

THE BRANSON INSIDER™

**YAKOV'S
LAUGHTER
VACCINE**
KILLS COVID-19

— P 3



OUR ALMOST
TELL-ALL INTERVIEW:
RHONDA VINCENT'S
CHRISTMAS IN BRANSON!

- **HER SHOW**
- **HER GUEST STARS
& WHAT SHE
WON'T TELL US!**

**GLOBAL SENSATIONS
DAZZLE BRANSON!**
(& BLOW UP TRIP ADVISOR!)



INSIDE:

- **VETERANS
HOMECOMING!**
- **HUGE
HUGHES
NEWS!**

PLUS

- **THE NEW SHOW
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ADVENTURES WITH YAKOV!



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

It's a short window—but it's an opportunity that would be wise to seize, for it's rare to witness a performer whose influence actually played a role in changing our world!

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 life—love and marriage, for example.

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**. 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. But that's not all. While making us **"laugh our Yakov,"** the famous Russian comedian also causes many a heart to swell with pride and gratitude for the country we live in, and for the faith, hope and love that made it great. ♦

About Yakov

Yakov got his start in American funny business at the famed Comedy Store in Los Angeles, where legendary owner Mitzi Shore showcased Yakov and fellow struggling comics such as **David Letterman, Jay Leno, Robin Williams, Richard Pryor, Jim Carrey** and others.

Recent News: Yakov's **PBS Special, his one-man show on Broadway**, his **TV pilots** (a sitcom, a reality show, a talk show) teaching 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**, and, did we mention?—he's enjoying life with his lovely Russian wife **Olivia** and his children **Natasha & Alexander!**

Artist: Art degree from a prestigious Russian institute. Later taught art professionally.

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.

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

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

Career Highlights: Friendship with three US Presidents. Arrived in Branson in 1992. Headlined his own 1400 seat theater for 23 years.

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



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Wisdom & knowledge from His Majesty
the Editor & Publisher

Thanks for coming! We couldn't wait 'til you got here! The decorations are all up! The spectacular Christmas shows that our amazing performers have been working on all year are now up and running and ready to bring us the comfort and joy we all pine for! The shops and outlet malls have transformed into a holiday wonderland! Restaurants have rolled out the holiday treats! And the fun and festivities are everywhere—at the theme parks, the attractions, on the lakes, or even just on a leisurely stroll to enjoy the sights and sounds (and tastes) of the season!


We all know what's going on in our world, but Branson hasn't let that stop it from

preparing a place of comfort and joy for us all. The shows, the attractions and the stores all work toward the same goals: to lift spirits, flood hearts with fond memories, and to be fun.

But folks, that's not all! At this time of year, Branson does what Branson does, because that's what Branson is: a place that honors our veterans, and a place that boldly celebrates Who this season is all about.

You feel it. Some call it the "Christmas spirit." Some call it "the reason for the season." Some call it just the spirit of brotherly love. And some call "it" a "Him."

So again, thanks for coming. Out of love for each other, let's keep our social distances and wear that annoying mask thing. Then, just allow yourself to kick back, relax—and enjoy the show. Merry Christmas! And in the words of The Christmas Carol's Tiny Tim, "God bless us, every one!" ♦

 /TheBransonInsider

Stuff Happens

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

OZARK MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS!

VETERANS HOMECOMING! NOV 5-11

THIS JUST IN:

**AARON TIPPIN BENEFIT SHOW
FOR USA VETERANS HOPE CENTER**

**NOVEMBER 11, 2020
8PM: BRANSON STAR THEATER**

**TICKETS: 417-320-3418
OR BRANSONSTARTHEATER.COM**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
USA VETERANS HOPE CENTER
AT USAVHC.ORG**

Ozark Mountain Christmas! The festive time of year when all Branson gets magically transformed into a Christmas wonderland of holiday shows, dazzling lights, Christmas treats and a shopper's dream! And it all includes honoring "the reason for the season!" *Acclaimed by USA Today, The Wall Street Journal and the A&E Network* as one of America's top holiday destinations!

Branson's Lights of Joy! Drive-thru Christmas Display on Shepherd of the Hills Expressway at Expressway Lane.

Nov 5-11

Veterans Homecoming Week (Note: for a complete list of events, visit BransonVeterans.com) America's largest Veterans Day gathering and celebration. A grand parade, displays, celebrities, reunions, and a whole schedule jam-packed with events. HQ, Veterans Registry, Vendors Village and mess hall Nov 5-10 open 9am-4pm, (lunches 11:30 am – 1:30 pm) are at Ballparks of America Complex 500 Gretna Ave. Building #4 417-337-8387 (417) 337-0563.

Nov 6, 7

Freedom Journey FREE SHOW! Live on stage, the emotionally charged show that is wowing America! At the Freedom Journey Theatre (formerly Yellow Ribbon Theatre) See story on p. 8.

Nov 8

Barbara Fairchild Veterans Tribute Worship Service at Branson Famous Baldknobber's Theatre. Free event headed up by Barbara and her special guests. Starts at 10:am 417-337-8387

Nov 10

Tribute to the Veterans Show hosted by Barbara Fairchild Pre-show at 8:30 am, show starts at 10:00 am At Yakov's Theatre 870-421-3511

Nov 11:

Veterans Day Parade 11 am in downtown Branson.

Dec 8

Branson's 71st Annual Adoration Parade Festivities and a spectacular parade celebrating the "reason for the season!" Historic Downtown/Branson Landing 5pm.

Dec 31 New Years Eve!

- **New Years Eve Shows** All over Branson!
- **Americana Theatre's New Year's Eve Show** Come party with the Americana stars: C.J. Newsome, Terry Wayne Sanders and many more! Meal included, plus champagne at midnight! Starting at 8pm. 417-544-8700 (See page 20)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



That's the Spirit
Theo N. Cider
Local expert, part-time preacher.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

As 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! 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 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 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 us—maybe, 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 born. And as The Bible tells us, satan 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, and the authority to use it in the Name of Jesus Christ, the "Name above all names!" His promises in His name are the weapons we are to take to prayer. We are to call on 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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RHONDA VINCENT CHRISTMAS IN BRANSON!



RHONDA'S GUEST STARS!

**Nov 10 – Dec 20 RHONDA VINCENT
W/ SPECIAL GUEST EVERY DAY!**

Nov 10-12 JOSH WILLIAMS

Nov 13-16 JEANNIE SEELY

Nov 17-18 MOE BANDY

Nov 19-22 JOHN BERRY

Nov 27-Dec 1 T GRAHAM BROWN

Dec 2-3 MOE BANDY

Dec 4-8 MARK WILLS

Dec 9-10 MOE BANDY

Dec 11-14 WILSON FAIRCHILD

Dec 15 MOE BANDY

Dec 15-20 MO PITNEY

WOW! WHO SAW THIS ONE COMING?

Rhonda Vincent, that legendary lady who *The Wall Street Journal* dubbed "*The Queen of Bluegrass*" — has pulled together a heavenly host of Nashville stars for a Christmas extravaganza November & December at Branson's prestigious **Andy Williams Moon River Theater!**

But folks, unbelievably, that's not all! In our **EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**, Rhonda revealed to us that no two performances will be the same! There is "no set list!" Rhonda just "calls the songs." (her words, not ours.) Each show will have different songs, different guest stars, and even different song requests from the audience! Sorry, but if you want the complete experience, you're just going to have to buy tickets to **all 37 performances!**

You Gotta Love it!

Here's why you gotta love it. Whether you are a bluegrass fan or not, whether you're Mom and Dad, Grandma and Grandpa, or even riding herd on a whole brood of kiddos, Rhonda tells us this show's got something for everybody — an extravaganza of Christmas music,

Rhonda and guest stars performing their greatest hits, a comedian providing some outrageous comedy, and a powerful nativity scene that brings it all home!

The Surprises!

Rhonda hinted to us that there just might be some. Or not. We couldn't get her to spill the beans. Seems she heard we were kind of blabby and might spoil it. What can we say? It's what we do!

BREAKING NEWS!

Rhonda tells us she has just received the news that she has been inducted as the newest member of the legendary **Grand Ol Opry!** When she told us that exciting news, we were dumbfounded. *What on earth took them so long?*

Continued on page 10.

ABOUT Rhonda Vincent & The Rage

- One of Bluegrass music's best-selling and most visible artists, whose cross-over appeal stretches well into mainstream media.
- 8-TIME "Female Vocalist of the Year." IBMA (International Bluegrass Music Association)
- Most Award Winning Group in Bluegrass Music History! Over 100 awards to their credit.
- Performances on ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX.
- Rhonda's Ragin' Live DVD was programmed on every PBS Station across the Nation!
- Featured in Oprah's "O" Magazine!
- Performances with Dolly Parton on David Letterman and Late Night with Conan Obrien.
- Too many hit records and albums to list here!



TICKETS

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1959-2020 BRANSON'S FIRST SHOW:



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WOW! Just WOW!

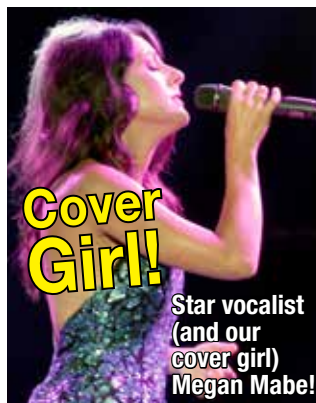
Like they've been doing every year since back in 1959, **Branson's Famous Baldknobbers** roared into Star Date 2020 like a freight train—and like always, **Branson's first show** has upped the ante! This year, we think they upped it somewhere beyond the stratosphere!

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

Here it is in a nutshell: Award winning musicians, vocalists and comedy, plus



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?

Branson's Famous BALDKNOBBERS CHRISTMAS SHOW!

As generations of Baldknobbers fans have known ever since 1959, something always happens to this wild bunch at this time of year. And it happens right before our eyes.

After a full-blown funfest of music, laughs, and Baldknobbers just being Baldknobbers, the Christmas Spirit suddenly descends on these outfits—first, with a holly, jolly North Pole Revue, then, with words and music that leads all hearts and minds to a starry night, to a holy land, to a tiny village, then to a stable, where inside, in a manger built for animals to feed, there lay a child who would change the world that was, the world that is and the world that is to be—forever. Feel it. Experience it. Right here. Where it comes alive, and where the comfort, the joy, and the "reason for the season" remains long after the curtain closes.

NEW: THE VINTAGE BALDKNOBBERS SHOW!

New 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!



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



THE BALDKNOBBERS GOSPEL SHOW

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



Gospel Hall of Famer!

Legendary Gospel tenor Dan Keeton brings “rock-the-house” Gospel to all three shows!

GOOD NEWS!

Longtime Gospel recording 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 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,



Ashley Dawn!

15, Casten, 12, and daughters Hali, 13, and Lakoda, 8. Of course there’s more to this story, and that would be Ashley’s husband Bo. Ashley’s musical roots, besides contemporary Gospel, are country and bluegrass. That would make The Baldknobbers, in our not-necessarily-humble opinion, the perfect fit.

SHANE’S BACK

When 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 sayin’.



Shane!

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.



My Voice

by Megan McCombs Mabe

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

A Season for to Be Thankful!

Let’s be real, this year has been nothing short of unbelievable. There have been difficult moments, heartbreaking moments, hysterical moments and crazy moments. Then there have been those indescribable moments that can only be deemed as “2020 moments”. Someday in the far future, we will look back on this year and, having successfully navigated the uncertainties of 2020 chaos, feel a sense of accomplishment and pride. We will have made it through the strangest and most bizarre obstacle course to fill the pages of our tiny chapter in history. We will see in our hindsight, that through it all, even on the most uncertain and difficult of days, one thing remained—God.

When shutdowns began and we were forced to close the doors to our theater, I must admit, my husband and I were heartbroken and panicked. Simply put, our livelihood depends on Baldknobbers. 2020 was set to be an amazing year. Our show was on track to be the best Baldknobbers’ production in sixty years. The costumes were ready. The lights were programmed. The tickets had been sold. In a matter of one day, that all came to a

screaching halt, with no signs or clues as to when we could return to stage. God had given us a very heavy reminder. We can have the plans. We can have the vision. We can have the road map. HE can ultimately force a detour. What a blessing to be reminded that we are not in control. The stress of trying to have it all figured out is truly more weight than any one person can bear. God is ultimately the master planner of our destiny. We are so thankful He is, because in a

time that seemed so uncertain, we knew exactly who to look to for direction.

When we returned to stage in June, we did not know what to expect. We had to learn an entirely new way of running our business. How would we social distance? How would we protect our cast and crew? Would anyone come or even feel safe to travel and see a show? These were all questions scrutinized in the days leading up to our re-opening. It felt like every day brought a new worry. There was one thing that was a constant, however, and that was God. We knew we were not alone in the journey. He would bring us the answers.

We worked together with our staff to develop a safe and effective method for social distancing. We created protocol for protecting our cast and crew with temperature checks and masks. We waited each day at the box office as we have done for sixty years, believing that there is no virus too big to keep God-fearing folks from living life and enjoying live music entertainment. Guess what? We made it through. Now, it wasn’t easy. There were days that were difficult, but in those difficulties, we found blessing. We were reminded of how thankful we are for our talents that allow us to make a living. We were reminded of how thankful we are for our guests. We were reminded of how thankful we are for our city of Branson. Living in a place that allows us to do what we love each and every night—pandemic or no pandemic—is a gift.

Above anything, we were reminded of how thankful we are for a God who gently reminds us to remember our blessings—sometimes in big ways. 2020 has reminded us that faith over fear is always the way to live life. Nothing is too hard and no problem is too big for a God who already sees the finish line. As we end this year, we will continue believing in God’s all-knowing ways. He will provide. He will bless. He will lead where our eyes cannot see.

The lord is my strength and my shield: my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him.

Psalms 28:7 ✨

2 REVOLUTIONARY PERFORMANCES! FREE DURING VETERANS HOMECOMING!

Sometimes, there are just no words. Before you read any further, see if you can pull out that smart phone of yours and take 2 minutes and 39 seconds of your valuable time to watch a short video that we predict, could very well inspire your Great American heart to the point of tears. Be prepared. Within seconds, you may find yourself awakened, challenged, moved, thankful and energized with a renewed hope—almost all at once! Here goes: www.freedomfocus.us When you get to the website, scroll down for the video.

LIVE ON STAGE!

That video should give you a glimpse of **Freedom Journey**—a live stage show that roars into towns across America like a modern day Paul Revere! During **Veterans Homecoming**, we'd like to shout out, (like Mr. Revere) that **Freedom Journey** is offering **TWO FREE PERFORMANCES** at the elegantly refurbished **Freedom Encounter Theater**, (formerly the iconic **Tony Orlando Yellow Ribbon Theatre!**) And here's our **warning**: those two performances are enough to be life changing. While entertaining us, they also help us re-discover who we are as a people. The result, for most, is an emotional experience that lingers long in both heart and mind.

Briefly described, the show is a combination of live music, story-telling, laughs, celebrities and multi-media. But folks, that's not all! Appearing live, on stage and in person—are thrilling performances by such legendary patriots as **Patrick Henry, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams** and many more! Included among

this stellar showcard of celebrity guests are **TV personality and best-selling author William Federer**, world renown patriot artist Jack Dawson, musical guests: the acclaimed **Wissman Family**, several members of the famous **Duggar Family** (from **TV's 19 Kids & Counting**) plus a supergroup of young singers from across the country!

THE REVOLUTIONARIES!

Warning Number 2: Relax. this troupe of revolutionaries are not the fist-shaking flag-wavers we might expect of patriot firebrands. Quite the contrary, they serve up this great awakening with not only an entertaining combo of music, laughs, and theatrics—but with a combo of kindness, inspiration and knowledge that is both deep and profound. Which is why among the music and laughs, we can expect some tears. Even yours.



FREEDOM ENCOUNTER'S NEW HOME!

THE NEW ATTRACTION!

Plans are rapidly developing for transforming Branson's Freedom Encounter Complex into a Disney/like museum attraction in Branson that will take visitors on an immersive, multi-dimensional journey of "We the People" of The United States of America—our foundational beliefs, our values, and our history. The Museum's theme: **TYRANNY, FAITH & FREEDOM**.

FOR MORE INFO OR DONATIONS:
Call (573)-308-7593 OR go to FreedomFocus.us



APPEARING LIVE!

FOUNDING FATHERS!

**AUTHOR & TV HOST
WILLIAM FEDERER**

**PATRIOT ARTIST
JACK DAWSON**

**TV'S DUGGER FAMILY
MUSIC'S WISSMAN FAMILY**

PLUS MANY MORE!

The cast consists of a band of patriot rebels from Rolla, MO which is headed up by former pastor Darren Myers, his wife Tammy and their son Daniel. But these rebels aren't your in-your-face, finger-pointer types. Much to the contrary—they inspire.

SERIOUS AMERICAN STUFF!

It takes no genius to detect that numbers of our great peoples seem to be going through some kind of national identity crisis, which is understandable, since some of our great institutions, (namely political, educational, and cultural) have been massaging our brains with un-American notions for decades. Some of the offenders no doubt know it, most probably don't, due largely to a lack of enlightenment. While for years our foundational values seem to have been playing defense, this troupe of performers are admittedly going on offense.

Says show creator Darren Myers, "Freedom is a gift that is easy to take for granted—especially for the younger generation that hasn't seen anything else—but tyranny is alive and well as it always has been. It's the fundamental desire for man to rule over man. Yet there is no issue that we face today that was not addressed by our founding fathers. As President Reagan said, the future of freedom is not passed on in our DNA, it is something every generation

has to fight for and take a stand for, or we will lose it. We are always just one generation away from losing it.

"We know America is under attack. Not just politically, but morally. Philosophically. Our families are breaking apart. Our values are crumbling. Our young people are confused and empty. We seem to be losing our identity, as we drift further and further into a sea of socialism. Opposing world views are competing to undermine America, to misrepresent it and destroy it. The only way to fight back, is with the truth."

THE ROAD SHOW!

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ESCAPE REALITY MAGIC & ILLUSIONS

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NEW DINNER SHOW DAZZLING ALL AGES!

BREAKING NEWS:

JUST ANNOUNCED AT PRESS TIME :The Branson Show Awards has just announced that the recipient of BOTH The 2020 Best New Show Award AND The 2020 Best Dinner Show Award is **ESCAPE REALITY Magic & Illusion, starring Garry & Janine Carson!** —Congratulations, Garry and Janine, from all of us here at **The Branson Insider!** We absolutely love how you two make magic together!

Wild Times!

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

A Whole New World!

After performing his show on a cruise ship in Hawaii, Garry was approached at the post show “meet’n’ greet” by a Mom, a Grandma, two Aunts, and a young lady with them who immediately caught his eye. Turns out, like him, the young lady lived back in Vegas, a town that allowed the New York native to pursue all her interests, and even bring life to some of her dreams. She was an EMT nurse. That was her passion. But since

childhood, she also loved to perform. That interest led to a side hobby of modeling, (often as a Vegas showgirl), and eventually, as a costume designer: a craft she surely has mastered, (as us audience types will verify). For both of these two, it was the beginning of a whole new world.

Vegas & Beyond!

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

“By the time Sophia was sixteen months old,” as Garry told *The Insider*, “she had been on 42 planes and



Garry's “wilder” days.

had a handful of passports and visas. We felt it was time to slow down a bit. We loved all our animals, but we knew it was time to get them off the road and to give them new homes. It was heartbreaking, but the regulations just began to get overwhelming. We had several offers to perform in Vegas, but what we liked about Branson was the concept of shows without gambling. We decided to offer something different from Branson's other magic shows, all which are awesome by the way, so to Branson we came and here we are.

2020: Magic's top Honors

2020 began by Garry and Janine receiving the Magic Industry's highest honor: **The Merlin Award's 2020 “Best International Magic & Illusion Duo”**.

COVID & The New Dinner Theater

When COVID struck this Spring, along with its showbiz hiatus, Garry searched for and found the perfect venue for his new Branson production and immediately got involved in the legendary showplace's mass transformation.

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

Blowing up Social Media

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



Garry and Janine receive their 2020 Merlin awards.

The Shock

Magic shows are notorious for attracting many in the audience who greatly fear being invited up on stage, dressed like they are, to be embarrassingly fooled in public. Many request tables at the back of the dinner theater to avoid becoming part of the show. Nice try. Like every show, many in the audience are seen with arms crossed, waiting to see if they can be entertained or not—but within minutes, you can literally feel the ice breaking. In a flash, the atmosphere becomes as relaxing as a private party at home with friends. And here's proof—when Garry asks for volunteers, many raise their hands and some hide—but by show's end, all he has to do is hold out his hand. No words. And his volunteer immediately stands up, takes his hand, and follows him to the stage. It's that kind of atmosphere and Garry is that kind of guy.

The Magic of Helping Others: sponsormagiclink.com

Years ago Garry founded a charity which has long since outgrown him and to this day works a different kind of magic throughout the world. His heart for people less fortunate has dominated his life since childhood.

Growing up in Fountain, Colorado, Garry immediately demonstrated amazing physical skills. Early on, coaches predicted he would have a stellar sports career. His dream was to play in the NFL. (**Denver Broncos**, for example!) But that all changed when a sledding accident nearly took his life and left him with injuries that made sports of any kind literally life threatening. His childhood was marred by other traumas—as both his mother and his brother battled near-fatal health problems.

With those experiences, Garry quickly saw opportunities to “give back” in the world of show business. He began by offering to do free shows for non-profits on dates where there were gaps in his road tours. The response was explosive. Almost immediately, requests for charity events poured in from throughout the

Continued on page 10

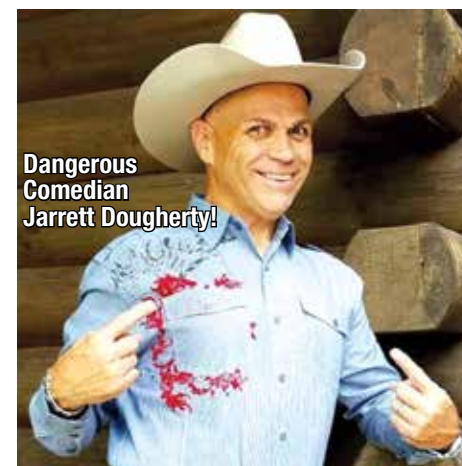
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Continued from page 5.

DANGER!

Branson's notorious comedy star **Jarrett Dougherty** will be on drums in the show, and will, of course, shake things up with his trademark funny business. "One thing scares me," Rhonda confessed to the *The Insider*. "Jarret has no filter. When we were rehearsing the nativity scene and the Innkeeper says 'There's no room at the inn,'—Jarret popped in "Well, there's plenty of room down at the Grand Country Inn!" I said, 'Jarrett, this is important! This is the real meaning of Christmas! I'm sure for that scene he'll be okay, but for the rest of the show—he's gonna be dangerous!"



Dangerous Comedian Jarrett Dougherty!

How Rhonda Rolls!

Normally, **Rhonda Vincent and the Rage** is on the road 250 days out of the year. But 2020 was, well, 2020. On a trip to Branson this summer, Rhonda saw folks out in abundance enjoying shows and attractions and wearing their masks. By all accounts, Rhonda's wheels never stop turning. Before long, she was putting a Branson Christmas show together in her head. As she told us backstage, "I believe it was God who sent us here because I just said, 'Lord, whatever opportunity there is that you could give us, we just put it in your hands.' I knew there was a possibility to be at **The Andy Williams Moon River Theater**. I just said, "if it's your will, then just make it work out." So here we are. I love Christmas music. I've done a couple of Christmas albums. The venue holds 3,000, which gives plenty of room for social distancing. Bottom line, I want people to experience the real meaning of Christmas."

Our prediction: we will.

Ornamental Superstars!

Just so you know, those merry-looking Christmas ornaments surrounding Rhonda at the top of page 5 happen to be some of the top musicians in the entire entertainment universe! Their lists of **Grammys, CMT Awards** and oh-so-many more are just so long we'd have to spend half this issue printing them all! But hey, thanks to technology, you can now peruse their humongous awards list on Rhonda's website! Let's have a drumroll, please as we reveal the identities of these ornamental superstars! On dobro, we've got **Jeff Partin**. On fiddle, **Hunter Berry**. Banjo is **Aaron Mcdaris**, (who you probably saw on **The Voice** recently!). On Guitar, **Josh Williams**, on steel guitar, **Tyler Hall**. Piano & keys, **Josh Schillings**. On Bass, **Mickey Harris**. And by the way, each one of these showstoppers sings sensationally as well. So let's see, who are we missing? Oh yeah, **Rhonda Vincent**, the "**Queen of Bluegrass!**" ♦

Continued from page 9

far too many for Garry and Janine to fulfill alone. (**They do about 100 a year!**) To help meet the needs, Garry founded **sponsormagiclink.com**, a link-up of entertainers performing at charity fund-raising events and networking with corporate sponsorships. Their way cool slogan is: **The Magic of Helping Others!**

All in The Family

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



SHOWS FIT FOR A KING'S CASTLE!



Scenes from Branson's Christmas Wonderland!



It goes without saying—only the best of the best are granted the honor of appearing at a King's Castle! That being said, the shows appearing here (and on page 14) obviously fill the bill—for they are actually produced by a real King!

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

David King

King's Castle Theatre owner and show producer David King is one of the United Kingdom's most successful theater producers. His accomplishments have been recognized with many global awards for best show, best choreography, and best entertainment, among many other honors. Mr. King has also received an honorary Doctorate

at The United Kingdom's Middlesex University. Each show season, he works closely with his creative team in Branson to mount dazzling productions that are frequent sellouts and earn many a standing ovation.



THE COURT OF KING'S CASTLE

The amazing singers and dancers of King's Castle are chosen and summoned from such faraway places as England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and (can you believe it?) even Arkansas! Read all about them at KingsCastleTheatre.com!

NEW SMASH HIT ROCKS BRANSON!



ANTHEMS OF ROCK!

Even though it premiered during our 2020 pandemic season, this Branson-produced rock extravaganza is

already on a roll! Fans of every age seem to be ready to rock, for everybody from youngsters to grandfolks are packing out this rockfest of amazing music and explosive dancing! Let's drop some names and let you guess how long it will take for you to rock along with this world class entourage of singers and dancers! How about *Queen*, *The Beatles*, *The Rolling Stones*, *Bon Jovi*, *Led Zeppelin*, *Journey*, *Elton John*, *Aerosmith*—or *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Rock on! And Rock in the new year with **ANTHEMS OF ROCK'S NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW!**

BRANSON'S CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND!

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



DUBLIN IRISH TENORS & The CELTIC LADIES: Christmas in Killarney!

The sound of Irish tenors singing in harmony taps into a level of musical beauty that is dreamlike. It's no wonder this show has become one of the most popular in Branson—and we haven't even mentioned the Celtic Ladies yet! While The Tenors are dreamlike, we describe the voices of these Celtic Ladies as nothing less than heavenly! If you loved *Riverdance*, you will love this masterpiece of breathtaking dance and angelic voices—all transporting us to a heart-stirring Christmas in Killarney!



NEW JERSEY NIGHTS! THE MUSIC OF FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS!

Celebrating its 8th blockbuster season in Branson! A Broadway hit and award-winning movie (*Jersey Boys*) introduced new generations to the group that stole the hearts of nearly all who came of age in the 1950s and '60s! Backed up by incredible production numbers performed by an international cast of world class dancers, the legendary crooners bring us *Sherry*, *Rag Doll*, *Big Girls Don't Cry*, *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*, *Walk Like a Man* and so much more.



TALES FROM THE CASTLE!

Scotland's Jacqui Bell goes by the title of General Manager even though she wears many hats, one of them being resident director of all the shows at King's Castle Theatre. Jacqui was given these royal duties after performing worldwide with Dublin Worldwide Productions for 25 years. Her global career took a turn, however, when she met and married a gentleman from Branson, (Sean Bell). With the births of Logan (now age 7) and Skye, (age 5), Branson is now Jacqui's home away from home, although family visits to and from Ayrshire on Scotland's west coast are frequent. Jacqui shared an adorable little Christmas story with us which we can't resist repeating! At young Skye's kindergarten, teachers were reading Christmas stories to the children. One story involved King David from the Bible. "Who knows who King David is?" the teacher asked.

Young Skye put up her hand. "My Mommy works for King David."



Jacqui Bell

NETWORK TV, A-LIST GUEST STARS, AND A DAZZLING SHOWCARD FIRES UP ICONIC BRANSON STAR THEATRE!



NASHVILLE ROADHOUSELIVE!

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

(SEE AD ON PG 16)

legend with a big league showbiz resume a mile long!

Folks, this show is a high energy fun fest that moves fast and furious—but with plenty of heart, soul and a whole lotta love. The level of performance and musicianship is an absolute showbiz earthquake! It's that awesome! You can see the love the performers have for the music, for each other, and even for us audience types. You can feel it. During a powerful segment of the show, for all to see, that love is expressed to our veterans, our flag, and to the ideals our nation represents. It's that kind of show. As one prominent

musician was overheard saying, "these guys aren't just good, they're crazy good!"

Stevie's showbiz roots run deep. His Dad played guitar with the legendary **Lester Flatt** and **Earl Scruggs**, then later with fellow legend **Eddy Arnold**. In fact, Stevie's whole family is in the music world. Besides charting country hits, Stevie also hosted **Today's Hot Country** on **TV's Nashville Network**. Looks like the wheel is coming full circle!

PHIL DALTON THEATER OF ILLUSION

A true family show families love, starring all seven members of The Dalton Family, (the young performers ranging in age from 3 to 17!) Get ready for both Grand Illusion and Sleight-of-hand! Master Illusionist Phil Dalton will divide himself in half (while still standing up!), cause a person to float in the air, and attempt an upside down, death-defying underwater escape! It's one surprise after another! Expect to laugh, to gasp, and to be amazed!

DAVID BROOKS THE PIANO MAN XPERIENCE

Expect electrifying performances when **4-time Piano Player of the Year** David Brooks takes the stage! David pays tribute to all the great Piano Entertainers of both yesterday and today, all the while adding a few surprises along the way. Besides the brilliant music, expect some crazy antics and home spun humor—altogether making for a fun evening! Branson insiders won't ever forget David's riveting performances as Jerry Lee Lewis in the hit show "Million Dollar

Quartet" That should be our clue that this piano tour from Ragtime to Rock & Roll is a guaranteed non-stop party!

ROPES, WHIPS AND COWBOY SONGS THE WESTERN EXPERIENCE WITH CHRIS MCDANIEL

Chris brings his love of all things "Western" to his new one man show! Combining his world class trick roping and bullwhip skills with classic (and new) western music, he brings the history of Wild West Entertainment to life with a trip back in time to the entertainment of his youth.

ELVIS & I STARRING DANIEL JENKINS

Although relatively young in age, Daniel already has over a decade of experience performing as an Elvis Tribute Artist. Born and raised in Las Vegas, he learned about Elvis at the tender age of 6. Over the years, He performs in a way that both captures the sound and spirit of Elvis's originals, and the playfulness of his personality. His goal—to bring back memories—while creating new ones.

VOODOO CHILD STARRING NATHAN BRYCE

Drawing inspiration from the legendary Stevie Ray Vaughan and blues inspired classic rock of the 60's and 70's, this show pays homage to the tradition of guitar driven blues rock. Nathan is an accomplished guitarist, singer and songwriter born and raised in the American Midwest. "Voodoo Child" takes us on a musical journey through blues and classic rock history—everything from Muddy Waters, The Rolling Stones & CCR, to Led Zeppelin, ZZ Top, and of course the Voodoo Child himself Jimi Hendrix!

BRIAN CLARKE OUT OF THE BASEMENT

A TRIBUTE TO THE CLASSICS A show combining the likeness of MTV Unplugged and VH1 Storytellers. National Recording Artist and a member of the International Singer Songwriter Association Brian Clarke partners up with a 2 Time Guitar Player of the Year, and former guitar player for Moe Bandy and many other nationally known artists.

BRANSON STAR THEATER AMENITIES

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

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



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NOV 21 WYNONA JUDD
NOV 28 JO DEE MESSINA

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THE SHOWS AT THE BRANSON STAR

NASHVILLE ROADHOUSELIVE

STARRING STEVIE LEE WOODS

"Where Country Meets Rock 'N Roll!" As seen above, this show's first season in Branson is already winning awards, bringing in the A-List superstars, and launching Branson into the wide world via radio and TV! Heading up this all-star supershow is powerhouse performer Stevie Lee Woods, whose music career in both country and rock music charted hits all the way to **#1 (Is there anything left?)** for example—and for years had him on the road opening for the likes of **Lorrie Morgan, Martina McBride, Brooks & Dunn, Diamond**

Rio and just about everyone in-between. On stage, he's explosive—consuming it like a hybrid of **Mick Jagger, Garth Brooks** and maybe even **Brooks & Dunn**—all while backed up by a lovely troupe of high-steppin', boot-scootin' dancers and one of the hottest band of all-stars ever assembled, each one a Branson



BREAKING NEWS!

Stevie Lee Woods' Nashville RoadHouseLive has just received *The Best of Branson's 2020 Award* for "Best New Show"! –Congrats from all of us here at *The Branson Insider*!

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT:

Nashville RoadHouseLive, starring Stevie Lee Wood and featuring some of music's top stars as weekly guests—will begin their broadcasts on network TV in March 2021! Originating from The Branson Star Theatre, the worldwide telecast will be available to viewers on GAC TV (Great American Country), Telemundo, I-Tickets, I-Tunes and Virtual Pay Per View! To attend the broadcasts and keep up with the guest star announcements, visit: BransonStarTheater.com.

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

WOW! Two full-blown reproductions of authentic Elvis shows—complete with the trademark Elvis entourage of keyboards, horns, electrics, percussion—and OF COURSE lady backup singers and a Gospel quartet! Anyone of any generation who never knew how insanely awesome an Elvis concert was—here's your ticket to rock 'n roll heaven! The most common reaction (and quote) from fans in the know is this: "It's the most authentic Elvis show I've ever seen!"

What other Elvis performer is related to Elvis three ways, hung out with Elvis, was encouraged by Elvis, attended over a dozen Elvis concerts, and even served in the Army like Elvis? But folks, that's not all! Like Elvis—Cousin Jerry even has a twin brother! And it gets even better, for Elvis's original backup singers, (**The Jordanares**, **The Stamps Quartet** and **The Blackwoods**)—performed with Jerry for years! And just

to add another zinger—two members of Jerry's current cast, (singer **Denny Yeary** and trumpeter **Jay Daversa**) **also performed with The King himself!**

What we love most about Jerry's Elvis concerts is that they are real. No over-the-top Elvis exaggeration and schtick—just amazing performances crafted to recreate Elvis live shows as they really were. We also love the fact that in between numbers, Jerry too is real. He's not Elvis. But what a guy. A gracious host and full of Elvis stories, Jerry has fun with the audience as well as his fellow performers. But when the music



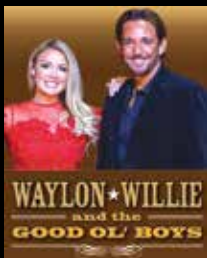
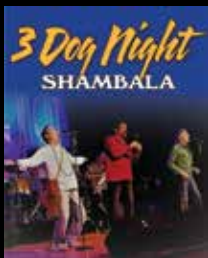
starts, Jerry becomes Elvis.

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

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

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

50 YRS OF
KENNY
ROGERS



ELVIS & JERRY

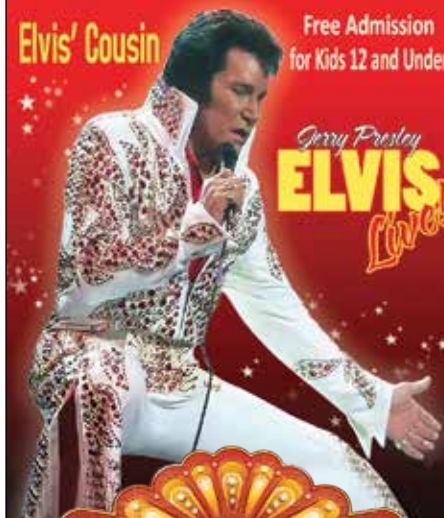
- Jerry is related to Elvis 3 ways • He was one of the first Elvis tribute artists out there • Elvis's Manager Colonel Parker disapproved of Jerry • Elvis came to Jerry's rescue, encouraging him • Jerry attended over 13 Elvis concerts • He hung out with Elvis at Graceland • He treasures several gifts Elvis gave him • He met briefly with Elvis backstage in July of '77 • In August, he received a note from Elvis apologizing for the short meeting and inviting him back to Graceland • Days later, Elvis died • At Graceland after the funeral, Jerry ran into Elvis's Dad Vester sitting on the stairs. "I guess it will never be the same around here anymore," said Jerry. With tears in his eyes, Vester answered, "No, Son, I guess it never will be." • "Elvis was a humble guy," says Jerry. "He didn't put himself up on a pedestal. He loved people. He was such a giving person. There will never be another Elvis."

*** Jerry Presleys *** GOD AND COUNTRY THEATERS

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THE STATLER BROTHERS
REVISITED

THE TEMPTATIONS
MOTOWN LEGENDS

50 YRS OF KENNY ROGERS

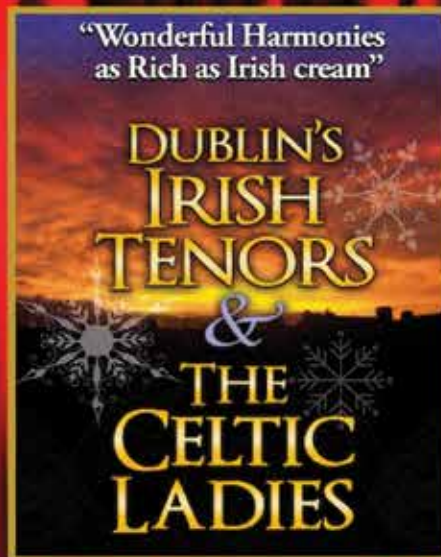
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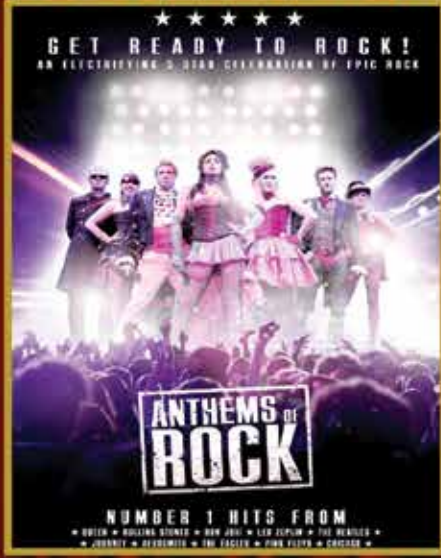
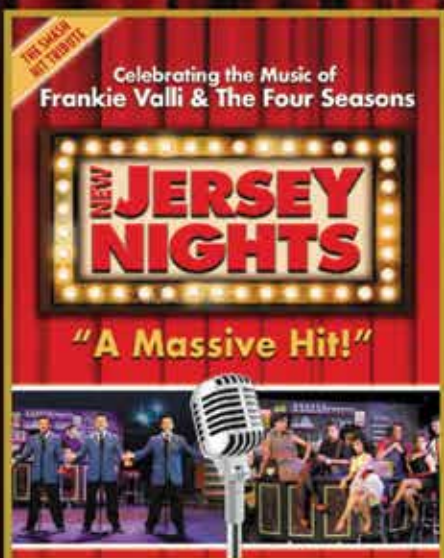
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2020 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

Shows appearing in **THE BRANSON INSIDER** are listed in **RED!**

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

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 | | 20 | THRU Dec | | |
| A Janice Martin Cirque Show | | | | Oct-Dec | | |
| The Johnson Strings | | | | Oct-Dec | | |
| Raiding the Country Vault | raidingthecountryvault.com | | 20 | 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 | | | | |
| Rhonda Vincent: Christmas in Branson | RhondaVincent.com | | 1, 5, 10 | Nov-Dec | | |
| The Texas Tenors | thetexasenors.com | | 4, 5 | SEL DATES SEPT-DEC | | |
| Branson Central Theatre 625 St. Hwy 165 • 417-231-4112 | | F-5 | | | | |
| Escape Reality: Up Close Comedy & Magic | | | 1, 9-10 | THRU Dec | D | |
| The Steve Morris Lunchtime Break: Comedy, Music | | | | THRU Dec | L | |
| Branson Famous Theatre 645 Hwy 165 • 417-231-4999 | baldknobbers.com | F-4 | | | | |
| Branson's Famous Baldknobbers | | | 2, 6, 7 | THRU Dec | | |
| Vintage Baldknobbers Show | | | 2, 6, 7 | THRU Dec | | |
| Baldknobbers Gospel Show | | | 2, 6, 7 | 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 | | | | |
| 5 Live Shows (see website) | | | | THRU Dec | | |
| Branson Star Theatre 3750 W 76 Blvd • 417-693-4432 | bransonstartheatre.com | C-3 | | | | |
| Nashville Roadhouse | | | 1, 12, 16 | THRU Dec | D, A | |
| Phil Dalton: Theatre of Illusion! | | | 1, 12, 16 | THRU Dec | | |
| David Brooks: The Piano Xperience! | | | 1, 12, 16 | THRU Dec | | |
| Ropes, Whips, & Cowboy Songs: Western Experience | | | 1, 12, 16 | THRU Dec | | |
| Elvis & i Starring Daniel Jenkins | | | 1, 12, 16 | THRU Dec | | |
| Voodoo Child: starring Nathan Bryce | | | 1, 12, 16 | THRU Dec | | |
| Brian Clarke: Out of the Basement | | | 1, 12, 16 | THRU Dec | | |
| 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)! | | | | THRU Oct | | |
| Dean Z's Rockin' Christmas Show | | | | ??? | | |
| The Haygoods | | | | THRU Oct | | |
| Hot Rods & High Heels | | | | THRU Oct | | |
| 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 | |

continued on pg 15

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)

| Please See Theatre Website for Show Times | | Map Grid | See Pages | Show Season | Meal Avail* | Menu Page |
|---|--|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| SIX (Real Brothers) | thesixshow.com | | | Thru Oct | | |
| Buckets N Boards | bucketsnboards.com | | | Thru Aug | | |
| Dolly Parton's Stampede 1525 W. Hwy 76 • 800-520-5544 | dpstampede.com | E-10 | | | | |
| Dolly Parton's Stampede | | | | Thru Oct | L,D | |
| Dolly Parton's Stampede Christmas | | | | Nov-Dec | | |
| The Dutton Family Theatre 3454 W Hwy 76 • 417-332-2772 | theduttons.com | E3 | | | | |
| The Duttons | | | | Thru Oct | | |
| The Magic & Comedy of Taylor Reed | taylorreed.com | | | Thru Dec | | |
| Leroy New Tribute to Marty Robbins | | | | 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 | | |
| The Hughes Brothers Theatre 3425 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-0076 | Hughes-Brothers.com | E-4 | | | | |
| Hughes Christmas Show | | | 1,15,17 | Thru Dec. | L, D | 9 |
| Hughes Brothers Country | | | 1,15,17 | Thru Dec. | | |
| Branson's IMAX™ Little Opry Theatre 3562 Shep. of the Hills Exp • 417-335-4832 | bransonimax.com | B-4 | | See Website | | |
| George Jones & Friends "Keepin' Country Alive!" | | | | | | |
| Good News Gospel: with The Christiansens | | | | | | |
| Petersens Gospel Christmas | | | | See Website | | |
| Petersens Christmas | | | | | | |
| Sander's Family Christmas | | | | | | |
| Smoke on the Mountain | | | | | | |
| Sons of Britches | | | | | | |
| 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 | 13,18,19 | See Website | | |

continued on pg 16

It's the **ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE!**

HUGHES BROTHERS CHRISTMAS SHOW



**11 X AWARDED
BEST CHRISTMAS SHOW**

The Hughes Brothers & family transport you to a Christmas wonderland filled with the season's best vocal harmonies, exciting dances, inspiring instrumentals, & light-hearted humor. Along with all the festive surprises and treasured family traditions, see Santa in a new light when he explains the symbols of Christmas in the most moving Christmas presentation you've ever witnessed. "It's a triumph of everything you want to feel at Christmas time."

(417) 334-0076 HughesBrothersTheatre.com
Hughes Brothers Theatre, 3425 West 76 Country Blvd. Branson, MO

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ALSO EXPERIENCE HUGHES MUSIC SHOW FEB THRU OCT!

Where **Country** Meets **Rock N Roll**

BRANSON Star Theater

NASHVILLE ROADHOUSE LIVE

Nominated "Best New Show in Branson"
Friday and Saturday at 8 PM

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at 10 AM

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Theater of Illusion



Now appearing at the
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ROPES, WHIPS AND COWBOY SONGS

THE WESTERN EXPERIENCE with Chris McDonald

Tuesday 2 pm
Thursday 10 am
Saturday 10 am

Kids 12 and under ALWAYS FREE

History and local discounts offered

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Starring Camie Jenkins

Wednesday 8 pm
Thursday 8 pm
Friday 8 pm
Saturday 8 pm

Music is what makes the world go round

Kids 12 and under ALWAYS FREE

DAVID BROOKS

Sundays at 8 PM



The Piano Man Xperience

Brian Clarke
Out Of The Basement

Thursdays 8pm

A Tribute To The Classics
And The Stories Behind Them

WHERE COUNTRY MEETS ROCK 'N' ROLL!

BRANSON Star Theater

Voodoo Child

"A Tribute To Stevie Ray Vaughan And The Legends Of Blues Rock"

Featuring music by Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jimi Hendrix, ZZ Top, Eric Clapton, Allman Bros. Rolling Stones!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 8PM

FOR TICKET INFO. CALL 417.320.3418

3700 WEST 76 COUNTRY BLVD., BRANSON, MO.

bransonstartheater.com

2020 BRANSON SHOW GUIDE

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|---|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Christmas with Elvis | | | 13,18,19 | THRU Dec | | |
| Elvis Alive! Aloha from Hawaii Concert | | | 13,18,19 | THRU Dec | | |
| Fleetwood Mac: Dreams: Stevie Nicks Tribute | | | 13,18,19 | THRU Dec | | |
| 3 Dog Night Road to Shambala | | | 13,18,19 | THRU Dec | | |
| Statler Brothers Revisited | | | 13,18,19 | THRU Dec | | |
| The Temptations, Motown Legends Tribute | | | 13,18,19 | THRU Dec | | |
| 50 Years of Kenny Rogers | | | 13,18,19 | THRU Dec | | |
| Waylon, Willie & The Good Ol' Boys | | | 13,18,19 | THRU 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 | | | | THRU Dec | | |
| King's Castle Theater 2701 W. Hwy 76 • 417-334-2500 | kingscastletheatre.com | E-8 | 14 | | | |
| 5 Live Shows (see website) | | | 1,11,14 | THRU Oct | | |
| Anthems of Rock | | | 1,11,14 | THRU Dec | | |
| Dublin's Irish Tenors and Celtic Ladies | | | 1,11,14 | THRU Dec | | |
| New Jersey Nights: Music of The Four Seasons | | | 1,11,14 | THRU Dec | | |
| Branson's Christmas Wonderland | | | 1,11,14 | THRU Dec | | |
| Majestic Theatre 2849 Gretna Rd. • 417-231-2420 | | C-7 | | | | |
| Absolutely Country, Definitely Gospel • 417-218-0808 | acdgbbranson.com | | | THRU Dec | | |
| Branson Murder Mystery Dinner Show • 417-849-8331 | bransonmurdermystery.com | | | THRU Dec | DA | |
| Branson Wild West Murder Mystery • 417-849-8331 | bransonmurdermystery.com | | | THRU Dec | DA | |
| Comedy Hypnosis Dinner Show • 417-849-8331 | jecobiesmindplay.com | | | THRU Dec | DA | |
| 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) | | | | THRU Oct | | |
| Showboat Branson Belle 4800 W. Hwy 76 • 800-475-9370 | bransonsilverdollarcity.com | J-3 | | THRU Dec | L,D | |
| White House Theatre 2255 Gretna Rd • 417-336-2396 | bransontributetheatre.com | C-6 | | SEE WEBSITE | | |
| Yakov Theatre 470 St. Hwy 248 • 417-336-3838 | yakov.com | B-12 | | | | |
| YAKOV: Laughter RX - FDA Approved, w/Dr. Yakov! | | | 1, 3 | OCT-DEC | | |

Hughes News

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

Christmas Issue: November, December 2020



HUGHES REVIEWS: THE HUGHES FAMILY CHRISTMAS SHOW

Here's what our show critic has to say about **The Hughes Brothers Christmas Show**: "The show's 50-plus member cast does *everything*! They sing angelically, play instruments brilliantly, they dance magnificently, they do comedy hilariously and they fill the heart with such comfort and joy that around here, Christmas just wouldn't be the same without them! They've also been voted **"Best Christmas Show"** 7 times! And speaking of the holidays, this band of brothers has also scheduled special performances (with holiday eats) for **Thanksgiving Day and New Years Eve!** For New Years, expect noisemakers, balloons, and a dance party with the stars after midnight! (And folks, as our reporters testify: Hughes Nation *really* knows how to party!)

HUGE HUGHES NEWS!

has certainly got it! (*Translation of "street cred": —in cowboy speak it means "reputation". Sort of like the gunslinger who never misses.*)

You'd have to say this show certainly lives up to the Old West proverb to "dance with the one that brung ya", for from childhood out West, (Utah), all the way to their Branson debut as young men back in the mid '90s, Country & Western music and variety was the heart and soul of this legendary posse of performers.

Our undisclosed sources report that **Hughes Brothers Country** is mostly Country and Western music, (obviously), but there is also some DooWop, Patriotic and Gospel "mixed in." And too, we are told that we can expect some of the music from The Hughes Brothers country past, and plenty from the country present. That present day notion is certainly on full display, for now offsprings of these cowboy legends make up no small part of the show's back-up band! We are also told the youngins' have some influence on the song lists, for they include not only the likes of **Ghost Riders in the Sky**, or songs from **Marty Robbins, Johnny Cash or Waylon Jennings**, they also contain the hits of **Aaron Tippin, Diamond Rio** and many more of today's most "Wanted" country stars!

But we're saving the best for last, so here it is. The



The Hughes Brothers back in the day.

harmonies of this band of brothers, these country crooners, is a treasure richer than all the gold in California, for brotherly voices in harmony for a lifetime, is an experience to behold!

MORE HUGE HUGHES NEWS!



SNEAK PREVIEW! Yes, we may get in trouble for blabbing these backstage secrets, but we gotta do what we gotta do or you folks may think we dig no deeper for a scoop than a gold digger with a teaspoon. So here it is!

The youngins of these famous Hughes Brothers are about to reveal how crazy talented a bunch of cousins can get when they grow up together on stage and take music and dance lessons for the better

part of their entire lives! Whaddaya get for a result? You get this, the kiddos hirin' the dads to help them stage their own show! So VOILA **Revibe!**

Here are the scraps of details we were able to extract from our backstage snoops so far: • it will star young Hugheses between the ages of 14 and 22. • There will be modern, contemporary, and several varieties of music performed by this trans generational troupe of singers and dancers, (all Hughes cousins). • it will consist of music young people like. • It will be high energy fun. • Worth sayin' again. When will the new show roll out? Keep checkin' their websites or ours. We'll try to get you the news first! (*but psst, let's just keep that between US!*)



Celebrity Dinner Theatre

Save time, avoid traffic and stress—and enjoy a relaxing gourmet dinner before the show—prepared by acclaimed Swedish chef Reggie Regnall! We will cite the dessert entrée to help paint a picture: luxurious dark chocolate mousse topped with a heavenly light whipped cream & fresh raspberries. Oh yum. (See ad on p. 15)



The Hughes Brothers Country boys today! (L. to R.) Marty, Jason, Ryan and Andy. (Note: Brother Adam now lives in California with his wife and family. But he is still a "wanted" man!)



Yes, The Bro's are plugging back into their country roots with an all new show that's a bona fide whirlwind of Country & Western music from past to present! And when it comes to authenticity, and what the young folks of today like to call "street cred", this posse



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

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

As might be guessed by all genuine Branson Insiders, Keith's return is in the company of his lovely wife **Diana Allyn**, who stars in her

own award-winning show (as revealed on the next page!).

SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS!

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

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, I said, Solitary Man, Cracklin' Rosie, Holy, Holy, Shilo, Soolaimon, Kentucky Woman, I'm a Believer, Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show, Song Sung blue, Pretty Amazing Grace, and one we are saving for the end of this story. Stay tuned.

WHO'S KEITH ALLYNN?

Besides being 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. 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.

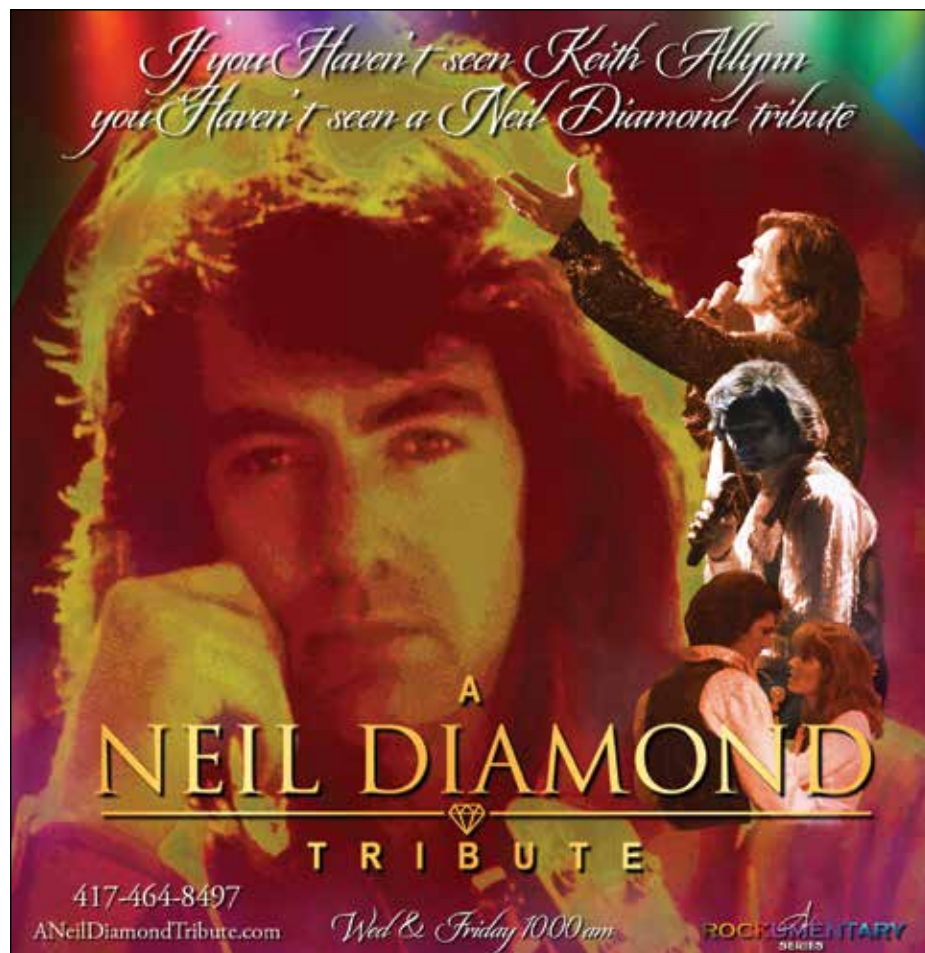
Besides being an amazing Neil Diamond tribute artist, Keith Allyn is one of the most captivating entertainers you are likely to ever experience. Entertaining is not just his vocation—it's his lifelong passion. He's brilliant, he's warm, he's funny, he's full of mesmerizing Neil Diamond stories,

and he literally "owns" not only the stage, but the hearts of most all of us audience types. Example: He recently performed a one-nighter for 5,000 people. No band. Just him and a guitar. The audience was so overwhelmed, the venue pleaded that Keith would stay for another show. Then another. 5,000 packed out each one. That says it all.

END OF STORY

At the show's finale, drums begin pounding. On screen is a flag waving. Keith begins singing—*"Far, we've been traveling far, without a home, but now without a star. Free, only want to be free, we huddle close, hang on to a dream. On the boats and on the planes, they're coming to America. Never looking back again, they're coming to America. Home, don't it seem so far away, Oh, we're traveling light today, in the eye of the storm, in the eye of the storm. Home, to a new and shiny place, make our bed, and we'll say our grace. Freedom's light burning warm. Got a dream to take them there, they're coming to America. Got a dream they've come to share, they're coming to America. My Country 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing—"*

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



A CARPENTERS CHRISTMAS MUSIC, AND A LIFE, THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING!

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

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

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

About The Carpenters

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

You might not remember her name, but trust us, you know her hit songs and you know her story—one which frankly, changed history.

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

Christmas album, which by the way, will be performed in its near entirety in this show!

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

We've Only Just Begun!

The show begins with a gentleman taking a seat at the piano to portray Karen's brother **Richard Carpenter**. He begins to play. Then we hear the real **Karen Carpenter** begin to sing. For some, that little voice in the head starts asking, "will Diana look like Karen Carpenter? Will she sound like Karen Carpenter?" But those inner monologues get shut down in a heartbeat when Diana suddenly appears and Karen's voice becomes hers. It's seamless. Does Diana look like Karen? Well, somewhat, for her clothing style could definitely have parachuted in from Karen's 1970s wardrobe closet, but it's the voice, the stage presence and the captivating personality that draws us into the amazing talent of Karen Carpenter channeled by the amazing talent of Diana Lynn!

Diana is no stranger to Branson, having starred in several shows of her own and having appeared along with her husband Keith in some of Showtown's



amazing story.) Her showbiz experience comes across the moment she takes the stage, for her sunny personality, both warm and upbeat, is literally contagious. Audiences love her.

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

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



Holiday characters: Diana with you-know-who, and Wes Larson, who plays Richard Carpenter. as well as just about every instrument there is. Wes is a musician, actor, minister, music teacher, show producer, entertainer, businessman, and so much more. We're not sure if he sleeps, however.



THE REAL DEAL!

For 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!

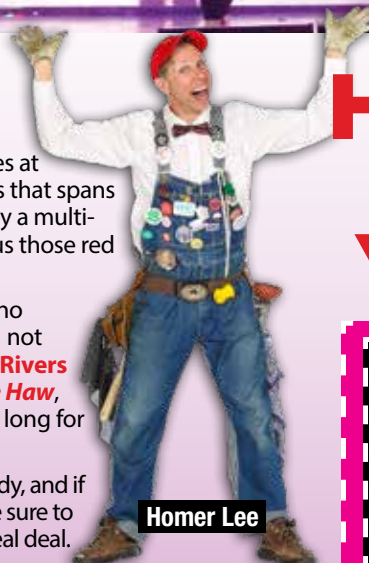


To describe this country music extravaganza, we are reminded of the Country Tonite show, that dazzling Vegas production that enjoyed several blockbuster seasons here in Showtown.

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 this issue.

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.



Homer Lee

Happy New Year!

**Americana’s:
New Year’s Eve Show!**

Starring
Cj Newsome’s Classic Country & Comedy!
Comedy Star Terry Sanders!
Rock ‘N Roll Royalty Stars Matthew Boyce & Radney Pennington!
Plus
Surprise Guest Stars!

Dinner: Provided By Big D’s Bbq!
Dinner 8pm • Show 9pm

Midnight:
Toast In The New Year With Free Champagne
(Or Sparkling Grape Juice)

TICKETS:
**C.J. NEWSOM’S
CLASSIC COUNTRY & COMEDY
RAIDING THE COUNTRY VAULT
THE AMERICANA THEATRE**
2905 W Hwy. 76 Branson
Phone: **417-544-8700**

ALSO AT THE AMERICANA!

RAIDING THE COUNTRY VAULT

REAL STARS. REAL COUNTRY.

This acclaimed Vegas-style country music showcase features the all-time classics from country’s biggest acts. Dropping a few names, we can’t help but mention the likes of **Johnny Cash**, **Buck Owens**, **Conway Twitty**, **Merle Haggard**, **George Jones**, **Loretta Lynn**, **Dolly Parton**, **Glen Campbell**, **Waylon Jennings**, **Garth Brooks**, **George Strait**, **Brad Paisley**, and many more.

In one spectacular production, **Raiding the Country Vault** tells the story of country music—from all the way back to the 1960’s to all the way up to this millennial year of 2020!

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



REPORT:

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THAT UPSIDE DOWN

WonderWorks!



Okay, 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)

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-booeey*—up goes the entire laboratory—into the sky—the whole enchilada then crashing 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! Come to find out, it's also like that on the *INside*!

OUR REPORT:

Our intrepid reporters recently filed the following report, (which we later

discovered they had just pirated from a brochure). “Wonderworks is a science-focused, 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 science genius **Albert Einstein**: “**Play is the highest form of research!**”

WHAT WE NOW KNOW:

So here's our report on this “amusement park for the mind”. It's got four floors and 45,000 sq. ft. of “edu-tainment”, 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

There 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. 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 nation has so dramatically contributed to our world. Here, we learn that the “American dream” is about dreaming the impossible 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

There is much to report here, so to make it easy, here goes *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.



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

Whether 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 IN 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.)

YeeeeEEESH!

SHARK TANK!



NEW!

MINI GOLF THE ABYSS!

Golf the Wild Abyss under the sea as creatures both real and unreal swim among you—watching!

NEW!

A Christmas Shopper's Wildest Dreams!

WILDLIFE TOYS, GAMES, STUFFED ANIMALS!

WILDLIFE-THEMED APPAREL, GIFTS AND DÉCOR!

PLUS:

WILD DEALS! (INCLUDING WILD GIFTS UNDER \$5!

WORLD CHANGERS

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



Snake Hugs!

Creature Comforts

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.



Dingo Kisses!



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?



GLOBETROTTERS!

World renown attractions designer **James Kelly & his wife Lisa**.

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!



Mrs. Brenda

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

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!



A Victorian belle primps with perfume....

The folks here are creative nuts and funnier than a herd of cats eating jalapenos—plus



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

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. ♦



UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES!

Branson's
WILD WORLD

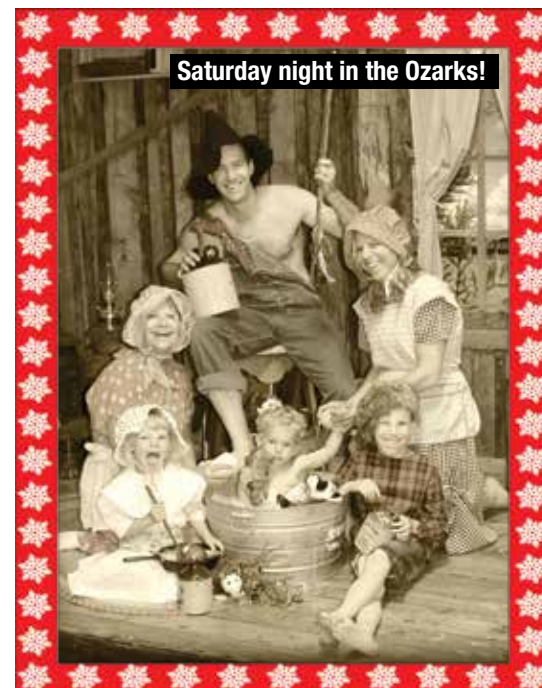
ANIMAL ADVENTURE PARK & AQUARIUM

2020 West Highway 76 (Located on the strip next to WALMART)
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www.BransonsWildWorld.com







Saturday night in the Ozarks!

CHRISTMAS CARDS!

For a dandy set of Christmas cards, (or just for some holiday fa-la-la fun,) have these folks put a Christmas frame around your old timey photo!



**MRS BRENDA'S
OLD TIME PHOTO**

1940 W. HWY 76 (across from Grand Country)
417-320-6221

THE WORLD'S LARGEST TOY MUSEUM THE STUFF OF CHRISTMAS DREAMS! YOUR TOY STORY—PLUS THE BEST TOY STORE EVER!

Yes, 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 still-life-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.

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



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



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.



2 NOSTALGIA TOY STORES! JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

Wow, this is the golden opportunity to get the kids and Grandkids off their paralyzing video games and electronic gadgetry and introduce them to the creative and hugely fun stuff that the rest of us grew up with! After all, it was our toys that taught us the skills and inspired us to help build a better (and funner) world for the kiddos! (That's our toy story, and we're stickin' to it!) You know, toys like **Barbies**, **Lincoln Logs**, **yo-yos** and **puzzles**. Or **Etch-a sketch**, **Spirograph**, **Colorforms** or **Slinky**. Or games like **Clue**, **Sorry!** or **Candyland**. Or **Dolls**, or **Hot Wheels**, or **Mr. Potato Head**... Oh, just come see for yourself and (as they say) shop 'til you drop! **Nostalgia toys**, **Christian-themed toys** and **gifts**, oh the possibilities for Christmas are just endless!



Experience the **ONE AND ONLY...**

WORLD'S LARGEST TOY MUSEUM COMPLEX

SEE OVER 1 MILLION TOYS!

Over 30,000 sq. ft.
2 Buildings / 3 Areas

2 HUGE GIFT SHOPS!

- Toys, Antiques & Memorabilia
- The National BB Gun Museum
- Roark Valley Modular Railroad Club scale model trains running daily
- 1800's General Store
- Classic Military Toys
- 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 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 adjoining buildings on three levels, each with amazing gift shops that you're going to love.



Daisy's latest signature model is a huge seller in the attraction's National BB Gun Museum gift shop.

Tom & Wendy's Toy Story

Let's meet the people behind all this: **Tom and Wendy Beck**. Seriously—go ahead and meet them. They're usually right there! Besides being a Veteran, Tom had a long career in the retail store business. Wendy taught school. "I wanted to do something that was fun," Tom tells The Insider. "So—what could be more fun than toys?" ♦



Tom & Wendy.

Now OPEN
in Branson AND Springfield

Pizza Ranch

BUFFET RESTAURANT

WITH A WORTHY MISSION!

Besides being a national foodie sensation, the **The Pizza Ranch** success story also has something to do 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



Service from the heart!



Critically acclaimed chicken!



Elaborate salads!



Endless goodies!

any goofball pizza order they wanted and 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...

We 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 mmmmmMMM! Go try some and prove us wrong! We DARE you!"*



AND MORE!

With 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".

THE INSIDE SCOOP!

As it soon becomes 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 guest 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



KIDS EAT FREE!
Tue after 4pm. 1 kid (12 & under) per 1 adult.

on annual charity missions trips to other countries—proof that even pizzas can help make a better world!*

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.



We deliver!
**NOW in
SPRINGFIELD!**
@Battlefield Mall

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BUFFET ALL DAY

SALAD BAR · CHICKEN
PIZZA · DESSERT

Pizza Ranch

FUN ZONE

ARCADE

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SUPERSTAR CRAFTERS GET NEW HOME!

Good 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!*

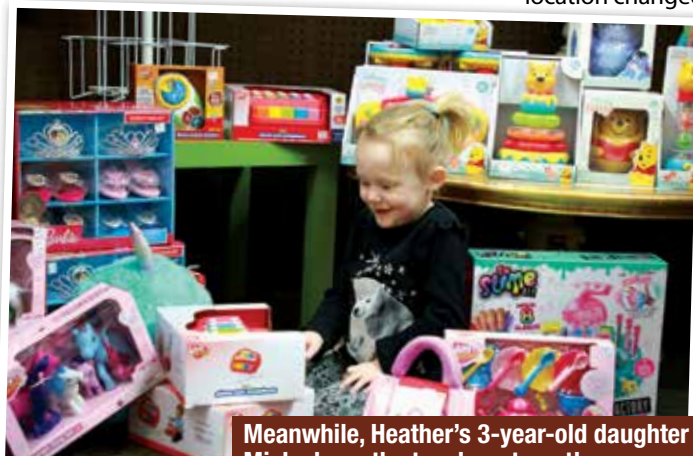
For this we can thank the aforementioned Mark and Jennifer, owners of **Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos** (a few doors down) and **Shooters Old Time Photos**, (across from Branson Mall.) As Mark tells us, "Jennifer and I also had an old time photo attraction at The Branson Mill. A lot of real friendships 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

Mark and Jennifer, seen here with Penelope, the mall's "greeter".



Local resident Heather Anderson shops quilts.



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

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. ♦



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



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

Ozark Mountain Craft Mall

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

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Branson MO
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www.ozarkmountaincraftmall.com
or Facebook

UNBELIEVABLY TRUE! AT THIS AMAZING SHOPPING ATTRACTION EVERYTHING IS



**ATTENTION CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS:
GREAT STUFF HERE YOU'D BE LUCKY TO FIND BACK HOME!**

Forget 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 old-timey 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 you, 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: **OVER 20,000 OF THESE HAVE BEEN SOLD HERE!**

STAR ATTRACTION

One item, for real, has been selling like



Brian shows us his star attraction.

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 gift idea? *Voila!*

THE MERCHANDISE:

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 toy department, the tools,



A shock for veterans!

the old timey candies, spices, gourmet food, gifts, jams, jellies...the old time ice-cream parlor & soda shop and—wow, where do we stop?

MAN ON A MISSION

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



TOYS GALORE!

Kids discover the toy department!

MAP LOCATOR

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

SHOWS

- At Andy Williams Performing Arts Center & Thtr E-8
- Rhonda Vincent - Christmas in Branson!
- The Texas Tenors
- At the Americana Thtr E-6
- CJ Newsome's Classic Country & Comedy
- Raiding the Country Vault
- At The Branson Central Thtr F-4
- Escape Reality, Magic & Illusions, Dinner Show, starring Garry & Janine Carson
- Comedy Star Steve Moris (Lunch Show)
- At the Branson Famous Thtr F-4
- Branson's Famous Baldknobbers
- Branson's Famous Baldknobbers Gospel Show
- Vintage Baldknobbers Show
- At The Branson Star Thtr C-3
- Nashville Roadhouse Live starring Stevie Lee Woods
- Masters of Illusion starring Phil Dalton
- David Brooks: The Piano Man Xperience
- Brian Clarke: Out of the Basement (A Tribute to The Classics)
- Voodoo Child (Legends of Blues Rock)
- Elvis & I starring Daniel Jenkins
- Ropes, Whips & Cowboy Songs with Chris McDaniel
- At Dick Clark's American Bandstand Thtr E-10
- Legends in Concert
- At The Freedom Journey Thtr (Formerly Yellow Ribbon Thtr) G-5
- Freedom Journey
- At The Hughes Family Thtr E-4
- The Hughes Brothers

Christmas Show*

- Hughes Brothers Country
- RE-VIBE
- At Jerry Presley's God & Country Thtr E-10
- Christmas With Elvis
- Elvis Live! Aloha From Hawaii
- A Neil Diamond Tribute starring Keith Allyn
- Carpenters Once More
- 3 Dog Night: Shambala Tribute
- Dreams: Fleetwood Mac Tribute
- The Statler Bros. Revisited
- The Temptations: Motown Legends
- Waylon, Willie & The Good Ol' Boys
- At The King's Castle Theatre E-7
- Branson's Christmas Wonderland
- Anthems of Rock
- New Jersey Nights (Music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons)
- Dublin Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies
- At Yakov Theatre B-12
- Comedy Star Yakov Smirnoff

ATTRACTIONS

- Branson's Wild World F-9
- Mrs. Brenda's Old Time Photos E-9
- World's Largest Toy Museum D-4
- Wonderworks E-6

SHOPPING

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

DINING

- Pizza Ranch B11



Bed, bath—and everything else!



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