# THE BRANSON IN SIDER



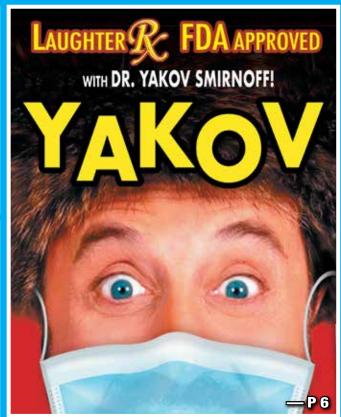
THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THAT UPSIDE DOWN

WONDER

WORKS

SEASON 2020
ON WITH THE SHOW!











SHOW GUIDE • MAP • FOOD • SHOPPING • FUND





the Editor & Publisher

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

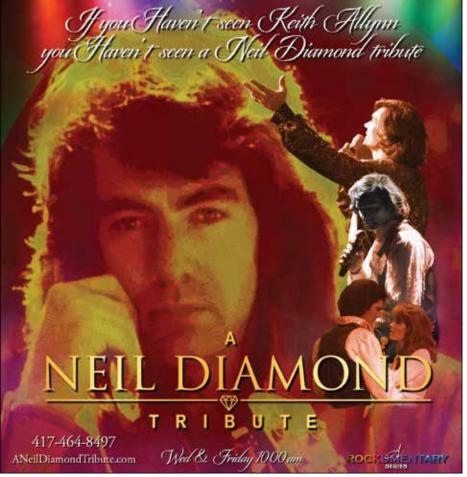
Step inside a Branson theater and treat yourself to some of the world's greatest singers, dancers, musicians and performers of every kind. Note the feelings these shows leave you with. The lifted spirits. The joy. The excitement. The carefree fun. The inspiration.

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.

/TheBransonInsider







#### 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, 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 rule of sin, ungodliness and death. Rule has 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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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 MASTERPIECE!

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)



where he reigned for 15 years as the most successful family show in Vegas's history,

While on tour throughout

**Rick and ballet** 

star Tara, Rick's

wife and leading

lady!

North America last

master illusionist

discovered, to his

**Rick Thomas** 

multi award-winning

amazement and delight,

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

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* 

As Rick soon found out himself, that 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

pretty much the "good word" he was

Year! As one prominent Las Vegas show

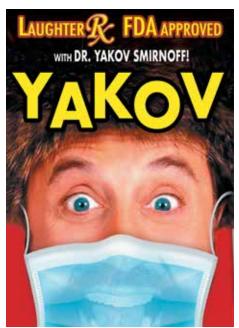
that the entertainment

winter, Branson's

show to see!"



www.andywilliamspac.com



#### OCT 6—DEC 5 YAKOV THEATRE 417.336.3838

(See ad on page 12)

e's back, giving us a golden opportunity to experience one of the most amazing entertainers of all time!

It's a short window—October 6-December 5, but it's an opportunity that

life—love and marriage, for example.

We haven't seen a whole lot of Yakov in Branson lately because he has, to say the least, been quite busy. Let's review: there was his PBS Special, his oneman show on Broadway, his TV pilots (a sitcom, a reality show, a talk show) teaching his college courses at Missouri State, earning his Masters Degree at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating from California's Pepperdine University with a **Doctorate** in Psychology and Global Leadership, traveling the globe on comedy tours and, did we mention?—he's also been enjoying world travels with his lovely Russian wife Olivia!

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

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

For Yakov, it was the role of a lifetime. He grew up in Joseph Stalin's USSR, his family sharing a small apartment with eight other families. Somehow, he



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

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

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



Yakov The White House







would be wise to seize, for it's rare to witness a performer whose influence actually played a role in changing our world!

Yakov Smirnoff's brilliant stage productions entertained millions of Branson visitors in a span of over twenty-three years! His gutbusting comedy, spectacular theatrics and epic revues of Russian music and dance was an emotional tour-de-force that was both dazzling to the senses and inspirational to the heart!.

Yakov's laughs come not only from today's news and the clash of his two worlds (Soviet Communism VS The American Dream)—it comes from some of the other epic clashes in About Yakov Early Years: Russian-born and

raised. Served two years in the Soviet Army.

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

Artist: Art degree from a prestigious Russian institute. Later teaches art professionally. New York Art Expo: 2003. Painted giant mural at New York's "Ground Zero" 2001.

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

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

**Book:** "America on Six Rubles a Day"

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

Career Highlights: Friendship with three

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

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

Wife: Olivia

Children: Natasha & Alexander

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



ow. Just wow. Like they've been doing every year since back in 1959, Branson's Famous **Baldknobbers** roared into Star Date 2020 like a freight train—and like always, Branson's first show has upped the ante! This year, we think they upped it somewhere beyond the stratosphere!

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

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

Washington, D.C.!

#### **BRANSON'S FAMOUS BALDKNOBBERS 2020**

Tere it is in a nutshell: Award winning musicians, vocalists and comedy, plus huge new production enhancements our cover girl) 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. Shall we name names? Hows about Keith Urban, Eagles, Jason Aldean, Marshall Tucker, Loretta Lynn, Janis Joplin, Vince Gill, Trisha Yearwood, Lady Antebellum—are we painting a picture here?

#### NEW: THE VINTAGE **BALDKNOBBERS SHOW!**

ew this season 2020 is a red hot Baldknobbers throwback show! 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. This cool new/old show will focus on music and comedy from the Baldknobbers' golden years—(the 60's, 70's and 80's.) For anybody who loves 100% traditional country music—this one oughter float yer boat and flick yer trigger! So if you like folks like Johnny Cash, Glenn Campbell, Patsy Cline, Merle Haggard—this one's for you!

**Award-winning** comedy star Jerl to something. Actually, he's up to plenty. That there's your

Nathan Agdeppa firin' up the fiddle!



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, besides being a show segment, **Branson's Famous** 

his new hit show which premiered last

**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!

THE BALDKNOBBERS GOSPEL SHOW

**Award-winning singing stars:** 

**3rd Generation Baldknobber Brandon Mabe** and Brandon's lovely wife Megan!

Gospel, are country and bluegrass. That

would make The Baldknobbers, in our not-

necessarily-humble opinion, the perfect fit.

**Legendary Gospel tenor Dan** Keeton brings "rock-the-house" Gospel to all three shows!

**SHANE'S BACK** mhen Nashville star

Shane Vancamp 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 making music) is working out. Just savin'..

#### **GOOD NEWS!**

warning.

ongtime Gospel Irecording artist Ashley **Dawn** has joined the cast this Season 2020! Ashley's career began at an early age, singing with her family as The Praters, the acclaimed Gospel group whose career and

multiple albums were popular with fans and critics alike. In addition to performing in all three Baldknobbers shows, Ashley Hargus" Adams is up tours as lead vocalist with the

> Missouri National Guard's 135th Army **Band**. Ashley also writes

songs, she's in the recording studio working on tracks which are already turning heads in Nashville, and (did we mention?) she's Mom to sons Kyler, 15, Casten, 12, and daughters Hali, 13, and Lakoda, 8. Of course there's more to this story, and that would be Ashley's husband Bo. Ashley's musical roots, besides contemporary

#### 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!



Baldknobbers 2020: Left to right: (front) Shane VanCamp, Josh Gabriel, Nathan Adgdeppa, Dan Keeton, Megan and Brandon Mabe. (Back) Greg Moody, Grant Moody, Randy McConnell and Lance Conque.

Megan Mabe!



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



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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

## 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

(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 new show surprises will continue to roll out, up! Expect anything and

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)

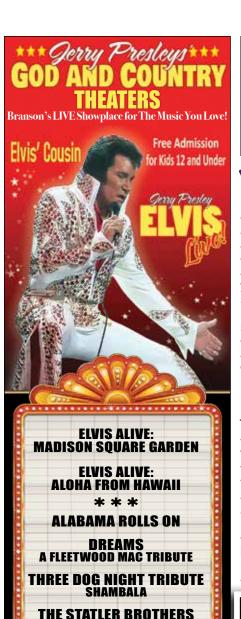
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THE TEMPTATIONS
MOTOWN LEGENDS

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

### 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

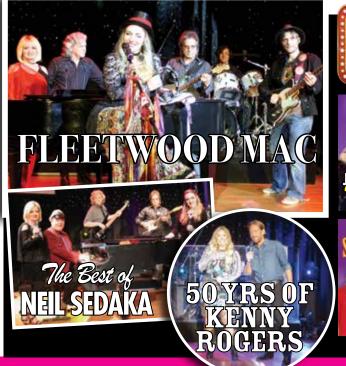
shtick—just amazing performances crafted to recreate Elvis live shows as they really were. We also love the fact that in-between numbers, Jerry too is real. He's not Elvis. But what a guy. A gracious host and full of Elvis stories, Jerry has fun with the audience as well as his fellow performers. After 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. •







417-334-6806 1840 W. Hwy 76



Later, trying to impress a girl who was a huge Neil Diamond fan, he called her on the phone and in his best "Neil" voice sang "Hello Again" from The Jazz Singer. It became their song, she became his wife, and the rest is history.

#### WHO'S NEIL DIAMOND?

Doesn't matter what generation you come from, the name may or may not ring a bell—but 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,

## **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. Home, to a new and shiny place, make our bed, and we'll say our arace. Freedom's liaht 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.

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

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

As might be guessed by all genuine Branson Insiders, Keith's return is in the venue as her Theatre!

some clues which reveal just why Branson's musicians are so off-the-charts amazing!

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

> and many more. Then there's Keith Allyn. Besides being a Navy veteran, he's been a performer all his life. He can do over fifty impressions of other performers, one being **Elvis**, who he performed for years, opening for such greats as Chris Rock, Tim Allen and Robin Williams.

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?

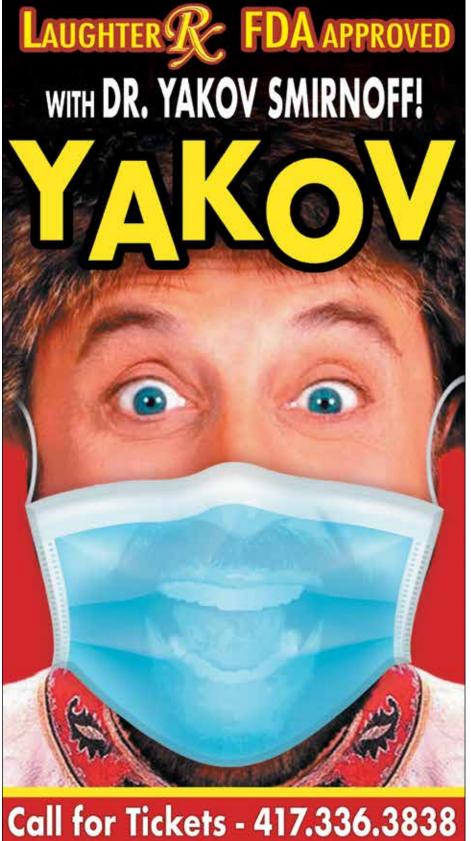
**B**esides being an amazing Neil Diamond tribute artist, Keith Allyn is one of the most captivating entertainers you are likely to ever experience. Entertaining is not just his vocation—it's his lifelong passion. He's brilliant, he's warm, he's funny, he's full of mesmerizing Neil Diamond stories, and he literally "owns" not only the stage, but the hearts of most all of us audience types. Example: He recently performed a one-nighter for 5,000 people. No band. Just him and a guitar. The audience was so overwhelmed, the venue pleaded that Keith would stay for another show. Then another. 5,000 packed out each one. That says it all.



percussion is James McCall from Leon company of his lovely Russell and many more, on drums is wife **Diana Allynn**, who Tim Pope, formerly with Ray opens her own award-**Charles, Tony Orlando** winning Carpenters **Once More** show at the same power-packed performance husband namely, Jerry Presley's God & Country (More about Diana's show on page 20) **Keith and Diana:** "You Don't Bring Me Flowers!"

**ISIDER** 

THE BRA



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US 65 & 248 | 470 MO-248 | BRANSON MO 65616

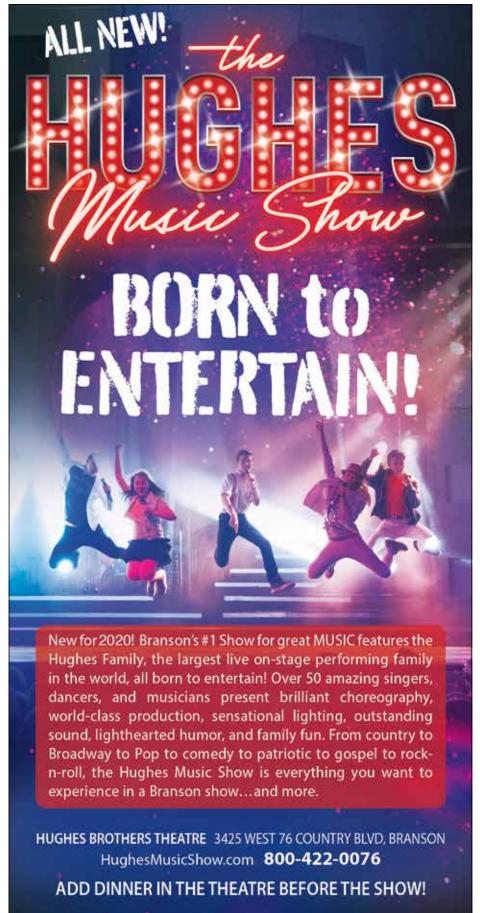
Please See Theatre Website	for Show Times	Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
The Americana Theater 2905 W Hwy 76 • 417-544-8700	americanatheatre.com	E-6				
The Blackwoods				THRU DEC		
Broadway to Buble: George Dyer				THRU DEC		
CJ Newsome's Classic Country & Comedy	patsyclineandfriends.com		15	THRU DEC		
Dolly & Friends: A Tribute				THRU DEC		
The Johnson Strings				THRU DEC		
Raiding the Country Valult	raidingthecountryvault.com		15	THRU DEC		
Rock n' Roll Royalty				THRU SEP/DEC		
Christmas Shows				Nov-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>		1,4,5	Тнги Ост		
The Texas Tenors	thetexastenors.com		4.5	SEL DATES SEPT-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	
<b>Branson Famous Theatre</b> 645 Hwy 165 • 417-231-4999	<u>baldknobbers.com</u>	F-4				
Branson's Famous Baldknobbers	patsyclineandfriends.com		1,2,7,12	THRU DEC		
Vintage Baldknobbers Show			1,2,7,12	THRU DEC		
Baldknobbers Gospel Show			1,2,7,12	THRU DEC		
The Doug Gabriel Show	douggabriel.com			THRU DEC		
Reza: Edge of Illusion				THRU Nov 18		
Christmas Shows				Nov-Dec		
Branson Hot Hits Theatre 206 South Commercial St • 417-337-7426	bransonhothits.com	F-13				
5 Live Shows (see website)				THRU DEC		
Branson Star Theatre 3750 W 76 Blvd • 417-693-4432	<u>bransonstartheatre.com</u>	C-3				
Nashville Roadhouse						
Women of Country Music						
Kenny Rogers Experience with Rick McEwen						
Thunderstruck: America's AC-DC						
Hardrock Nite						
Music of the 80s with Love						
Fusion: Classical Meets Metal						
Billy Yates CHOICES Concert Hall 440 State Highway 248 • 417-320-6242						
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)!				Тняи Ост		
The Haygoods				Тняи Ост		
Hot Rods & High Heels				Тнги Ост		
Christmas Shows				Nov-Dec		

continued on pg 13

#### **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 GUIDE: B (BREAKFAST)					Mool	Monu
Please See Theatre Website	for Show Times	Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
Caravelle Theatre 3446 W. 76 Country Blvd		E-3				
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			16	THRU DEC	D,A	
SIX (Real Brothers)	thesixshow.com			Тнги Ост		
Buckets N Boards	bucketsnboards.com			Thru <b>A</b> ug		
Brett Family Christmas	thebrettsshow.com			Nov-Dec		
Christmas Shows				Nov-Dec		
Dolly Parton's Stampede 1525 W. Hwy 76 • 800-520-5544	dpstampede.com	E-10				
Dolly Parton's Stampede				Тнги Ост	L,D	
Dolly Parton's Stampede Christmas				Nov-Dec		
Dream Theatre 3307 W Hwy 76 • 417-243-0243	bransonhypnotist.com	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		
Mike Walker: Lasting Impressions				THRU DEC		
Christmas Shows				Nov-Dec		
The Hughes Brothers Theatre 3425 W. Hwy 76 ◆ 417-334-0076	Hughes-Brothers.com	E-4				
The Hughes Music Show			8,13	Тняи Ост	L, D	9
Hughes Christmas Show				Nov-Dec	L, D	
Oh Happy Day: Goin' Back to Gospel!				Sep-Dec		
Christmas Shows				Nov-Dec		



continued on pg 15



**BACK TO SCHOOL DAZE!** 

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

ever has this guiding word proven more vital to our parenting strategy until most recently. You see, the Mabe household has recently ushered its oldest child into the first years of teenage pandemonium, and three more Mabe kiddos are quickly approaching this same terrifying milestone. What our four children may see as their most exciting and adventurous time in life—us parents see as maybe the most stressful and chaotic phase of child-raising we have yet experienced!

When three of our four children were still in diapers all at the same time, I would secretly whisper to myself, "This will be so much easier when they get a bit older." When our daughter Jalyn colored on her walls and managed to break her car window during a temper tantrum, I told myself, "She will grow out of this destructive phase." When our twins feared the water and refused to learn how to swim, I told myself, "There will come a day when they will jump in with no fear, and we will finally be able relax."

What I wouldn't give for those days back.

What I thought then would be our easiest years have proven to be quite the opposite. These teenage years are indeed the hardest, the most emotionally draining and ultimately, the most stressful.

Today's world is a terrifying landscape to navigate as a parent. *TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat* and a dozen other social media

outlets dominate the everyday interactions and patterns of our children. Our kiddos talk in a language that I barely understand, and I am constantly finding myself on Google looking up meanings and definitions. My search history is full of questions. What is a VSCO girl? Why



is everyone referred to as a "bruh"? When did something cool or nice become "savage"?

Where is the parental handbook for this everchanging world?

This brings me back to scripture. Ultimately, we cannot stop the freight train of influences barreling down the rails of teenage experience. We can, however, be the flashing lights, crossing arms and switch tracks along the way. We can do this through our own example, and where better to set the tone than in our own theater.

Broden—our oldest and first to plunge into the teenage pond—has recently started working part time. He is helping with concessions, spotlight and ushering. We wanted him to work alongside us to see firsthand what it takes to run each facet of a theater. We wanted him to learn the value of a dollar, and even more importantly, we wanted him to learn that hard work is the only path to reward. Ultimately, we wanted him to experience life away from a cell phone screen—life in a world where values are still kept, and morals and standards are not "old fashioned," but rather a way of life.

Branson is a world where God, country and family are at the forefront of what we do. While lost in the world of social media and new-age influencers, these values stand strong on every Branson stage. This is where I want to train up our children. I want them to see a world where God is first. I want them to know that whether they say brother, bro or "bruh," family is everything. I want them to stand for the flag and respect those who

have fought for their freedoms and liberties. Ultimately, I want them to be good people with kind hearts, forgiveness and compassion.

The responsibility of helping to raise four kids is daunting, but I am thankful to be in a place where living with values, morals and faith is a norm rather than a forgotten lifestyle.

May we guide them well, and may He make their paths forever straight. ⊛

The young Mabes: (also known as the "Mabe Train"). Left to Right: Broden, 14, Jalyn, 12 (going on 13), and Mabe Twins Carter, 11, and Wyatt, also 11, (obviously).

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*MEAL GUIDE: B (BREAKFAST), L (LUNCH), D (DINNER), A (ALCOHOL AVAILABLE)						
Please See Theatre Website	for Show Times	Map Grid	See Pages	Show Season	Meal Avail*	Menu Page
Branson's IMAX <sup>™</sup> Little Opry Theatre 3562 Shep. of the Hills Exp • 417-335-4832	bransonimax.com	B-4		SEE WEBSITE		
12 Live Shows (see website)				SEE WEBSITE		
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	1,3,10 11,20	SEE WEBSITE		
SEE COMPLETE LISTINGS ON PAGE 10			1,10	Тняи Ост		
Jim Stafford Theatre 2835 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-4528	jimstaffordtickets.com	E-4				
Jim Stafford				THRU JULY/ Sep-Nov		
Jimmy Buffett Tribute: Parrotville				тнги <b>D</b> ec		
King's Castle Theater 2701 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-2500	kingscastletheatre.com	E-8				
5 Live Shows (see website)				Тняи Ост		
Majestic Theatre 2849 Gretna Rd. • 417-231-2420		C-7				
The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge Doo-Wop & The Drifters • 417-231-2420	therubyroomatthemajestic.com		1,8	THRU DEC	D,A	
The Ruby Room Thtr. & Lounge Dancin' in the Street: a Motown Revue • 417-231-2420	therubyroomatthemajestic.com		1,8	Тняи <b>D</b> ec	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		
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		
7 Live Shows (see website)				Тнги Ост		
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		
<b>Yakov Theatre</b> 470 St. Hwy 248 • 417-336-3838	<u>yakov.com</u>	B-12				
YAKOV: Laughter RX - FDA Approved, w/Dr. Yakov!			1,6,12	Ост-Дес		
Acrobats of Branson presents: I Circus 417-365-5555	<u>iCircus.com</u>			THRU DEC		

#### 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.

reviews. The following year it was ranked



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,

Homer Lee



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





Brenna has appeared in several Branson

shows since the Wichita. Kansas native picked

up her Theatre Degree

University. Her showbiz

life began at the age of

10 when she picked up a

at Oklahoma Baptist

cello and instantly fell head-over-heels in love

range from classical to country to pop to musical

theatre. Perfect fit for this show! Her life's motto,

verse Colossians 3:23: "And whatsoever ye do, do it

with all things musical. Her musical passions

is "To God be the glory", inspired by the Bible

performing in her family's church in Stockton, Missouri. By the time Rachel reached

Rachel's career began at the age of seven—

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. +





THE BRANSON INSIDER

the Country Vault tells the story of

Phone: 417-544-8700







## WHO'S KAREN CARPENTER?

Allow us to educate you youngsters

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 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. 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 way too many more to list.

When Karen's young life succumbed to the effects of anorexia nervosa at the young age of 33, the world was shocked. Until then, the eating disorder, (anorexic) was largely unheard of among the general public.

Bringing us The Carpenters' amazing music to us in Branson is the amazingly talented **Diana Lynn**. See the ad above. Experience the show. Trust us, it will leave you "On Top of The World!"

## WHOLE 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.

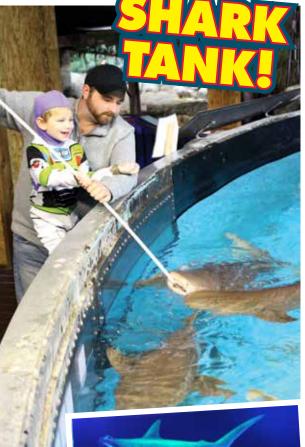
#### HANDS ON

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.

The Abyss: The Search for The Lost City of Atlantis! More crazylooking 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 transformed the environment of this amazing attraction into an allencompassing, 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.



Indoor safaris here are wheelchair accessible and resting benches are plentiful. Safari Guides also remain close to help with animal interactions, feedings, or educational info.





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





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!





## 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!

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

Saturday night in the Ozarks!

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

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

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

#### **YOUR BEST SHOT!**



A Victorian belle primps with perfume....

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

The folks here are creative nuts and funnier than a

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

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





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

#### WHAT WE NOW KNOW:

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

and then making the impossible happen. And here, our **United States Army** gets 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). ♦



## THE WORLD'S LATE TOY MUSEUM THE OUTSIDE LOOKS FUN, BUT THE INSIDE S FUN!

Former kids Michael and Rhonda Springer

es, this indeed is the World's Largest Toy Museum, (over 1 million toys), but let's not get stuck on that unexciting word "museum". This isn't just some relic show. For most folks, be they young or old—a trip here turns into one of the funnest experiences ever!

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 stilllife-of-a museum! Among all the pleasant background noises of toys and games both mechanical and electronic, you are likely to hear the unmistakable soundtrack of folks sharing the memories this place so magically inspires!

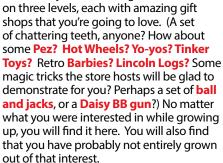
#### The Story of You

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.

#### 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











- The National BB Gun Museum
- Roark Valley Modular Railroad Club scale model trains running daily
- Western Toys, 4,000+ Dolls
- 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

#### The Stuff

worth \$\$\$!!!

the two nationally known connoisseurs from Rockport, Indiana

impressed by what they saw? "Very," said Ron, with a knowing grin. The two then proceeded to give our reporter a short tour of the farm toys, reciting what each one was worth along the way. Turns out, they're

Just so you know, this is not just old stuff from flea markets or garage sales. These are enormous collections gathered from all over. First, a little namedropping here to help paint a picture of what you can expect to see—a giant doll collection, farm toys, pedal cars, Star Trek, Marvell, TV Westerns from the 1950s, GI-Joes the

most spectacular model train setup ever, courtesy of The Roark Valley Modular Railroad Club—oh, we give up! There's no way to describe this place! Just Go!

#### **BUY. SELL. TRADE?**

Perhaps. This place is on the hot list of both TV's American Pickers and The Antiques

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

#### 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. "So—what could be more fun Tom & Wendv than toys?" +



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!

t 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".





all about giving back, an example

is its community

or schools whose

representatives serve

and table bussers. The

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!\* +

charity group's tips, plus

as quest attendants

impact nights, where it partners with churches

no doubt of the core Christian values

which inform the company's mission

statement. Part of the Ranch's mission

#### **FREE COMMUNITY ROOMS!**

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

#### 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. 18 and map grid B-11 on p. 24.)

Branson: 1464 State Hwy. 248
Springfield: Battlefield Mall



## UPERSTAR CRAFTERS GE'

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 car 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. •



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







## LIEVABLY

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!

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

statement here: **OVER** 18.000 OF THESE HAVE A SHOCKER FOR VETERANS! **BEEN SOLD HERE!** 

Brian shows us his star attraction.

#### STAR ATTRACTION

veterans items! Included is clothing,

collectables, décor, memorabilia &

more! Let's shout out a shocking

hats, all kinds of veterans gear,

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 gift idea? Voila`!

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 ol' USA! To that idea, we throw in a hearty "Amen!" ◆



#### SHOWS

#### At Andy Williams Performing Arts Center & Thtr E8

See Map on opposite page. KEY: Listings are

followed by their location on the map grid.

- 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 Concer

#### 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 Maiestic Theatre C-7

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

#### At Yakov Theatre B-12

Comedy Star Yakov Smirnoff

#### ATTRACTIONS

Branson's Wild World F9 Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos E9

Wonderworks E6

#### **SHOPPING**

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

**Ozark Mountain Craft Mall E9** 

DINING

Pizza Ranch B11

One item, for real, has been selling like hotcakes ever since our Branson visitors





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