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Louise Mandrell

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Louise Mandrell

The Center for Arts and Technology at Governors State University
The Center
for Arts and Technology
Governors State University

Richard S. Kordos, Executive Director

presents

Louise Mandrell

Saturday, July 13, 1996
Louise Mandrell

Louise Mandrell’s talent, personality and boundless energy have already won her a legion of fans. She has gotten unparalleled reviews, a string of hit records, a best-selling book, numerous commercial endorsements, her own nationally syndicated television special. She wrote, produced and performed in her spectacular stage show, "Love My Country," at Opryland’s Acuff Theatre. By any standards, Louise Mandrell is one of the hottest tickets of the entertainment set.

Louise’s dynamite road show, coupled with the overwhelming success of her “Love My Country” production during the 1991 season at the Acuff Theatre easily convinced Grand Palace Theatre officials in Branson, Missouri to tap the talents of Ms. Mandrell. Louise, and popular television and recording star Glen Campbell, served as hosts for the extravagant new 4,000 seat venue. Most shows will feature either Mandrell or Campbell, plus a guest star. She will, however, continue to tour nationally during her weeks away from Branson, a country music hotbed.

Louise leaped into the national spotlight in the fall of 1980 as one of the talented siblings on the NBC television show, “Barbara Mandrell and the Mandrell Sisters.” In the nation’s eyes, Louise became somewhat of an “overnight sensation.”

Born in Corpus Christi, Texas on July 13, Louise was a junior in high school when she became sister Barbara’s first full-time bass guitar player as one of the original “Do-Rite” band members. Before her sixteenth birthday, she had worked every major city in the United States and Canada and in clubs and on military bases all over Europe.

While still a teenager, she became a fixture on the Grand Ole Opry with the Stu Phillips Show. She both toured and recorded with entertainment legend, Merle Haggard. When barely out of her teens, she had become a well-respected Music City instrumentalist.

Louise’s ability to relate to and reach her audience is one of her greatest attributes. When Louise walks out on a stage, she literally owns it! She combines bluegrass traditions with pure country harmonies. She incorporates Broadway-perfect dance steps with an unsurpassed fluency on several musical instruments. The result of this combination is one of the most energetic and entertaining shows anywhere. From the main showrooms of Las Vegas to the heartland of the “Bible Belt,” she has dazzled and electrified audiences. Accompanying Louise are a dozen of the most talented singers and dancers in the business. Appropriately named “Spellbound,” they are an entertainment treat all by themselves. Add Louise to their mix and the combined energy virtually explodes under the spotlights.

Louise has had an equally successful impact on the recording industry. She has such RCA hits as “Some of My Best Friends Are Old Songs,” “Save Me,” “Too Hot To Sleep,” “Maybe My Baby,” “I’m Not Through Loving You Yet,” “I Wanna Say Yes,” and her hit duet with Eric Carmen, “As Long As We’ve Got Each Other.” Her six solo albums on RCA garnered both impressive sales and reviews. Her singles and albums have spotlighted the wide range and variety of her vocal talents.

Few entertainers seem to be as comfortable with the medium of television as Louise. She is constantly in demand for guest appearances. Her television credits include every major country music show, including her own two hour star-studded special “Louise Mandrell--Diamonds, Gold and Platinum.” Network notables include the successful series “Barbara Mandrell and the Mandrell Sisters,” the daytime soap “Another World,” “The Tonight Show,” “The Richard Simmons Show,” “Austin City Limits,” “Solid Gold,” “Hee Haw,” and several CBS series shows including “Crazy Like a Fox,” “The New Mike Hammer,” and the popular “Home Show.” Louise performed
on numerous nationally televised telethons and co-hosted with the late, great Sammy Davis, Jr. on a syndicated television special “Battle of the Bands.” Louise counts her co-hosting duties with Sammy Davis, Jr. as a highlight in her career.

In pursuit of her writing skills, her first book, THE MANDRELL FAMILY ALBUM, was a 90,000 word autobiography published by Thomas Nelson. It became an immediate “Best Seller” when released in July of 1983 and was released in paperback in July of 1984. She is currently writing a series of children’s books, “The Holiday Adventure Series,” which she originated for her own daughter Nicole and developed with co-writer, Ace Collins. The sixteen book series, published by Summit Publishers of Ft. Worth, Texas explains America’s most important national holidays.

“I’m hooked. I just love to shoot,” she says with enthusiasm when asked about her proficiency at shooting trap, skeet and sporting clays. She also enjoys interior decorating, is a fashion enthusiast and a hopeless shopaholic. She has a fully equipped exercise room in her home where she enjoys weight-lifting and aerobics, which becomes evident after seeing her very physical, high-energy stage performance. She loves snow skiing, playing cards and almost any type of athletic competition. This middle Mandrell is a natural born competitor who plays even the most simple games to win.

Perhaps it is her winning attitude that creates the drive to be the best. Most entertainers give performances that showcase their talents. Louise Mandrell does not leave the stage until she has given you her heart.