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## **New Production ‘*Headin’ West*’ Debuts at Silver Dollar City’s *Festival of American Music & Crafts***

*September 13 - October 27*

(Branson, Mo. 8/07) **Launching a major new production for the *Festival of American Music & Crafts* with the popular *Salute to the Great American Cowboy*, Silver Dollar City presents *Headin’ West*. The Broadway-style show is slated to be the park’s most impressive production ever, dramatizing the adventure of America’s Western expansion. *Headin’ West* debuts September 13 with the opening of the festival, which also features Western music stars, trick riding and roping, bluegrass bands and the nation’s top craftsmen. The *Festival of American Music & Crafts* runs through October 27 at the Branson, Missouri theme park.**

**An original musical production created exclusively by and for Silver Dollar City, *Headin’ West* tells the story of the American pioneer spirit through the characters’ quest for new frontiers in the 1870s west. The story comes to life with elaborate sets, surround-sound, revolving scenery, visual projections and period costumes. Impressive special effects immerse the audience in adventures from deep cave prospecting and white water rafting to a thundering buffalo stampede.** A talented cast of 14 actors performs, with live music enhanced with an original orchestra score.

**The festival also features Michael Martin Murphey in a special concert September 21**, headlining the Western entertainment. **Trick roper Johnny Lonestar**, seen recently on *America’s Got Talent*, performs along with the Sons of the San Joaquin, cowboy poets, Roy Rogers Jr., a Native American hoop dancer, and the singing Sons of the Silver Dollar. An all-new arena show features trick riders, World-Record holding palomino trick horses, wild mustangs and long-horned steers. Cowboy boot makers from around the country compete in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Best of American Boot Makers* competition.

**Widely recognized as the premier event for fine craftsmanship, the festival features custom hat makers, copper sculptors, silversmiths and stained glass artists, some of more than 125 visiting artists** from across the country who fill booths lining the streets of the theme park with their colorful handwork. ***Best of Missouri Hands* juried artists are spotlighted**

**around the Square** with wares including silver wire jewelry, handcrafted pewterware, hand-woven baskets and stoneware pottery. A special showcase of western crafters features custom-made leather hats, spur making, western art, bronze sculpture, and leather saddle and tack making.

**The tastes of the fall harvest are served up throughout the park**, with smoked turkey legs, roasted corn on the cob and hearty skillet meals cooked on open grills. For a full festival feast, guests can dine at *Tastes of America* in the Red Gold Heritage Hall, featuring **barbecued ribs, roasted prairie chicken, southwestern tacos or buffalo chili, and desserts from blackberry cobbler and peach pie to hot apple dumplings**, while trick riders, ropers and rodeo stars perform in the Red Gold Arena.

### **Cowboy Features**

Meet some of television's top western heroes when *Gunsmoke's* **Buck Taylor** hosts stars of classic American Westerns from *Wagon Train* to *F Troop*, and catch performances by **Waddie Mitchell** and other Western Heritage Cowboy Poets. Dancers can kick up their heels at the country barn dance.

#### **Western Performers include:**

Michael Martin Murphey	Roy Rogers, Jr.	Sourdough Slim
Sons of the San Joaquin	Kip Calahan	Bill Barwick
Red Steagall	Sons of the Silver Dollar	R.W. Hampton
Syd Masters and the Swing Riders	Waddie Mitchell	Johnny Lonestar

### **Bluegrass & Traditional Music Features**

National touring bands, gospel and bluegrass favorites perform throughout the park.

#### **Performers include:**

The Biscuit Burners	Foxfire Bluegrass	Hit & Run Bluegrass
The Chapmans	Midnight Flight	NewFound Road
Bluestar	The Martins	The Wilders

**The sounds and smells of the fall harvest fill the Silver Dollar City Square**, where guests can see sorghum and apple butter making. A cast of talented singers and dancers perform in *This Country's Rockin'* at Echo Hollow Amphitheatre each evening.

Throughout the festival, the park is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays, and 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays. For festival and ticket information, call 1-800-831-4FUN. Information, music groups' performance schedules and craftsmen schedules can be found on the web site at [www.silverdollarcity.com](http://www.silverdollarcity.com).

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