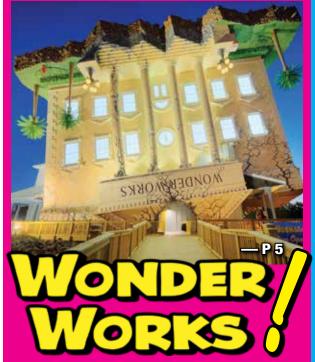
THE BRANSON IN SIDER



eason 2020

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THAT UPSIDE DOWN



SEASON 2020 ON WITH THE SHOW!











SHOW GUIDE • MAP • FOOD • SHOPPING • FUNI





Wisdom & knowledge from His Majesty the Editor & Publisher

Do It All!

ou'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 quide, read our stories, make your picks, then kick back—and enjoy the show.

The Branson Insider



WHAT'S THE POINT?

s we all know, this old world has gone loco. And plenty of us know we're supposed to pray about it all. But at some point we gotta ask ourselves what's the point?

Now already I can almost hear your brain chirpin' me the answer out loud. The point, sez you, is that The Bible tells us to pray. But if we think about that whole prayer thing for a New York minute, it really don't even make sense.

"But, Oh, wait," sez you—"If you just got faith," sez you, stuff happens! Mountains move! Broke gets fixed! Sick gets well! Empty gets full! Lost gets found! Owed gets paid! born. And as The Bible tells us, satan Poor gets rich! Ornery gets civilized! Sad gets happy! Mad gets nice! All's what we gotta do is pray, have faith—and "bingo!" It sure has happened plenty of times to preachers, the folks in church and even to you and me a time or two! But not always.

Then there's you bless-your-heart other folks who are all lovey-dovey about Planet Earth, animals and not eating meat who tell us we should all just "think good thoughts" and broadcast some "positive energy" at the whole sorry mess we find ourselves in!

So honestly, which makes less sense?

We get told to pray so pray we do. Sometimes it makes a body feel better, sometimes it makes it feel worse. Especially when we ain't in the mood to hear our own voice bouncin' off the walls and right back into our eardrums. The whole thing sounds ridiculous.

It's like The Good Lord is up there busy with and the authority to use it in the Name of the whole mess and here we are, a flimsy little "voice cryin' in the wilderness" tryin' to get His attention so He'll maybe get around we are to take to prayer. We are to call on to pulling some strings like a puppet master to make somethin' happen for us down here. Or maybe if we fall on our face, rule of sin, ungodliness and death. Rule has cry like a baby and pound the floor as we beg Him till we get all the cry out of usmaybe, just maybe, He'll send us a couple of angels to duke things out with the devil 'til the devil gets knocked down and flees!

But at some point we gotta ask ourselves—if this Good Lord loves us so much, why do we gotta do all that before He'll give us a break down here?

Well, boys and girls—these is some good questions, but you came here for answers so here we go.

In the beginning, The Good Lord created this earth and gave it to us Adam types to rule it and take care of it. Trouble was, The Good Lord made us in His image, which is why we got that lightning in a bottle called "Free Will." But uh-oh, here comes that fallen angel called satan, (who used his free will to go up against Our Creator and to get kicked out of the Kingdom) Now that snake is in the garden out to get this scary new Adam creation on his side of the fence. You know the story. He used his free will to woo Adam and Eve to use their free will to follow him to the "other side." The dark side. And Adam took the bait.

So death came to Adam and to the rest of the world, including us, not even yet became the god of this world, and the world fell into a curse of sin, destruction and death. That's the bad news. Satan is the god of this world and he wields the "powers, principalities and wickedness in high places".

Now for the Good News. The Son of God came into this world, paid for the sins of the world with His own blood on the cross and was condemned to death and sent to hell. But then, the universe changed when God raised Christ from the dead to rule and reign throughout all eternity! And in His Kingdom is all those who will believe, lay their lives down, and follow Him and His Word. But there's more.

All who are followers of Christ—the sons of God, have the authority to call on the Lord and His Heavenly Host to intervene, change and overcome the events in this fallen world! He has given us a weapon, His Word, Jesus Christ, the "Name above all names!" His promises in His name are the weapons Him, and His Word to over-rule the god of this world, and to reverse the course of his been restored to the sons of God!

Therefore, Saints—let us pray!

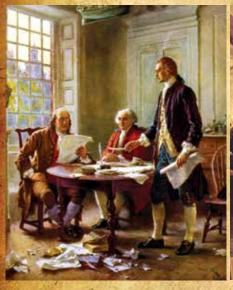
Not beg. But pray. Let us pray His Word and His promises.

Amen. Good preachin'. Especially at times like this. Hope we all get the point.♦

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Today, the language of 1776 is dated and hard to read. But the ideas are not.

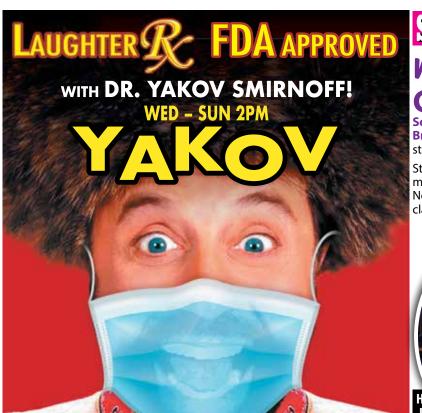




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HAPPY 244# INDEPENDENCE BIRTHDAY.

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from our ROVING REPORTERS & PROWLING PAPARAZZI! SCOOPS & PLX

WHERE STARS ARE BORN!

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

Student performers here get to to partake of master classes taught by showbiz pros from LA, New York and even Branson! Total immersion

• staging, and much more. Workshops focus on the practical. We especially like this one—Things I Wish I Had Known: Audition Tips & Networking! For the grand finale: (a drumroll), actual performances in a real Branson show! So, if you got that dream, see page 11 & sign up for next summer!



Swedish rock star Reggie Regnall shows moves in a mirror to a class mirroring his moves!

alk about a great comeback! We are so giddy to report that two Branson faves have decided to take a much-needed break from their grand tours and are finally bringing it all home—where the heart is. And that would be us. Branson. Yes,Keith Allynn, star of the acclaimed Neil **Diamond Tribute: The Diamond Image** opens his show in August at Jerry Presley's God & Country Theatre! But folks, that's not all! Keith's lovely wife Diana Lynn will also be bringing her show, The Carpenters Once More: Tribute—to the same uptown showplace! Talk about a "twofer!"





he Branson community was shaken this past May 30 by the sudden passing of a local legend--one whose life and career touched so many.

It was on Saturday, May 30, that the legendary "Rattlesnake" Eddie Wood "went home to be with the Lord," as he would say. He was sixty-eight.

For years Eddie was known throughout the country as a champion rodeo star. His notoriety would later spread to his leather

Continued on page 21



kay, here's the low-down on that upside down super-structure which appears to have crashed head-first on our Branson strip! (a.k.a. W. Hwy 76) Thanks to our undercover reporters, you're getting the inside scoop here! (Keep up by following us on Facebook!)

Apparently, an eccentric scientist by the name of Professor Wonder was working on an experiment to harness the power of a tornado, when suddenly—ka-booey—up goes the entire laboratory! Into the sky? All the way to outer space? Who knew? What we do know, is that the whole enchilada has landed smack-dab and upside down right here on the Branson strip! (Sounds strangely like the story of that scientist Nikola Tesla whose "oscillator" is said to have created a New York City earthquake back in 1898! But we digress.)

The aftermath is what we have here—a new



attraction which, architecturally speaking, is one of the most unusual and amazing buildings in the world! But thanks to our eyeballs, we already knew that. What our eyeballs didn't know, is that this thing is also one of the most unusual and amazing places in the world on the INside! That's the story we're getting from our reporters, who somehow were able to see into the future of what is about to be revealed in the coming weeks, days, or hours, depending on when you read this.

BREAKING NEWS:

ur intrepid reporters recently filed the following report, (which we later discovered they had just pirated from a brochure). "Wonderworks is a sciencefocused, indoor amusement park for the mind that holds something unique and interesting for visitors of all ages. There are four floors of non-stop "edu-tainment" with over 100 hands-on interactive exhibits that serve STEM educational purposes to challenge the mind and spark the imagination."

Our first question, since our education was back in the 1900s, was concerning the meaning of STEM. Apparently, nowadays everybody except us knows that it stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. When we asked our reporters to boil all that down for our readers (like us) to easily grasp, they suddenly all shouted out—"The place is FUN!" We suspect they got that from the attraction's motto, which actually comes from a quote by

So here's what we've got so far about this "amusement park for the mind". It's got four floors and 45,000 sq.ft. of "edutainment", over 100 hands-on exhibits, a wonder coaster, laser tag, Extreme 360 bikes, a "bubble room", an Xd theater with 3D film, full motion seating and there is just too much to list here. We shall summarize it all as a place that has rides, hands-on exhibits, and—well, plenty of fun for all ages! Let's just call it this: an interactive, indoor amusement park.

ZINGERS

here are just too many moving parts to this mind-blowing attraction to report here, so let's hit on a few zingers that we can't resist blabbing. Besides experiences that take us into space, into wild scientific phenomena and to the wide world, (including the world of our five senses) there is an eye-opening area called The Branson Experience. Here, we discover all the strange, unique and amazing things in these fascinating Ozarks that surround us. The History of Route 66 section does likewise. But then comes the American **Pride** area, which we also gotta mention. Here, we discover how our freedom of religion, speech and thought has sparked the creativity and innovation that our

us up close and personal with the core



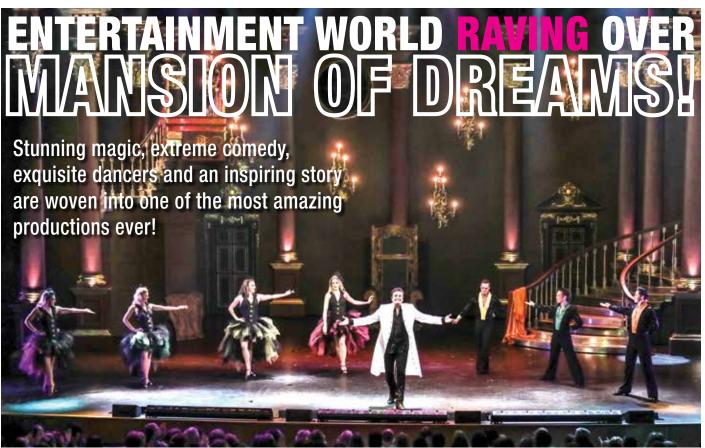
values of a soldier, then demonstrates how each military branch is active in STEM education inspiring future generations to lead by example.

BULLET POINTS

here is much to report here, so to make it easy, here goes: •Treasure Hunt: Rocks hidden all over Branson display the word "Wonder Works." Amazing prizes await all finders. • Available on site: Elevators, wheelchairs, Food & Concessions, •Special programs for schools and special needs guests, some which include visits by a Nasa Astronaut •School art contests and gallery Birthday club •Fundraising opportunities Meeting space • Catered lunches • Team Building • Corporate programs

Conclusion: Let your imagination run wild. (See ad on page 4). \blacklozenge





THE BUZZI

While on tour throughout North America last winter, Branson's multi award-winning

master illusionist Rick
Thomas discovered, to his
amazement and delight,
that the entertainment
industry is all abuzz about
Mansion of Dreams, his
new Branson production
which premiered at
Branson's Andy Williams
Performing Arts Center
& Theater last year and
quickly brought him awards
as Entertainer of the Year
and Show of the Year! As

one prominent Las Vegas show producer told Rick, "I'm telling you straight up—the buzz in the industry is that this is the greatest production anybody has seen. Everybody who has seen it is *loving it!* What they're all saying is this: Rick Thomas is *the show to see!*"

As Rick soon found out himself, that was pretty much the "good word" he was getting from magic enthusiasts throughout his North American tour. During that tour, we were able to track Rick down by phone in-between shows in Las Vegas, the place where he reigned for 15 years as the most successful family show in Vegas's history, and whose accolades included the high

honor of receiving the Key to the City.

"I knew then, that Branson was the place to unveil the production I had been dreaming of and laboring over throughout my entire

life and career. My goal-to take my audiences on a journey of a lifetime, whether they are fans of magic or not. And it was also to give them plenty of laughs! A lady came up to me after a recent production, saying, 'Rick, my husband refuses to go to a show while on vacation. Finally, I was able to drag him to yours. Just so you know," she told me, "'he

absolutely loved it."

No critic could write a better review!

WITNESS A MASTERPIEGEI

For anyone who has little or no interest in a so-called "magic show"—this ground-breaking production will surely be a game-changer! That goes for anyone at any age: Mom & Dad, kids, Grandfolks, Millennials—anybody!

For any fan of the magic genre—this too will be a game-changer!

Finally, we have this to say to the show-

goer who has "seen it all". You haven't. Not unless you've seen Mansion of Dreams, a true theatrical masterpiece.

THE DREAM

The Mansion of Dreams production has been over twenty-five years in the making. It's the dream of a lifetime and the crowning achievement for its creator: multi awardwinning Master Illusionist Rick Thomas.

Rick Thomas's stature in the world of magic is huge. His long career has included years of world tours and 15 years reigning as the top family-oriented show in Las Vegas. He is famously known for creating never-before-seen illusions which the rest of the magic world fast seizes upon and

copies. He has performed to sellout crowds in over 50 countries. He has appeared on virtually every magic show on American TV.

NO WORDS

How do we describe this show? We have no words. But you came here for words, so here goes—!

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 the theatrics are spectacular. Rick is a world champion ballroom dancer, and it shows. His performance is mesmerizing—as is that of his wife and dancing partner, Tara, a ballet star from Zimbawe. Then comes the unexpected...

THE SHOCK

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

We laugh. Then we see the other side of Rick. He's a fun guy. He makes us laugh. He plays with our heads. He invites kids up on stage and has fun with them. Somehow, he gets on their level—never talking down to them, never acting like them, just seamlessly connecting with them. They get his jokes, most which he makes up on the spot. He does the same thing with Moms and Dads, Grandmas and Grandpas. Before long, everyone in the audience is grinning. They love this guy.

THE AFTERSHOCK

In the theatre lobby we met a nice couple who were masters of finishing each other's sentences: "This was amazing!" said the wife. "Tops." said the husband, the wife adding, "I think we'll remember this for the rest of our lives."

Like we say—the show of a lifetime.

Their ground-breaking mix of country, classical opera, patriotic and Gospel definitely puts The Texas Tenors in in a category all their own--one in which they definitely rule! America instantly fell in love with their riveting performances on TV's America's Got Talent, all which jump-started a stellar career. Experience their amazing performances live, on stage, this Season 2020 at Branson's Andy Williams Performing Arts Center! (Select Dates)





www.andywilliamspac.com

BRANSON'S LEGENDS IN CONCERT PRESENTS

2020'S SIZZLING SUMMER OF

egends in Concert's all-star summer season is absolutely rockin' Showtown with the most insanely good tribute artists out there! And folks, this 2020 lineup hits the absolute sweet spot with just about every generation on planet earth!

Produced in Vegas, Legends in Concert is a dazzling extravaganza of the world's top tribute artists appearing at Branson's Dick Clark American Bandstand Theatre! Backing up these legendary superstars is a smokin' live band of all-star musicians and a full cast of backup singers and amazing dancers! During evening performances, guests can add to the fun by opting for dinner and cocktails. Now that's entertainment!

Legendary Eats! Concessions include such goodies as Johnsonville Brats, Chili-Cheese Dogs, Ham & Turkey Croissants, Fresh-out-of-the-oven Gourmet Cookies and Chocolate Covered Bananas! Upstairs Lounge! Enjoy craft beers, champagne and a variety of fine wines before the show or during intermission in a relaxing lounge decorated with Dick Clark's priceless memorabilia. Guests can also choose the

VIP balcony, where drinks can be served during the show.

MICHAEL JACKSON!

Back by popular demand comes the brilliant Michael **Knight**, whose riveting, moon-walking, "Thriller" performances channel the King of Pop's power vocals and fluid moves like no other! From Billy Jean, to Thriller, from Beat It to **Black or White**, and from **Bad** to **The Way You Make Me Feel**, the nearly hypnotic stage performances of one of the most legendary artist/ entertainers of our time are recreated here in a breath-taking tour de force of MJ's greatest hits!

TAYLOR SWIFT!

The superstardom of this brilliant songwriter, stage performer and lead actress on some of the most spectacular music videos ever crafted has captured the hearts of fans from all generations! A career that began as a teenage sensation, is now recognized worldwide as one that comes rarely, if ever, in a lifetime. This summer, all that explodes onto Branson's Legends in Concert stage-recreating Taylor Swift live performances which are already the stuff of legend! What shall we see performed? The choices are too many to list! Perhaps Love Story, Blank Space Shake it Off, We are Never Ever Getting Back Together, Bad Blood, Look What You Made Me Do, Love Story—oh, we'll just have to wait and see!

THE BLUES BROTHERS

Of course back by eternally popular demand are those furiously dancing and soulfully singing hipsters from Chicago—the fabulous **Blues**Brothers! Honestly, who can resist getting goosebumps at seeing the almost rubber-like moves this dancing duo channels while singing their signature hits: Soul Man, Sweet Home Chicago, Rawhide and Gimmie Some Lovin'! What other act has such a knack for getting us laughing, singing and dancing all at the same time? Answer: these guys.

TWO SIDES OF THE KING

Finally, we have two other signature events which happen in this show. It comes in the form of one word: **ELVIS**. It's the word that says it all.

To recreate his performances, how can one show project all the different Elvis eras in one superstar supershow?

Voila! Legends in

VEGAS ELVISI

BRANSON ELVIS FESTIVAL: APRIL 7-11 2021

DICK CLARK'S AMERICAN BANDSTAND THEATRE

••••••

Concert to the rescue! In the show's first Elvis performance, we get Elvis from the Movies! Remember?

Blue Hawaii, Viva
Las Vegas, I Can't
Help Falling in Love,
Jailhouse Rock, Gi

Blues. Of course we could keep going, as could you, but for now, we all get the picture. (Probably because Elvis sang those songs to us in SO MANY pictures!)

Then, for Legends in Concert's Grand finale, we get Vegas Elvis, complete with the spectacular Vegas jumpsuit, the karate moves, and of course, those legendary showstoppers which include **Suspicious** Minds, In the Ghetto, and the legendary, if not historic medley of Dixie and The Battle Hymn of the Republic! Getting goosebumps just reporting that!



WORLD'S GREATEST LIVE TRIBUTE SHOW





ust like they've been doing every year since back in 1959, Branson's Famous **Baldknobbers** are roaring into Star Date 2020 like a freight train—and like always, are upping the ante! This season, the Mabe family enterprise (Branson's first show) begins its seventh decade as a triple threat! (Nothing to be afraid of, that's iust showbiz speak which means three spectacular productions.)

First, there is (obviously) Branson's Famous Baldknobbers, which our inside leaks and whistleblowers have informed us is "better than ever", and is "wowing audiences" with its award winning musicians, vocalists and comedy, plus its huge new production enhancements of sound, lights, and awesome special effects. We are told we are to expect top country hits, traditional country first show pioneered: the straightfavorites, southern rock, gospel, was a country hits and the straightfavorites.

patriotic salutes, hilarious sidesplitting comedy and more.

Second, as you will discover below, there's a brand new Baldknobbers throwback show this year. Although "new throwback" may sound like what they call an "oxymoron" we're just reporting the news here. What it's called is Vintage Baldknobbers, a "blast from the past" so to speak. Our undercover informants, backstage snoops and undisclosed sources are reporting that this new/old show focuses on music and comedy from the Baldknobbers' golden years—(the 60's, 70's and 80's.) We are also

told that anyone who loves traditional country music will be thrilled by this old/ new production.

Thirdly, again, as plainly seen below, there is the key element of what would later be known as the Branson show "formula" which Branson's up Gospel segment. However,

Award-winning comedy star Jerl "Hargus" Adams starting last year, is up to something. We have been warned, he will Baldknobbers Go Baldknobbers Gospel was no longer just

a show segment—it was a whole new fullblown show of its own: Branson's Famous **Baldknobbers Gospel Show!**

And at awards season, the awards just keep on-a-comin', just like they've been doing since away back in 1959!

A shley's career began at an early age, singing

with her family as part of The **Praters**, the acclaimed Gospel group whose career and multiple albums were popular with fans and critics alike. In addition to

performing with The Baldknobbers, Ashley tours as lead vocalist with the Missouri National Guard's 135the Army Band, she writes and records songs which are already turning heads in Nashville, and (did we mention?), she's Mom to 2 sons, 2 daughters, and wife to husband Bo. Ashley's musical roots, besides contemporary Gospel, are country and bluegrass. Perfect fit!

Mhen Shane burst on the Baldknobbers stage in Season '19, jaws definitely dropped! The reasons for that general audience

reaction were many. First, of course, was the voice—a

sometimes booming, sometimes Gospel soul-stirring, always heart-stealing voice that resonated with fans of every age. Adding to that, was a stage presence that, (as they say in Texas) was "all fired up!" The result: when Shane takes the stage, audiences pretty much get "all fired up" right along with him! In a heartbeat. Oh, and Ladies, just so you know, he looks like that because his number 2 passion, (after singing and making music) is working out. Just sayin'.

Need a little help knowing what to expect in these Baldknobbers shows? Look no further. For starters, in each show prepare yourself for a whole new, almost stunning blast of comedy like you've never seen before. We'll just say this: be surprised. Be very surprised. And try not to laugh yourself to the "looney bin!"

Clue #2. Each show, as all shows since Day 1, will honor all veterans in a stirring patriotic tribute which celebrates

And each show, also as all shows since Day 1, will include the "Gospel segment" - the one which aims to turn every heart to The One "from whom all blessings flow!"

For Branson's Famous Baldknobbers,

you're gonna get variety—like some of that "outlaw country" with "attitude", some bluegrass, and even some classic rock. Let's drop some names. Keith Urban, Eagles, Jason Aldean, Marshall Tucker, Loretta Lynn, Janis Joplin, Vince Gill, Trisha Yearwood, Lady Antebellum—are we painting a picture here?

As for Vintage Baldknobbers: how about some Johnny Cash, Glenn Campbell, Patsy Cline, Merle Haggard? In a nutshell, it's this: 100% traditional Country & Gospel.

For the **Baldknobbers Gospel Show**, well, it's a mix of rock-the-house Southern Gospel, contemporary Christian, praise and worship and nothing less than a heartfelt celebration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



t's unheard of for a show to stay popular

for over 60 years, an historical fact that landed Branson's Famous Baldknobbers with a display at The Smithsonian Institution

in Washington, D.C. That being said, this isn't just a show with a history. Whenever the curtain rises, this show aims to make history! +

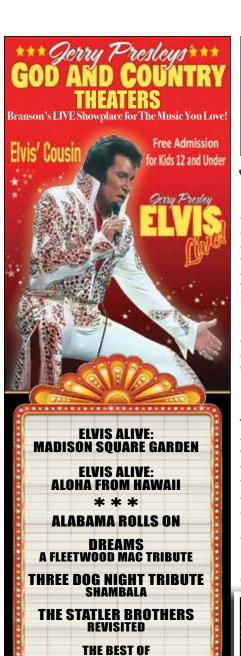


Award-winning singing stars: 3rd Generation Baldknobber Brandon Mabe, and lovely wife (and co-star) Megan!



have surprises this year. Many surprises.





ELVIS & JERRY PRESLEY. WHAT A STORY, WHAT A SHOW!

OW! A full-blown reproduction of a genuine Elvis show—complete with the trademark Elvis entourage of keyboards, horns, electrics, percussion and OF COURSE lady backup singers and a genuine Gospel quartet! nyone of any generation who never knew how insanely awesome an Elvis concert was—here's your ticket to rock'n roll heaven! Seriously, somebody ought to declare this show a National Treasure! Might as well be us. so here goes: Elvis LIVE! starring Elvis's cousin Jerry Presley is a National Treasure, and it's now playing at Branson's God & Country Theatre!

Note the two Elvis shows listed in the marquee at left. In these shows, we're not just seeing the world's most authentic Elvis concerts this side of Elvis himself, we're actually experiencing some history! 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 served in the Army like Elvis? But folks, that's not all! Like Elvis—Jerry even has a twin brother! But it gets even better, for Elvis's original band, backed up with The Stamps Quartet, performed with Jerry for years! That too, is a pretty hefty endorsement!

Jerry was one of the first Elvis tribute artists out there. something which quickly made the youngster a victim of Colonel Parker's wrath, (Elvis's notorious manager.) Fortunately, Elvis himself came to Jerry's rescue, but that's another story!

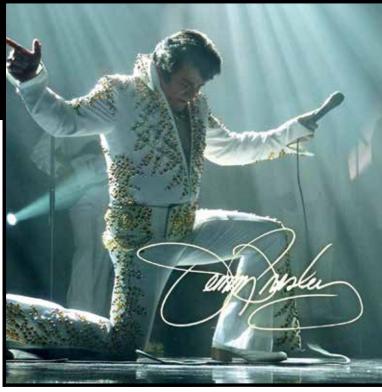
What we love most about Jerry's Elvis concerts is that they are real. No over-the-top Elvis exaggeration and

shtick—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. After the show, he's more than happy to visit and small talk with us regular folks. 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. \blacklozenge







417-334-6806 1840 W. Hwy 76

NEIL SEDAKA A NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE **JAMES TAYLOR** & FRIENDS THE TEMPTATIONS MOTOWN LEGENDS

CARPENTERS **ONCE MORE** YEARS OF KENNY ROGERS **WAYLON, WILLIE &** THE GOOD OL' BOYS

Hughes News

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

SEASON 2020







hen USA Today called them "the world's largest performing family" that was no "fake news! (Fact check: We are now counting over fifty members of this offthe-charts talented family appearing on stage in each spectacular performance!)

Although the four Hughes Brothers and their ever-expanding family of star performers have been playing to packed out Branson audiences for over twenty years, we are issuing this **ADVISORY:** If you haven't seen **The Hughes Music Show** lately, then you haven't seen the Hughes Music Show, that showbiz extravaganza that was the toast of Branson's 2019 awards season! (Variety Show of the Year!, Patriotic Salute of the **Year!** and **Christmas Show of the Year!**) Our stealth reporters have been told that incredible, astounding and unbelievable new show surprises will continue to roll out, up! Expect anything and

(as usual) for the big 2020! We tried to get some juicy details, but our inside contacts remained tight-lipped, yet were grinning knowingly. We can't wait, (and that's putting

it mildly)—to see what this year's massive family entourage of singers, dancers and brilliant musicians roll out for our 2020 audience gatherings of families, couples, and folks of all ages! Experience tells us that we won't be disappointed—nor shall we fail to be completely blown awav!

What can we expect? Well, incredible singing, dancing, musicianship—and a full assortment of pop, country, Hollywood, Broadway, forties throwback—oh, we give

everything from a cast of little kids, big kids, Moms & Dads, teens, young adults, babies, and yes, the legendary Hughes Brothers themselves! +



Stars of the Hughes Family Show pose with their honors at The 2019 Branson Show Awards!



ave time, avoid traffic and stress and enjoy a relaxing gourmet dinner before the show—prepared by acclaimed Swedish chef Reggie Regnall! We will cite the dessert entrée to help paint a picture: luxurious dark chocolate mousse topped with a heavenly light whipped cream & fresh raspberries.

Oh yum. (See ad on p. 15)

Celebrity Bistro An exquisite new addition open to all

throughout the day: Enjoy fresh homemade sandwiches, delicious wraps, flavorful soups, tasty salads, refreshing smoothies & yummy deserts—all designed by Swedish Chef Reggie! Phone 417-334-0076





(See story on page 4)

BOOTCAMP INFO: 417-334-0076

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

You don't know what you have until it is gone! through what can only

o often I have heard this phrase—cliche and tired, but so very true. That being said, never have I experienced the extent of its truth—until recently. For the past ten years, I have entertained six nights a week doing what we local entertainers like to refer to as the "Branson grind". There are many times throughout a show season that I am tired, worn down and fanatically stoking the dying embers of an entertainer's burnout. This year, however, I never reached that point. Instead, just days after opening our brand new season, our

world came to a halt.

COVID-19 has touched nearly every aspect of our world, including those of us in the entertainment industry. Our entire livelihood depends on one thing—people, and lots of them. Our passion is driven by the faces we see when the curtain opens. The energy we receive from a crowd is the fuel that keeps us going—through burnout and exhaustion—and feeds the crazy addiction we performers have to entertain. Suddenly, in March, those crowds—our fuel—was gone. We were forced to close our doors, For the first time since I started performing, I was at a loss. If I am not performing, who am I? What am I supposed to do?

Don't get me wrong--during the first few weeks of our COVID-19 hiatus, I discovered a whole new world, and it was wonderfully

fascinating. For the first time in years, I had time to clean closets, plant flowers, organize my kitchen drawers and learn the art of extensive napping and Netflix viewing. My husband and I worked on projects around the house, took long walks and enjoyed extra time with our kids and family. I caught up on ten years of lost sleep and lost relaxation. It was a dream, until it wasn't.

It didn't take long to realize that there was a void. My husband and I were going through what can only be described as performance withdrawal. Our lives and our entire marriage has revolved around a six-night-a-week show schedule. After a few weeks away from the stage, we became restless. Performing is what gives us purpose. Without a stage, we are painters with no canvas. While entertaining is how we make a living, it is so much more than a "job". It is our creative outlet. It is our daily therapy session. It is our workout, yoga and meditation all lumped into one. It keeps us healthy. Without it, we become, in a sense, out of mental and physical shape. By the end of May, I was in desperate need of a workout.

WAKEUP CALL!

Thankfully, we have now re-opened our show, and my husband and I are now back to doing what we love. We couldn't be more grateful to look out and see the smiling faces that fuel our passions and give us purpose. We will forever cherish the three months we had away from the stage, because it showed us how blessed we are to do what we love together each night. It reminded us to appreciate the grind, and to find thankfulness in the exhaustion. It gave us a lasting memory of a time when life was not so certain, and faith was the source of our comfort and strength.

We are thankful to God for the life he has gifted us. We are thankful for the stage. We are thankful for the people. Mostly, we are thankful for the wake-up call. *8



2020 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

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

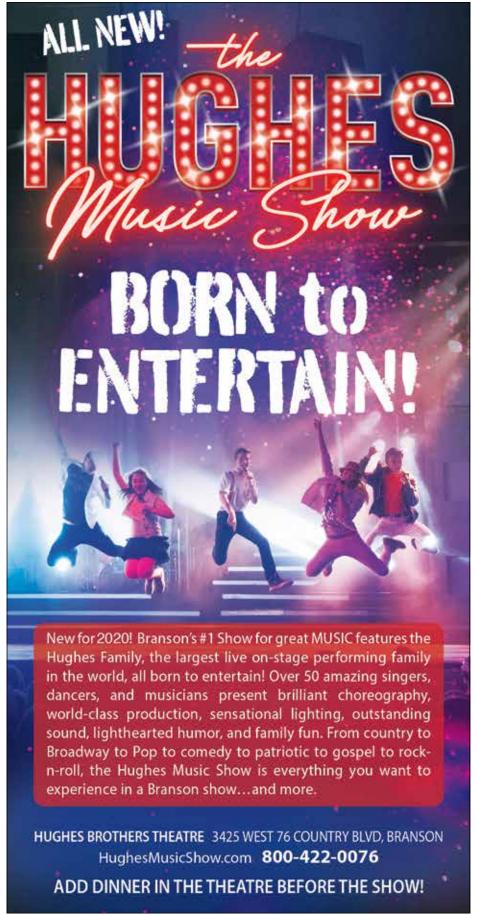
"WEAL GUIDE: B (BREAKFAST)	, L (LUNGH), D (DINNER), A (ALUUN	UL AVA	ILADLE)		
Please See Theatre Website	for Show Times	Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
The Americana Theater 2905 W Hwy 76 ◆ 417-544-8700	americanatheatre.com	E-6				
The Blackwoods				THRU DEC		
Broadway to Buble: George Dyer				THRU DEC		
CJ Newsome's Classic Country & Comedy	patsyclineandfriends.com		15	THRU DEC		
Dolly & Friends: A Tribute				THRU DEC		
The Johnson Strings				THRU DEC		
Raiding the Country Valult	raidingthecountryvault.com		13	THRU DEC		
Rock n' Roll Royalty				THRU SEP/DEC		
Andy Williams Performing Arts Ctr & Thtr 2600 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-4500	AndyWilliamsPAC.com	E-8				
Illusionist Rick Thomas: Mansion of Dreams	<u>rickthomas.com</u>		1,6,7	Тнги Ост		
The Texas Tenors	thetexastenors.com		6,7	Sel Dates July-Dec		
Andy Williams Ozark Mountain Christmas				Nov-Dec		
Branson Central Theatre 625 St. Hwy 165 • 417-231-4112		F-5				
Escape Reality: Up Close Comedy & Magic				THRU DEC	D	
The Steve Morris Lunchtime Break: Comedy, Music				THRU DEC	L	
Branson Famous Theatre 645 Hwy 165 ◆ 417-231-4999	<u>baldknobbers.com</u>	F-4				
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers	patsyclineandfriends.com		1,2,9,12	THRU DEC		
Vintage Baldknobbers Show			1,2,9,12	THRU DEC		
Baldknobbers Gospel Show			1,2,9,12	THRU DEC		
The Doug Gabriel Show	douggabriel.com			THRU DEC		
Reza: Edge of Illusion				THRU Nov 18		
Branson Hot Hits Theatre 206 South Commercial St • 417-337-7426	bransonhothits.com	F-13				
Branson Star Theatre 3750 W 76 Blvd • 417-693-4432	<u>bransonstartheatre.com</u>	C-3				
Nashville Roadhouse						
Kenny Rogers Experience with Rick McEwen						
Fusion: Classical Meets Metal						
Billy Yates CHOICES Concert Hall 440 State Highway 248 • 417-3205151	claycoopertheatre.com	E-5		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)!				Тнги Ост		
The Haygoods				Тнги Ост		
Hot Rods & High Heels				Тнги Ост		
Christmas Shows				Nov-Dec		
Caravelle Theatre 3446 W. 76 Country Blvd • 417-336-3838	<u>yakov.com</u>	E-3				
Comedy Star Yakov Smirnoff				THRU DEC		
Louise Harrison Presents: Liverpool Legends 417-334-5100	liverpoollegends.com			THRU DEC		
Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre 1600 W. Hwy 76 • 417-339-3003	legendsinconcert.com/Branson	E-10				
Legends in Concert			1,8	THRU DEC	D,A	
SIX (Real Brothers)	thesixshow.com			Тнги Ост		

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

Please See Theatre Website		Map Grid	See	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu
Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre (con't)	legendsinconcert.com/Branson	E-10	Pages	Season	Avaii*	Page
Buckets N Boards	bucketsnboards.com	£ 10		THRU AUG		
Brett Family Christmas	thebrettsshow.com			Nov-Dec		
Christmas Shows	those tashow.com			Nov-Dec		
Dolly Parton's Stampede 1525 W. Hwy 76 • 800-520-5544	dpstampede.com	E-10		1107 525		
Dolly Parton's Stampede				Тнги Ост	L,D	
Dolly Parton's Stampede Christmas				Nov-Dec		
Dream Theatre 3307 W Hwy 76 • 417-243-0243	<u>bransonhypnotist.com</u>	E-4				
Comedy Hypnosis with Austin Singley				THRU DEC	L,D	
The Dutton Family Theatre 3454 W Hwy 76 • 417-332-2772	theduttons.com	E3				
The Duttons				Тнги Ост		
The Magic & Comedy of Taylor Reed	taylorreed.com			THRU DEC		
Leroy New Tribute to Marty Robbins				THRU DEC		
Christmas Shows						
Grand Country Music Hall 1945 W Hwy 76 • 417-335-2484	GrandCountry.com	E-10				
Amazing Pets!				THRU DEC		
Branson Country USA live TV Broadcast				THRU DEC		
Comedy Jamboree				THRU DEC		
Down Home Country				THRU DEC		
Grand Jubilee				THRU DEC		
New South Gospel				THRU DEC		
Ozarks Gospel				THRU DEC		
Ozarks Country				THRU DEC		
Hamner's Variety Theater 3090 Shep. of the Hills Expy ● 417-334-4363	hamnersunbelievable.com	C-6		SEE WEBSITE		
Hamner's Unbelievable Variety				THRU DEC		
Abba Tribute				THRU DEC		
Beach Boys "California Dreamin"				THRU DEC		
Conway Remembered				SEP-DEC		
Magnificent Seven Variety Show				THRU DEC		
Mike Walker: Lasting Impressions				THRU DEC		
Christmas Shows				Nov-Dec		
The Hughes Brothers Theatre 3425 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-0076	<u>Hughes-Brothers.com</u>	E-4				
The Hughes Music Show			1,4,11	Тняи Ост	L, D	
Hughes Christmas Show				Nov-Dec	L, D	
Oh Happy Day: Goin' Back to Gospel!				Sep-Dec		
Christmas Shows				Nov-Dec		
Branson's IMAX™ Little Opry Theatre 3562 Shep. of the Hills Exp • 417-335-4832	bransonimax.com	B-4		SEE WEBSITE		
George Jones & Friends "Keepin' Country Alive!				SEE WEBSITE		
George Strait Country				SEE WEBSITE		
Glen Campbell Songbook				SEE WEBSITE		
Good News Gospel: with The Christiansens				SEE WEBSITE CONTIN		



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FOR OLDE TIMEY PHOTO FUN

THESE TWO OUTFITS GOTCHA COVER



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

f you head UP, the "Branson Strip", (which we call "Westerly"), your best shot for photo fun is **Shooters Old Time Photos**, pretty much across the street from The Branson Mall. But if you head back the other direction, (Easterly), just a short hop down the road your best shot is Mrs.

Brenda's Old Time Photos, right across from Grand Country. Either way, you're in good hands, for both outfits are owned by the same good folks.

We gladly recommend either place for three good reasons: One. Those high-pressure sales tactics to get you to spend big bucks on pictures of yourself are not allowed here. Two. Both of these high class

photo studios have amazing costumes and sets that will make you feel like you're in a Hollywood movie! And three: The folks taking the pictures are an absolute hoot!

DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

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

The folks here are creative nuts and funnier

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

Check out the ads below, see some of the photo phun on their facebook pages and websites—then let either or both give you and your folks their best shot! +





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

Please See Theatre Website		Map Grid	See Pages	Show	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
Branson's IMAX™ Little Opry Theatre (con't)	<u>bransonimax.com</u>	B-4	- 5	SEE WEBSITE		
Tribute to John Denver				SEE WEBSITE		
OI' Time Gospel Hour				SEE WEBSITE		
The Petersen's Family Bluegrass Band				Тняи Ост		
Petersens Bluegrass Gospel				Тнги Ост		
Smoke on the Mountain				SEE WEBSITE		
Sons of Britches				THRU DEC		
Christmas Shows				Nov-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	SEE WEBSITE		
SEE COMPLETE LISTINGS ON PAGE 10			1,10	Тняи Ост		
Christmas Shows				Nov-Dec		
Jim Stafford Theatre 2835 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-4528	jimstaffordtickets.com	E-4				
Jim Stafford				THRU JULY/ Sep-Nov		
Jimmy Buffett Tribute: Parrotville				тняи Дес		
King's Castle Theater 2701 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-2500	kingscastletheatre.com	E-8				
Anthems of Rock				Тнги Ост		
Broadway's Greatest Hits				Тнги Ост		
Dublin's Irish Tenors and Celtic Ladies				THRU DEC		
New Jersey Nights: Music of The Four Seasons				THRU DEC		
Branson's Christmas Wonderland				Nov-Dec		
Majestic Theatre 2849 Gretna Rd. ● 417-231-2420		C-7				
The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge Doo-Wop & The Drifters • 417-231-2420	therubyroomatthemajestic.com		1,16	THRU DEC	D,A	
The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge Dancin' in the Street: a Motown Revue • 417-231-2420	therubyroomatthemajestic.com		1,16	THRU DEC	D,A	
Absolutely Country, Definitely Gospel • 417-218-0808	acdgbranson.com			THRU DEC		
Branson Murder Mystery Dinner Show • 417-849-8331	bransonmurdermystery.com			THRU DEC	D,A	
Branson Wild West Murder Mystery ◆ 417-849-8331	<u>bransonmurdermystery.com</u>			THRU DEC	D,A	
Comedy Hypnosis Dinner Show • 417-849-8331	jecobiesmindplay.com			THRU DEC	D,A	
Mickey Gilley Grand Shanghai Theatre 3455 W Hwy 76 • 417-336-0888	amazingacrobats.com	D-3				
Amazing Acrobats of Shanghai				THRU DEC		
Mickey Gilley & Johnny Lee: Urban Cowboy Reunion				THRU DEC		
Nathan Carter				Nov		
Pierce Arrow Theatre 3069 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 417-336-8742	piercearrowtheater.com	C-5				
Pierce Arrow :Decades				THRU DEC		
Pierce Arrow :Gold				THRU DEC		

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from our ROVING REPORTERS & PROWLING PAPARAZZI!

or the "real deal", we'll give you 2 examples: award winning country singer C.J. Newsom and award-winning comedy legend Terry Wayne Sanders. The good news is that the real deal is also one of the best deals in town, for you can get'em both as a "twofer" in the very same show, along with an all-star band, (The Recliners) and a stellar entourage of singers and dancers! Of course we speak of C.J. Newsom's Classic Country

and Comedy 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. CJ's powerful vocals are backed up by

> a multi-award-winning troop of singers and dancers—plus those red hot music makers called The Recliners!

Then there's that comedian of many characters who goes by the name of **Terry Wayne Sanders**, (when not **Grandma Beulah, Barney Fife, Fred Smoot, Joan Rivers** or Homer Lee!) Terry's 40 year career, from TV's Hee Haw, to today, has earned a list of accolades seriously too long for

If you like **country**, award-winning 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.

This season, CJ has added some new faces to her star-studded entourage!

arah hails from Wisconsin and brings with her a hefty resume as singer, dancer, and actress. After obtaining degrees in Vocal Performance. Theatre and Bible



from Northwestern, Sarah performed at The Wisconsin Dells before being wooed to Branson. Since then she has appeared in in a number of Branson shows before joining C.J.'s stellar cast!



esa's career began with Paramount Productions' children's tour of Scooby Doo's Movie Madness/ Flintsones Go Hollyrock. Most recently, she has appeared in

several Branson shows, as well as at Silver Dollar City and in the show CHICAGO THE MUSICAL. A former teacher and Mom of four, Mesa also serves as an Education Specialist for the Youth Summer Institute at the Branson Regional Arts Council.

Rachel's career began at the age of seven—performing in her family's church in Stockton, Missouri.

> By the time Rachel reached



age 14, she was performing her own "gigs" at area festivals and events. After a softball scholarship took her to acollege degree, she followed her heart to Branson where she fast became a part of "Showtown's" entertainment community. •





Homer Lee

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

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. ◆



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

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

What all had just witnessed was a

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

DooWop & The Drifters. Again, to educate all youngsters, we will explain "DooWop" as that early rock n' roll music style that originated with Harlem teenagers singing four-part harmonies on street-corners back in the 1950s and early 60s. But come



NEW THEATER • NEW SHOWS

The Ruby Room at the Majestic Theater & Lounge 2849 Gretna Road

Dancing in the Streets Mon. Tue. Fri. Sat. Evenings at 7:30



DOO WOP & THE DRIFTERS

Featuring Derek Ventura original member of the Drifters

Wed & Thurs Evenings at 7:00

Call (800) 595-4849

Online: The Ruby Room At The Majestic.com

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

This Season 2020, Derek and company are starring in two electrifying performances at an elegant new venue which will certainly be unique in the Branson music scene. The shows, as we see here—are Dancing in the Streets and DooWop & the Drifters. And for the showplace: allow us to introduce The Ruby Room at the **Majestic Theater & Lounge!**

ancing 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

to think of it, thanks to the popularity of oldies stations and Internet, kids today are highly educated in popular music, so most everybody under seventy probably knows all about Doo-Wop. This show takes us back to those golden sounds of The Drifters, Frankie Lymon & The Teenagers, The Five Satins, Dion and the **Belmonts, The Del Vikings, The Coasters** and so many more.

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

iwons and to Your table will be served by the stars

SUPERSTAR CRAFTERS GET NEW HOME!

ood News! Some of Branson's most popular, (and world-famous)

crafters are back! Thanks to the efforts of Ozark craft connoisseurs Mark and Jennifer Grant, Branson's superstar crafters and working vendors have been carefully selected, sought out, and welcomed into their new home at the all new Ozark **Mountain Craft** Mall, located right across from Grand Country on W. Highway 76, (the Branson strip!)

This regathering of crafters, some with a world-wide fan base.

includes several whose works were main attractions at both Branson's legendary **Engler Block**, (razed after the 2013 Leap Day Tornado), and the popular **Branson** Mill, (later converted by developers

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

For this we can thank the aforementioned Mark and Jennifer, owners of Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos (a few doors down) and Shooters Old Time Photos,

(across from Branson Mall.) As Mark tells us, "Jennifer and I also had an old time photo attraction at The Branson Mill. A lot of real friendships with other vendors came out of that.

We were like family. We ate our meals together every day. We worked together. When that location changed hands and broke

Local resident Heather

Anderson shops quilts.

up that family, it really hurt."

But things would later change—for the better!
Over the holidays, an opportunity presented itself in the strip shopping center which was also home to Mrs.
Brenda's Old Time Photos.
Says Mark, "When we saw that we could bring part of that family of vendors back together in a new location, we jumped on it. Having

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

Briefly described, every booth in the **Ozark Mountain Craft Mall**

features unique items not found elsewhere. Some include classes offered by

the crafters themselves. Manning the attraction is Mark's wife Jennifer, a self-described, life-long fan of working with retail items she personally enjoys. When it comes to customer service, Jennifer has no equal. "We really care about our customers," she tells us. "If you're looking for something, we will do whatever we can to help track it down. We'll answer

questions. We just want to create a great experience for all ages."

Our conclusion is this: Mission Accomplished. •

Paparazzi's awesome bling!









Master Craftsman Gaylen Montgomery (right)

World's LARGEST Toy Museum THE FUN KEEPS GROWING

f 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 everwhether the folks be Moms and Dads with the kids in tow, the grandfolks—or even (no kidding) newlyweds.! Yes, you heard right newlyweds! Seems toys spark memories that the newbies begin to vocalize—pretty much a giant leap in their new life of getting to know each other!

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

the pleasant background noises of toys and games both mechanical and electronic, you are likely to hear shrieks of delight, giggling kiddos—and the unmistakable soundtrack of voices telling the stories this place so magically inspires!

The Story of You

Welcome to your happy place. Like we say, a set of ball and jacks, or a Daisy BB gun? 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 storiesdescribing objects and experiences with them that had not been remembered for years maybe for decades.

The Inside Scoop Let's take a look around. To orient ourselves six distinct areas located in three adjoined love. (A set of chattering teeth, anyone? How about some Pez? Hot Wheels? Yo-

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

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

else—you are going

to find a whole lot here

Seven year-old Ralphie

the attraction's 37 foot

complex. That involves

running the switchyard

for three main lines and

controlling the direction

and speed.of each train.

Go Ralphie!

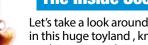
long HO gauge train

Grim of Branson engineers

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!



in this huge toyland, know that there are buildings on three levels, each with amazing gift shops that you're going to yos? Tinker Toys? Retro Barbies? Lincoln ogs? Some magic tricks the store hosts vill be glad to demonstrate for you? Perhaps

Says longtime museum host Ron Howard, (not the Opie guy), "We've got lots of

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



THE OUTSIDE LOOKS FUN, BUT THE INSIDE IS FUN!

Who is Harold Bell Wright?

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



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."

and everything else."

So folks, there's your testimonial.

Tom & Wendy's Toy Story

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

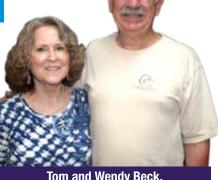
Besides being a Veteran, Tom had a long career in the retail store business. Wendy taught school. "I wanted to do something that was fun," Tom tells The Insider. "Sowhat could be more fun than toys?"

BUY, SELL, TRADE?

Perhaps. This place is on the hot list of both

American Pickers and The Antiques Roadshow, so anything can happen. To be appraised by toy expert Tom Beck, toys must appear in person and be arranged for appraisal in advance. Offers to purchase any museum item will be considered.





Tom and Wendy Beck.

Feedback

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

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

Confused, we reminded Anna that she



Mom & Dad teaches

8 vear-old Amelie all about

Raggedy Ann & Andy while

2-year-old Cecily kicks

back in a Raggedy Ann

EZ chair!

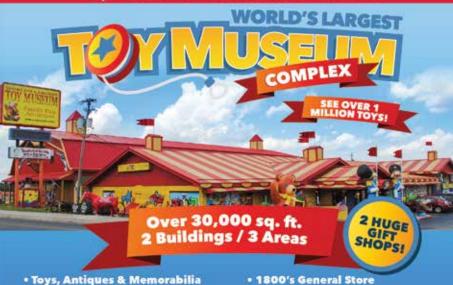
Museum host Ron Howard shows us the prehistoric V-8 engine of a 1927 Cadillac, one with those legendary "suicide doors."



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

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

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- Antique Cars, Tractors, Bicycles

3609 W. Hwy 76 • Branson, MO 65616 Kids 6 & under Free. Passes good all day. Open Mon. - Sat.

417-332-1499 OPEN ALL YEAR!

www.worldslargesttoymuseum.com

HOLE NEW WORLD! AT BRANSON'S WILD WORLD!

hether you've been there before, or never before--Season 2020 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 1 2020

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.)



WORLD CHANGERS

All winter long Branson's Wild World has been transforming 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.



(real and unreal



DEST DREAMS!

INDOOR FOOT SAFARI

Let's attempt to paint a picture. On your foot safari through Branson's Wild World you are sure to see, (rain or shine) such wildlife (some dangerous, some deadly) as gators & crocs, sea turtles, a wolf pack, sharks, snakes, eels, talking parrots, dingos, lemurs, living dinosaurs—and more. You can swim with stingrays, feed

> whoever is hungry, play with dingos—and more. Much more. Guides are available at every turn to help with animal interactions, feedings, or to answer any of our "wild" questions.

CHOOSE YOUR FUN

Fun is abundant and options are many—making it easy to design the fun around every budget. We think we've made our point: this is truly your place for some some seriously wild times!

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 anvthina?

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!





2020 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

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

MEAL GOIDE: D (DITEART AOT)	E (Lonon), D (Dinnelly, A (ALUUII	OL AIA	ILADEL		
Please See Theatre Website	for Show Times	Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
Continued from page 14						
Presleys' Country Jubilee 2920 W. Hwy 76 • 800-336-4874	presleys.com	E-6		THRU DEC		
Sight & Sound Theatres	sight-sound.com	B-8				

Continued from page 14					
Presleys' Country Jubilee 2920 W. Hwy 76 ● 800-336-4874	presleys.com	E-6	Thru Dec		
Sight & Sound Theatres 1001 Shep. of the Hills Expy • 800-377-1277	sight-sound.com	B-8			
Noah			THRU DEC		
Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Thtr. 13260 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-7469	ShepherdoftheHills.com	A-3	SEE WEBSITE		
Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Drama			Тняи Ост		
Whodunnit Hoedown-Murdery Mystery Dinner Show			THRU DEC	L,D	
Todd Oliver - Ventriloquist -Dinner Show			THRU AUG/ SEP-DEC	L,D	
Shad Heller's Orig. Toby Show			Тняи Ост	D	
Chuckwagon Dinner Show			THRU DEC	D	
Billy Yates Hit Songwriters in the Round			THRU DEC		
A Shepherds Christmas Carol			Nov-Dec	L,D	
Showboat Branson Belle 4800 W. Hwy 76 ● 800-475-9370	bransonsilverdollarcity.com	J-3	THRU DEC	L,D	
White House Theatre 2255 Gretna Rd • 417-335-2396	bransontributetheatre.com	C-6	SEE WEBSITE		
Yakov Theatre 470 St. Hwy 248 • 417-336-3838	<u>yakov.com</u>	B-12			
Yakov: Make America Laugh Again!			Jul/Oct-Dec	;	
Acrobats of Branson presents: I Circus • 417-365-5555	iCircus.com		Thru Dec		



Remembering a LEGEND

Continued from page 4

work, a craft he had been developing throughout his life. But that wasn't all.

The world of theater and film soon discovered Eddie's acting talents, making for him yet another career as a longtime actor in Branson's epic production **Shepherd of the Hills**, as well as roles in several Hollywood movies.

Eddie was certainly a striking person, always meticulously dressed in historically correct Wild West clothing circa 1880s. His fans and admirers included a whole host of entertainers, Hollywood stars, Branson visitors, and customers in his store, (Crooked Sky Trading Post).

Always by his side since their marriage on Dec 7, 1974 was his one and only—Deborah Lynn Wood.

Eddie got the name "Rattlesnake" after winning a Texas rattlesnake hunt. The name stuck. Although a colorful character, his character is what will be remembered most. A recent quote of his in a local publication says it all. "Every morning I say a prayer and ask God to use me and my hands for His will."

Eddie was diagnosed with cancer in March. His decline was rapid, yet he still mustered the strength to sit in front of his house and wave to friends and admirers who drove by in long processions to cheer him on. He was laid to rest beside his and Deborah's daughter Ashkea, who passed away at the age of nineteen--yet in Christ, is with him again.



Besides being a national foodie sensation, the The Pizza Ranch success story also has something to with the company's vision and mission. Of course what gets folks to the Pizza Ranch in the first place is the incredible eats! But it's not long before the mission unfolds and the folks start bonding with everything Pizza Ranch does. And is.

ALL-YOU CAN EAT BUFFET YOUR WAY!

It was Pizza Ranch's "Buffet Your Way!" that scored the eatery's first home run the good news that the folks could design any goofball pizza order they wanted and



Service from the heart!



Critically acclaimed chicken!



Elaborate salads!



Endless goodies!

The Ranch would put it right out on the all-you-can-eat buffet at no extra charge! (Pickles and sauerkraut pizza, anyone?

ABOUT THAT CHICKEN...

e sent our food critics over to try Pizza Ranch's chicken buffet and of course they came back with rave reviews—just like



every other food critic on the Pizza Ranch map! Quotes to note: "Best ever! Period! Absolutely over-the-top mmmmMMM! Go try some and prove us wrong! We DARE you!"

AND MORE!

ith all this comes an elaborate salad buffet, dessert buffet, (with endless ice-cream), plus endless drinks at no extra charge. Staff is trained to be living epistles of the company motto: "Service from the heart".





obvious, Pizza Ranch is all about giving back, an example no doubt of the core Christian values which inform the company's mission statement. Part of the Ranch's mission

> is its community impact nights, where it partners with churches or schools whose representatives serve as quest attendants and table bussers. The charity group's tips, plus 10% of sales goes to their project or cause. But folks, that's not all! Pizza Ranch itself goes on annual charity missions trips to other countries—proof that even pizzas can help make a better world!*

Available for groups up to 120! Great for parties, family reunions, sports teams etc! Call in advance: 417-337-5060

Tue after 4pm. 1 kid (12 &

under) per 1 adult

THE KID WITH A VISION

pizza Ranch was founded in 1981 by an eighteen year-old kid from Hull, Iowa named Adrie Groenweg. Young Adrie laid a good foundation for his company.

Vision: To glorify God by positively impacting the world

Mission: To give every guest a legendary experience.

(See ad on P. 21 and map grid B-11 on p. 24.)

Branson: 1464 State Hwy. 248 Springfield: Battlefield Mall



LIEVABLY T THIS AMAZING SHOPPING ATTRACTION

orget imports. Wanna see what awesome products your clever fellow Americans are capable of coming up with? Then look no further! Go directly to

Made in the USA **General Store**,

inside The Shoppes at Branson Meadows. Upon arriving at this shopping attraction styled like an oldtimey general store, you will no doubt be amazed as you discover here a full buffet of incredible merchandise—all Made-in-the USA! And here's an added treat: if you drop everything and head there right now. bargains will await vou, as well as a wonderland of items

you'd be lucky to find back home!

A SHOCKER FOR VETERANS!

When was the last time you saw veterans' merchandise or even American flags that were actually MADE IN THE USA? Well, you

will in this store's entire department of veterans items! Included is clothing, hats, all kinds of veterans gear, collectables, décor, memorabilia & more! Let's shout out



a shocking statement here: THIS IS THE MADE MILITARY THEMED MERCH **ANYWHERE!**

for real, has been selling like hotcakes ever since our Branson visitors first got wind of it. So far, over 15,000 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! Most homemakers want at least two, or three, or a handful! Need a aift idea? Voila`!

THE REST OF THE STORY Folks like you will



also enjoy perusing the Men's, Women's & Children's clothing, the kitchen department's cast iron cookware, the bed and bath area, the home décor,

the Christian themed area, the vast tov 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 of USA! To that idea, we throw in a hearty "Amen!" 💠



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

SHOWS

At Andy Williams Performing Arts Center & Thtr E8

- Illusionist Rick Thomas starring in Mansion of
- The Texas Tenors

At the Americana Thtr E6

- CJ Newsome's Classic Country & Comedy
- Raiding the Country Vault

At the Branson Famous Thtr F4

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

At Dick Clark's American Bandstand Thtr E10

Legends in Concert

At Hughes Brothers Thtr E4

The Hughes Brothers Music Show

At Jerry Presley's God & Country Thtr E10

- Elvis Live! Aloha From Hawaii
- Elvis Live! Madison Square Garden Concert
- **Elvis Live! Gospel Concert**
- 3 Dog Night: Shambala Tribute
- A Neil Diamond Tribute
- Alabama Rolls On
- Carpenters Once More
- **Dreams: Fleetwood Mac Tribute**
- James Taylor Tribute
- Neil Sedaka, his music legacy
 The Statler Bros. Revisited
- The Temptations: Motown Legends
- Waylon, Willie & The Good Ol' Boys
- Years of Kenny Rogers

The Majestic Theatre C-7

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

ATTRACTIONS

Branson's Wild World F9 Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos E9 **Shooters Old Time Photos** (Vista Shopping Ctr) **E8 World's Largest Toy Museum D4**

Wonderworks E6

SHOPPING

Made in the USA General Store The Shoppes at Branson Meadows C9

World's Largest Toy Museum C9

DINING

Pizza Ranch B11

LARGEST SELECTION OF AMERICAN

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