



**MONTANA
STATE FAIR**

"It's All Good, in the 406"

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2019 Montana State Fair Night Show "It's All Good, in the 406"

GREAT FALLS - The Montana State Fair is pleased to announce the Nashville icon for more than two decades

TRACE ADKINS

will take the stage on Wednesday, July 31 in the Pacific Steel & Recycling Arena during the 2019 Montana State Fair, July 26 - August 3.



Trace Adkins has made his mark on the country-music industry. 11 million albums sold. Time-honored hit singles. Momentous, fiery and always memorable live performances. GRAMMY

nominations. CMT and ACM awards. Nearly 200 million plays on YouTube. Hell, even a slew of movie and TV roles have come the Grand Ole Opry member's way. But ask Adkins what's left to prove in his career and the small-town Louisiana native says it's simple: the itch remains. To create. To collaborate. To continually feel the excitement that comes after whipping up a new song out of thin air and laying it down to tape. It's what, after all these years, he says he still craves. "It's an adrenaline rush and I love it," says Adkins, who is back in the studio working on a new project via, BBR Music Group/Wheelhouse Records. "There's nothing else like that," the Louisiana naive offers. "That is still my favorite thing to do in this business. Go into the studio with just some lyrics and a melody and then let the finest musicians in the world help take it and turn it into something magical. It liberates me. I just dig it!"

Working with some of Nashville's most respected songwriters, Adkins continues to find ways to connect with his fans through music while recording what he describes as autobiographical songs throughout his career. "Over the years people have asked me 'How could we get to know you?' Well, if you really wanted to know who Trace Adkins is go back and listen to the album cuts on

the records I've done over my career. Those are the songs that reflect where I was in my head at the time I made that record."

It's an interesting change of perspective for Adkins, however, when he hits the road for a slew of his now legendary live gigs. Where the studio offers him unique insight into his current state of mind, onstage, when revisiting his classic songs like "You're Gonna Miss This" or "Every Light in the House" nearly every evening, he says he's taken back, if only for a brief while, to earlier moments in his life.

"It's hard to describe, I gotta be honest," he says of being overcome with emotion and reflection when trotting out some of his time-tested cuts for adoring audiences. "I've gotten to the point now where I'll be onstage singing 'Every Light In The House Is On' and I look down at the crowd and realize that person right there wasn't even alive when I recorded that song." He laughs. "To watch their face go, *Oh, that's a cool hook*, it's like 'Oh my god, that's the first time that person ever heard that song!'"

Adkins says he's profoundly touched that he serves as an inspiration to a younger generation of country artists, much in the way he revered icons like Johnny Cash and Merle Haggard when first moving to Nashville. "I dig it. I want to be in that position," he says of taking the reins as an elder statesman of the genre. "I want to be looked at that way. I want those guys to think and know they can walk up to me and ask me anything and know that I'm here for them and I'll help them however I can. I relish that position.

With one million followers on Spotify and over one billion spins on Pandora (10 million spins per month), the longstanding country icon has yet to lose any of his trademark passion and killer instinct for his craft. The 57-year-old is as fired up as ever to be back on the road this year, taking his music to the fans once again. "I get a kick out of it. I still enjoy the camaraderie, the band of brothers, your crew and your band. I'm an old jock. I like team sports," he says of a continued passion for touring. "I like it when the new guy is closing for me and we turn it up a notch or two and just absolutely kick his ass. You go out and put a boot in somebody's ass!"

Ask Adkins where he goes from here and he'll say it's quite simple: keep doing what he knows and loves. Performing. Creating. Inspiring. He adores it. And, he adds, he knows so many of his lifelong fans, and new ones to boot, do too. "I'm gonna go out there and find those people," he says with a laugh of the coming months. "I'm gonna bring a band and turn it up real loud! And we're gonna have a good time!"

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