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2004-2018

## Presenter Series 2004-2018

Turner Center for the Arts

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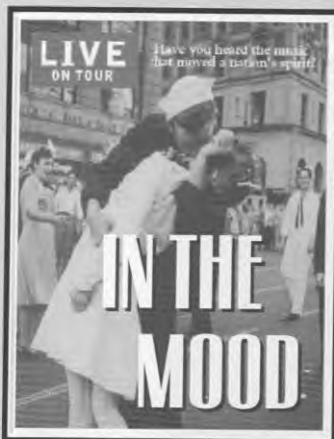
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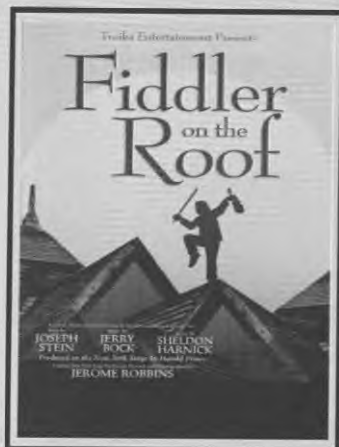
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# In The Mood

Thursday October 28, 2004

It's once again the "big band era" and this outstanding production plays tribute to all its glory. The music of Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller and many others makes a memorable tribute to a special time!



# Fiddler On The Roof

Monday December 13, 2004

One of the most beloved musicals of all time, "Fiddler" returns to the touring stage with a heart warming story full of zest and song! The music and dances of Russia's life-loving people are brilliantly played out in this unforgettable presentation.



# Stand By Your Man

Tuesday March 8, 2005

This much acclaimed musical drama plays tribute to the life and music of famed country star Tammy Wynette. Her music career was on top of the charts while her personal life was spinning out of control. Hear her music and her story played at its best.



# Legends Of Rock N' Roll

Tuesday April 5, 2005

Live on stage, the "Legends" return in one great night of music! Here is the show they never gave. Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly and the "King" of Rock N' Roll, Elvis Presley shakin', rattlin', and rollin' through one great hit after another!

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Buddy Holly John Mueller  
Roy Orbison Larry Branson  
Elvis Presley Scot Bruce

The World Famous

# LEGENDS OF ROCK N' ROLL

Buddy, Roy & Elvis



**John Mueller  
As Buddy Holly**



**Larry Branson  
As Roy Orbison**

## Intermission



**Scot Bruce as Elvis Presley**

**Music Selections and Band Members Will be Announced From Stage.**

Tour Direction  
Gurtman and Murtha Associates  
New York, NY 10123  
program subject to change

**BIOGRAPHIES**

**Who's Who**



**Roy Orbison - Larry Branson**

"LARRY BRANSON IS ROY ORBISON"... is the phrase most commonly used by reviewers around the world when describing Larry's performances. His astounding re-creation of Roy Orbison in concert and on the theatre stage has earned him roles in many major productions including the *Legends of Rock 'n' Roll...*, *Legends In Concert...*, *American Superstars...* and London's West End hit musical *The Roy Orbison Story*.

**BIOGRAPHY:**

LARRY BRANSON grew up in Western Canada the son of second generation Norwegian-Canadian parents. He didn't get into the music business until 1968... and then only by fluke. Larry's parents bought him a "sing-a-long" record player and he used their Orbison records to learn on. He would turn down Roy's voice and turn up his own to practice. Branson says "At the time, I wasn't trying to sound like Roy Orbison... I thought I was going to learn how to sing, I'm going to let Roy be my teacher. It's really strange how things turned out".

Larry graduated from Gladstone High School in Vancouver, B.C. where music was his worst subject because he was too shy and embarrassed to sing in front of the class. He worked at various jobs, but one day, while working at Radio Shack, during a lunch break he was asked by a co-worker if he would manage his brother's band. When Larry first heard them play, they were doing an instrumental version of Orbison's classic "Oh, Pretty Woman". Larry jumped in

to provide the vocal and he was soon asked to front the band. For the next five years Larry and his group "Down Home" played country music, rock & roll and just about everything until he decided to go solo.

Since then, Larry has pursued a life-long dream to perform a "Tribute To Roy Orbison". He continued to play Orbison songs at home. After Roy's untimely death, December 6th, 1988, Larry decided the time was right to get serious about his dream. In February, 1989 he auditioned for the *Legends Of Rock 'n' Roll* and became a staple in that show for the next four years. The rest is history... after stints with "Legends In Concert" and "American Superstars", Larry was discovered by the producers of a new musical in England *The Roy Orbison Story*. Larry spent the next three years acting and singing in this production which culminated in a long run at the Piccadilly Theatre in London's prestigious West End theatre district. A nomination for "Best New Musical" and the opportunity to sing "Only The Lonely" at Britain's TV event of the year, the "1995 Olivier Awards", are evidence to the fact that Larry Branson has surely fulfilled his life-long dream and then some.

More recently, Larry completed a 40 date tour across Canada during the Fall of 1998 with *THIS LONELY HEART: The Roy Orbison Experience*. The show played to mostly capacity houses including six consecutive sell-outs at the Surrey Arts Centre in Vancouver, B.C. And, most recently, a second run engagement at the Fanny Hill Dinner Theatre in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, which produced sell-out audiences for nine consecutive weeks January through March of 2000. Larry is currently performing as Roy at the Memories Theatre in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

**Buddy Holly -- John Mueller**... *The Buddy Holly Story* opened at the American Heartland Theatre in Kansas City in January, 1996. Fans were quick to realize that before John Mueller played Buddy Holly, never has the rock and roll legend been so faithfully portrayed. Aside from winning a Drama Desk award, John's performance is perhaps best summed up by original Crickets member Niki Sullivan. "John is a reincarnation of Buddy Holly. He is that good. He has the same determination in his eyes that Buddy did and when John is on stage, he is a totally dynamic performer, just like Buddy. John is awesome."

John Mueller is best known for his portrayal of Buddy Holly in the U.S. production of *Buddy... The Buddy Holly Story*. John has garnered critical acclaim for his detailed and authentic portrayal of Buddy, but he is most proud of the assessment of Niki Sullivan, an original member of Buddy's band, The Crickets... "John is a reincarnation of Buddy Holly, he is that good. John is awesome."

**BIOGRAPHY:**

JOHN MUELLER was raised on the electrifying music of Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard and of course, Buddy Holly. Playing along to that great old rock and roll with his Sears and Roebuck drum set and Dutch Masters cigar box guitar, a young John Mueller unknowingly began a career that would take him throughout the United States, playing his music and acting for the stage, film and television.

Music seemed the obvious path, but in his teens while working at the K 42 Drive-In, in his home town of Wichita Kansas, John became interested in acting. He set his music aside, stopped drag



... racing, and concentrated on his acting studies — a decision that ultimately led him to Chicago's rich theatrical community.

John's acting debut was a part in Lu Ann Hampton Lavery's *Oberlander*, a play which won Joseph Jefferson Awards for Best Ensemble and Best Production. John continued his acting career in the Windy City, performing in many great plays, including *Awake and Sing* at Wisdom Bridge Theatre, *27 Wagons Full of Cotton* at Victory Gardens, and *Henry V* at Chicago Shakespeare Repertory. He was a founding member of the Raven Theatre Company and studied acting with Tom Irwin at the prestigious Steppenwolf Theatre Company, where John also worked with Martha Lavey.

As John broke into film and television, he found himself playing roles that drew on his guitar playing and singing talents. Still in Chicago, John took roles in *Bad Boys* starring Sean Penn and Ally Sheedy, ABC's *Lady Blue*, and *Crime Story*, among others. Companies like Oldsmobile, Old Style Beer and others even featured John in their TV commercials. The place to be for film and television, of course, is Hollywood. After seven rewarding years in Chicago, John was ready for a change. His agent agreed. John moved to Hollywood and soon found himself playing a variety of roles in television shows such as *Ellen*, Linda Hamilton's *Beauty and the Beast*, *Days of Our Lives*, *China Beach*, *Lois and Clark* and others. Film credits include *Return to Horror High*, *The Roommate*, and *Out of Track*.

If acting is in John's heart, then music is in his soul. He plays concerts in some of the best places around, such as the famous Cain's Ballroom in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He's developed his own unique style — kind of a 50's rock-pop-country sound that brings back the "good old days". At the urging of fans, John released a CD, "A Boy's Gotta Do What a Boy's Gotta Do." Featuring ten original songs and two covers, the album includes "Hey Buddy", John's tribute to Buddy Holly.

John's stage career continued in addition to his work in film, television and music. His more recent theatrical credits include, among others, *Flight to Arkadelphia* (which John co-wrote), and *Return to the Forbidden Planet* at the American Heartland Theatre, where John's part called for playing guitar with his teeth! In Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*, John played the Scottish rebel Brodie at both the Northlight Repertory production and on the national Broadway Tour directed by Mike Nichols. And he starred as Buddy Holly in Adam Ant's world premiere production of *Be Bop A Lula*, giving audiences their first look at John Mueller as Buddy Holly.

John is a reincarnation of Buddy... A lot of people say that now, echoed by such publications as the Chicago Tribune — "John Mueller is living proof of Buddy Holly's legacy."

*Today Buddy... The Buddy Holly Story* is alive and well and sweeping across North America. From San Diego to Chicago, to Kansas City and Toronto, John has brought Buddy Holly back to life to packed houses around the country. In addition to *The Buddy Holly Story*, John stars in a rockin' production he wrote himself, *Buddy... Not Fade Away*.

John recently headlined the 40th Anniversary of the *Winter Dance Party* tour. Highlights of the tour included John being awarded the key to the City of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and performing at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa, where Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper gave their last performance before their tragic plane crash on February 3, 1959. The *Winter Dance Party* tour of 1999 recreated the final days of Holly, Valens and the Big Bopper. It was a moving event. But maybe it showed us that those final days were not quite as final as they seemed, after all.

## Elvis Presley - Scot Bruce

"Top Elvis Impersonator Scot Bruce has got it going on, his voice is so uncannily like the King's you'll think you're in Blue Hawaii... He has all the signature Presley moves, — the independently rotating thighs, the swiveling pelvis, the droopy bedroom eyes - down to the science." The Tennessean, Nashville.

### BIOGRAPHY:

#### SCOT BRUCE

Originally from the Pacific Northwest, where he was an air-personality at the top 40 FM radio station Z-FUN 106 and a drummer, Scot has lived in Los Angeles since 1990. While pursuing his career as a musician/actor (and having been a musician and a big Elvis fan all of his life) he started doing a 1950s' era Elvis show as a way to survive the lean times. The result was a surprise to Scot... what was meant as a part-time "gig" to supplement his income blossomed into a full-time career.

Because of his uncanny resemblance to the young "King" and his ability to sing, strum a guitar, and swivel his hips, his live show has taken him all over the world to places like Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia (where he had the privilege of performing for the King and Queen), Mainland China, Australia and several countries in Europe and South America. He regularly plays concert dates across the United States.

As Elvis, Scot has appeared in music videos with Sheryl Crow, Faith Hill, and Tasmin Archer, as well as on the FOX TV sitcom "Partners." Scot has also been heard as the "Resident Elvis" on the highly rated Los Angeles morning radio show "Mark and Brian" on KLOS FM.

Most recently, Scot has appeared in a recurring role on the hit soap opera *Days of Our Lives*, a Pizza Hut commercial, and as the lead role in three successful productions of *Idols of the King*, the prestigious Barter Theater in Virginia, the Tennessee Repertory Theater in Nashville, and ArtPark in upstate New York. If you saw the *True Hollywood Story: Elvis in Hollywood* on E! Entertainment Network, that was Scot playing Elvis in the recreation scenes. He is also a regular cast member of *A Really Big Shew - the Tribute to the Ed Sullivan Show*. Aside from "Being Elvis," Scot has also been seen as a night-club crooner on *The Bold and the Beautiful*. Scot is a song-writer, and (whenever possible) performs an acoustic guitar/harmonica solo act in the local pubs, and plays the drums with an LA-based rock-a-billy band. Two of Scot's original songs were used in Riverdance Pictures' 1999 film *On the Turning Away*.







.....We Remember.....

*Dr. John G. Youmans*



The Turner Center for the Arts Board and staff take this opportunity to remember and pay tribute to the beloved Dr. John G. Youmans. Through his will, he is the Turner Center's latest major benefactor. The return of asthma prompted his move from Valdosta to Daytona Beach, Florida, in 1997, where he passed away March 1, 2004. He was predeceased by his parents, Marie Holt Green and Dr. Lester Grace Youmans, a Valdosta dentist.

Dr. Youmans served on the executive board of Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission for seven years, and chaired the Presenter Concert Series. L/VAC experienced major growth during his years of close affiliation. Having been reared in dance school, he studied with New York's Ballet Arts School and the Paris Opera Ballet. His original choreography was performed at the Hollywood Bowl, national television, and the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles. Dr. Youmans had written performing arts reviews for both the *Valdosta Daily Times* and *The Valdosta Post*. During his world travels, he had seen the best of Broadway shows, the Metropolitan Opera, symphonies, concerts and ballets for over one-half century. He represented the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District for the Georgia Council for the Arts, and was L/VAC's liaison for Theatre Guild Valdosta, which he helped to found.

A retired educator, he received an AB from Emory University, MS from Florida State University, and PhD from the University of California. He had been on the faculties of Lowndes Schools, Valdosta State University, University of Southern California, UCLA, and Temple University. He had published two textbooks and was on the board of directors for numerous civic organizations including Elks, Ocean Pond Fishing Club, Valdosta Country Club and Lowndes Historical Society. He was an Honorary Member of YMCA and Civic Roundtable, Master of Ceremonies for the Mystery Ball Club for 25 years, and a member of the Cotillion Club for many years.

On a more personal note, Dr. Youmans will be remembered well by all who were fortunate enough to know him. He will be missed.

**If you have enjoyed this year's Presenter Series Programs and would like to receive our 2005/2006 brochure, please call (229) 247-2787.**

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