONS

New to Branson: Amazing singing and vocal impressions, plus hilarious comedy! Famous Impressions began entertaining crowds in the Las Vegas area almost 2 decades ago. The show mesmerizes and amazes audiences of all ages with outstanding vocal and singing impressions along with hilarious comedy. Expect to hear Legendary Country, Rock-n-Roll, Motown, Gospel and a few surprises along the way. With a multitude of voices in the celebrity vault, no two performances are alike. A must see show you do not want to miss. 5 rating on TripAdvisor!



STEVE SANDERS, THAT MENTALIST GUY!

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



SHOW

Don't Miss...

RICK MCEWEN'S Big Show

FEATURING **Kari Garrison**

Female Vocalist of the Year

A MEMBER OF THE TRADITIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC Hall of Fame

Rick McEwen

Male Vocalist of the Year

NOMINEE: BRANSON TERRY AWARDS

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FOLLOW THE FUN!

A-LIST STARS. GOZY VENUE. MUSIC & LAUGHS.
WELCOME TO THE **BIGGEST LITTLE** FUNFEST IN BRANSON!

The Show

To say these three are musically fluent is putting it mildly. Almost every performance consists of a completely different repertoire of **Classic Country, Classic Rock, Bluegrass, Gospel**—you name it. Literally, you name it. In every show all three take song requests shouted out from the audience. So far, nothing has stumped the band. Not only can they play anything, they even seem able to remember most if not all the lyrics! (So far, at least!)

Want some fun? It's fun hearing all genres of music and enjoying a relaxing dose of belly laughs. It's also a moving experience. Come see what we mean.

Rick McEwen

Rick's showbiz resume and his list of awards is a mile long. A member of the **Traditional Country Music Hall of Fame**, he has starred in dozens of productions during his 37 years in Branson. Prior to Branson, he toured for years with several genuine music legends—**The Blackwoods Singers**, banjo superstar **Earl Scruggs**, then for over nine years with bluegrass icons **The Dillards**, whose fame as **The Darlings** on the iconic **Andy Griffith Show** created a fan base resulting in tours throughout North America and Europe. One of Rick's favorite tales is working with **Disney** to record the soundtrack of the famous **It's a Small World** ride for **Euro Disney in Paris, France**. Hearing that story, along with the rest of Rick's storied life, inspired a classic response; "what a ride." ♦

Not gonna lie, it's mighty tough to find this much talent packed into three incredible performers all in one place, even if those A-List performers are already superstars to anyone "in the know." (That be us, amongst many others.)

Alert to Fan Base: Catch them here in **Rick McEwen's Big Show** at **Little Opry Theatre**, inside **Branson's IMAX™ Entertainment Complex!**

Heading up this supergroup of superstars is local legend (plus music industry legend) **Rick McEwen**, a guy who can sing anything, play anything on guitar and get audiences laughing in a heartbeat!

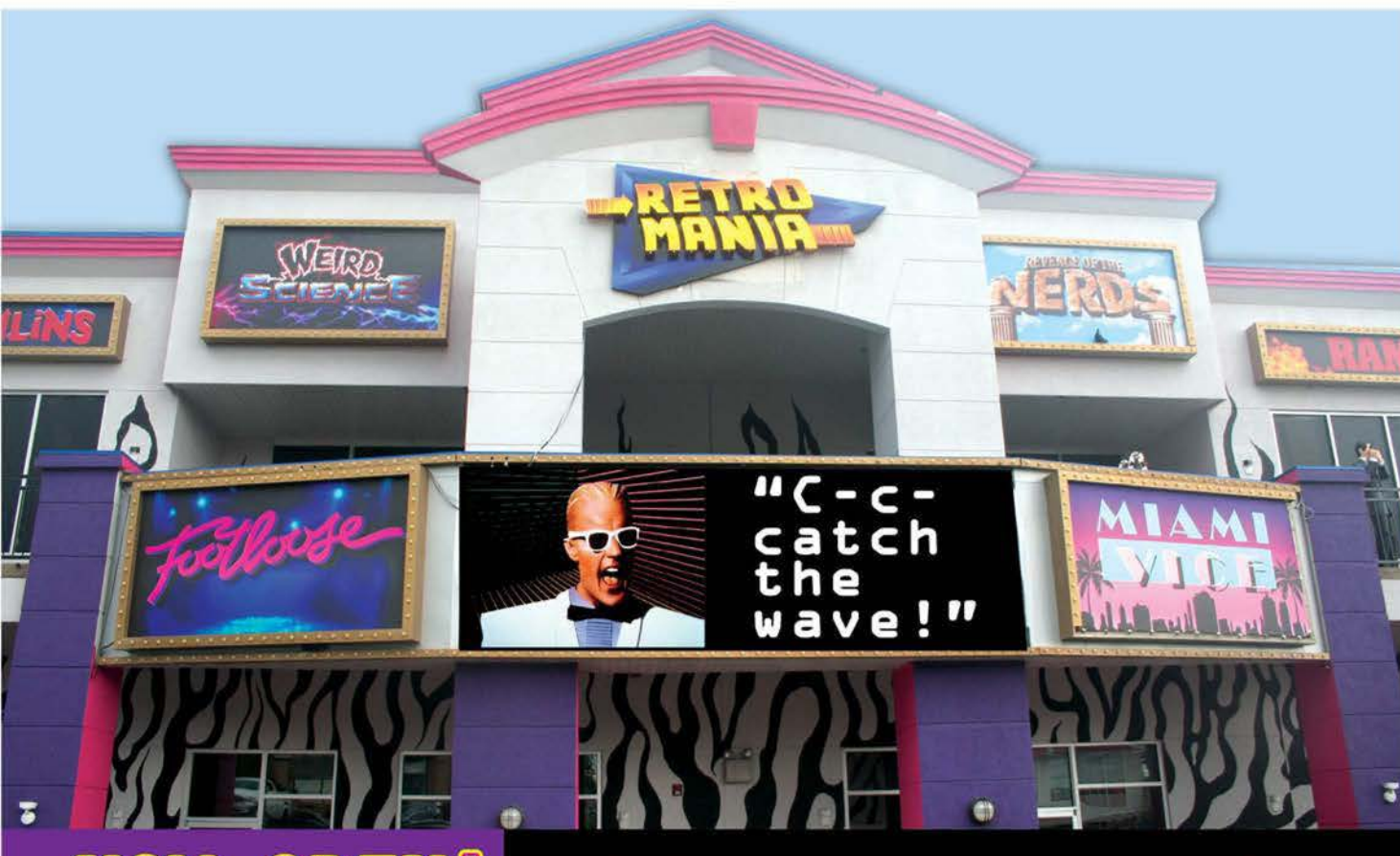
Next, is **Kari Garrison**, who we can't resist saying—is a country and bluegrass singer with a voice that can simply not be topped, period. There. We said it out loud. (In Branson, awards get showered upon her pretty much annually.)

Finally, more or less a new kid on the block, (here in Branson at least), is masterful performer **Christian Cole Lee**, grandson of country music icon **Charlie Rich**.

In this young man, the talent genes of Grandpa definitely took, for he can sing anything, play just about any stringed instrument out there, (guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, upright bass etc. etc. etc.) and he has toured with plenty of the so-called "Big Boys," you know, the **Keith Urbans**, the **Blake Sheltons**, etc. etc. etc.

The 3 amigos; Rick and Kari with co-star Christian Cole Lee.





NOW OPEN!

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

Want some fun for all ages? Well, here you go. All year long frustrated Branson visitors have been beating on the doors of this almost Disney-looking attraction right at the heart of the Branson Strip, (between Hwy 165 and the Giant Ferris Wheel) But the doors have remained locked. The frustration is understandable. Getting locked out of something that looks that cool is bogus. The sign says **RETRO MANIA**. Familiar faces peer down at us. Nostalgic signage from our past adorns every wall, be it from our past life as a kid, a young parent, or even as a young grandparent. But now, everything is changing. Doors are swinging open. Let's find out what's on the *inside!*

THE INSIDE SCOOP!

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

are—**back in the 1980s!**

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

STUFF TO SEE

Hollywood memorabilia—(like **Mel Gibson's** actual motorcycle from **Lethal Weapon 3**, or that car out front from **RoboCop 2**), boatloads of signed movie posters and record albums (**Madonna, Cyndi Lauper, Michael Jackson**)—and ka-gillions more—corridors of movie scenes, movie characters and iconic pop stars that, interestingly, are the *exact same size* as the celebs in *real life!* Dude, we thought those stars were so humongous, but woah, they're like regular, or even smaller, like *us!* Trust us, get a picture of you beside some! It's wicked true! As for 80s memory triggers, should we name names? Okay. **Top Gun, Flash Dance,**

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Batman, Star Wars, Indiana Jones, Terminator, Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure, Footloose, Beetlejuice, ---oh, let's go on to music—**Bon Jovi, Van Halen, Blondie, ACDC, U2, Prince, MC Hammer, Bruce Springsteen, Whitney Houston,** oh *duh*, this list could go on forever! Just come see it all!

STUFF TO DO

SLASHER'S HAUNTED HOUSE (Gulp), not gonna lie, it's creepy in there! No, nobody's gonna grab you or anything,



Gremlins enjoying *Gremlins* in their Gremlins Movie Theatre.

but walking into scenes from **Friday the 13th**, or **Michael Meyers Halloween**, or seeing those scenes from **Chuckie**—well, y'all have fun in there! It's fun walking into Hollywood movie scenes, as long as you can walk out at any time! We promise, hand on the Bible—you can, unless you prefer to just enjoy the creepy stuff as long as you want!

RETRO ROCKER MINI GOLF Play amongst your favorite 80s rock stars, while your ears enjoy a never-ending soundtrack of 80s classics. We've said it before—seeing these characters in almost real life standing before you at their exact height, makes them feel—well, almost like real people. Like the rest of us! **TWO ESCAPE GAMES** Fun stuff, but not to panic—technically you can escape at any time, but as all non-scaredy cats know, it's more fun to just try and figure it out! **ESCAPE TO THE FUTURE** is based on, yeah, you guessed it—that 80s movie franchise **Back to the Future!** The other escape game, **ALIEN ENCOUNTER** is based on, yeah, you guessed it again—**Alien!** **GREMLIN'S MOVIE THEATRE** Grab a bag of popcorn and enjoy an 80s classic—no extra charge. You can even leave and come back to catch a later show—FREE! **FREE PLAY ARCADE** 80s Arcades, no coins needed! Which is AWESOME! **NEW WAVE CAFÉ** 80's memorabilia everywhere! Killer cuisine! Trust us, you'll want to take a picture of your serving! 80s faves for every taste. (Alcohol also available) And we're saving the best for last, for **karaoke** is on tap, and **live bands playing nothing but 80s hits** appear all season! **GIFT SHOP!** Nostalgic fashions, toys, games, fun stuff—it's all here, parachuted in from the 80s! Good Times! ♦

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

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! ♦



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!”



**UNFORGETTABLE
EXPERIENCES!**

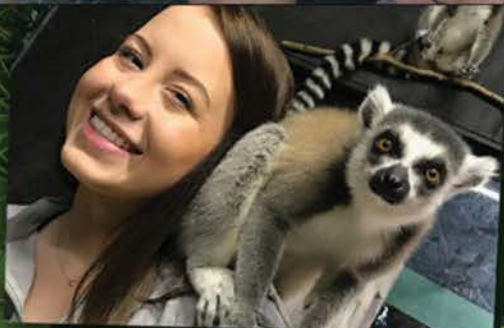
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A WHOLE NEW WORLD! AT BRANSON'S WILD WORLD!

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!



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

WORLD CHANGERS

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



CREATING ATTRACTIONS WORLDWIDE

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



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

More anything?

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

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

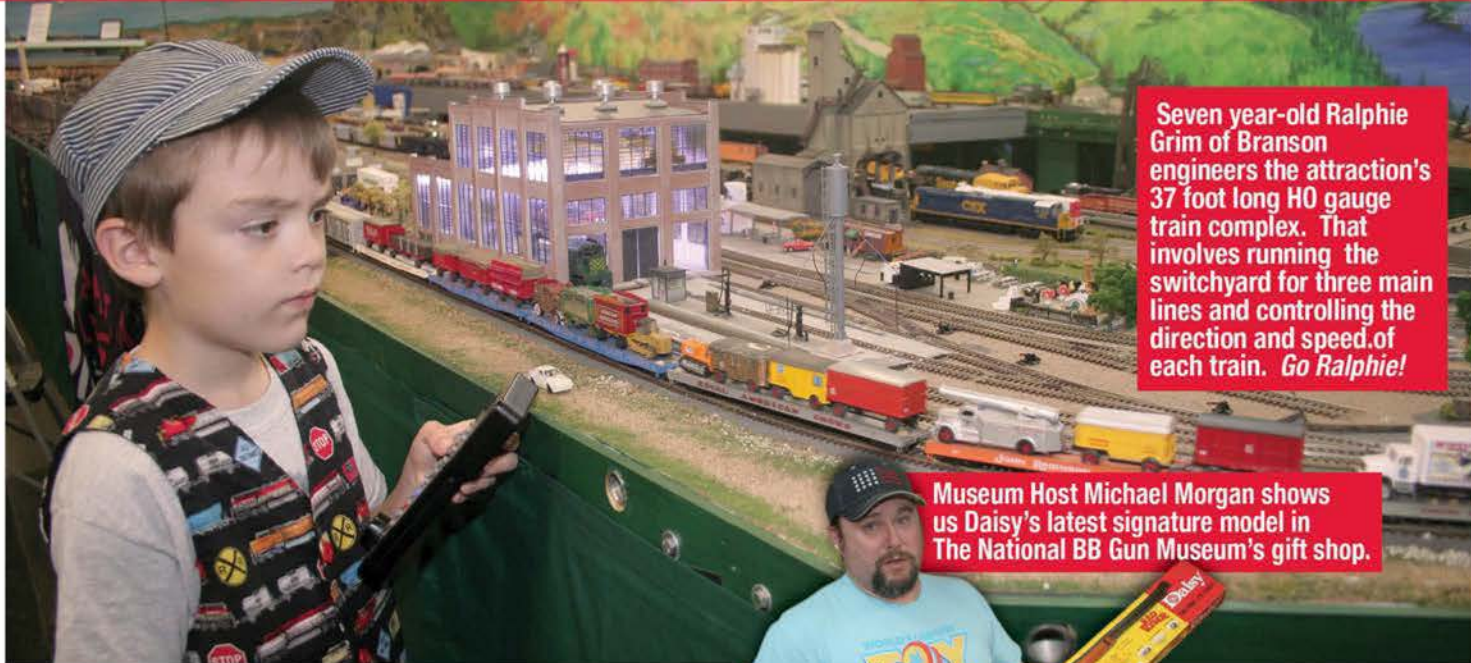
Let's get one thing straight—yes it truly is the **World's Largest Toy Museum**, (over 1 million toys), but don't get stuck on that word "museum". This isn't just some relic show. For most folks, a trip here turns into one of the funnest experiences ever—whether the folks be Moms and Dads with the kids in tow, the grandfolds—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.

RETRO FUN!

7 MUSEUMS: 1 PRICE!

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

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!



**FAMILY PASSES
 VETERANS DISCOUNTS
 Kids 5 & under FREE!**

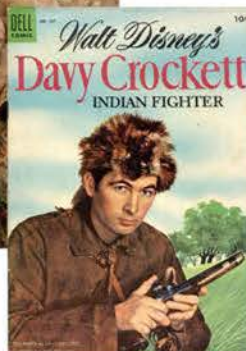
much too young to remember that TV puppet star from the 1950s. "Well, my parents introduced me to that. They watched old videos and I got to see them. It's fun to see all the things they were always talking about—the tin toys, wind-up toys, and everything else."

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.

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. ♦



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."

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."



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

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

Confused, we reminded Anna that she was

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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!



Local resident Heather Anderson shops quilts.

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 13). 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.

"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. ♦



Confidence Regained!

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



HOME DECOR!



GUY STUFF!



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Ozark Mountain Craft Mall

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

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

COLOR ME CRAZY!

Color Me Crazy Blending Bar

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



Brian shows us his star attraction.

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 **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

about everything you can think of—and here's the catch—every item, repeat, every item is made right here in the Good Ol' USA! Hard to believe, but it's true!

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



Anything and everything to tantalize the taste buds!



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

American flags that were actually **MADE IN THE USA!** Well, you will here! We're gonna even shout out a shocking statement: **THIS IS THE LARGEST SELECTION OF AMERICAN MADE MILITARY THEMED MERCH ANYWHERE!**

THE MERCHANDISE

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

MAN ON A MISSION

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

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**
- **Creedence Cool Water Revue**
- **Famous Impressions**
- **The Outlaw Eagles**
- **Phil Dalton Magic**
- **Statler Brothers Revisited!**
- **Steve Sanders—that mentalist guy!**

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**

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**
- **3 Dog Night Show**
- **50 Years of Kenny Rogers**
- **Carpenters Once More**
- **Chicago Tribute Show**
- **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 Little Opry Theatre (Inside IMAX™ Entertainment Complex) C4

- **Rick McEwen's Big Show**

At Mickey Gilley Grand Shanghai Theatre D-4

- **Illusionist Rick Thomas—Mansion of Dreams**

ATTRACTIONS

Branson's Wild World F-9
Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos E-9

Retro Mania E-4
World's Largest Toy Museum D-4

SHOPPING

World's Largest Toy Museum D-4
Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos E-9
Ozark Mountain Craft Mall E-9
World's Largest Toy Museum D-3

DINING

New Wave Café E-4



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