

SPRING 2014



ACM

TEMP

ACM PARTY FOR A CAUSE[®] FESTIVAL RETURNS

RASCAL FLATTS & KEITH URBAN HEADLINE THE TWO-DAY MUSIC FEST IN VEGAS

Honoring
THE TROOPS

HAGGARD, STRAIT HELP ACM SPECIAL SPOTLIGHT THE MEN & WOMEN IN UNIFORM

#BLUKE!

LOVABLE AND MISCHIEVIOUS,
BLAKE & LUKE
ARE BACK TO HOST THE
49TH ACM AWARDS

TUNE IN LIVE
49TH ACM AWARDS
SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH
8 PM ET/PT ON CBS

PLUS: NEW INTERVIEWS with Entertainer nominees Bryan, Lambert, Shelton, Strait and Swift, New Artist Nominees Eldredge, Moore & Moore | **ACM FAN JAM HOSTS** Florida Georgia Line

LUKE BRYAN

BLAKE SHELTON



BUKKE

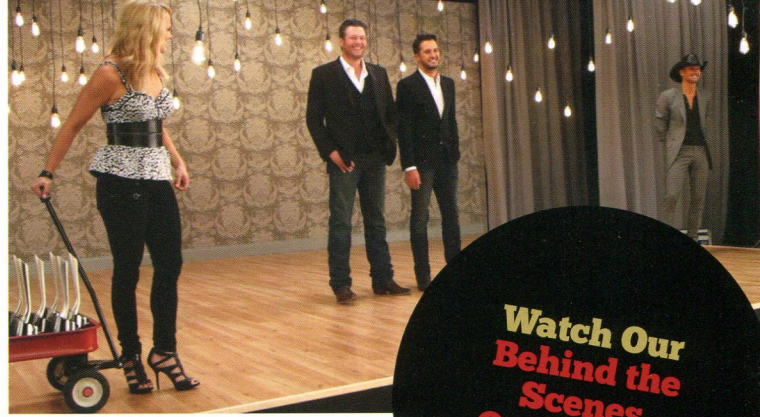
THE BOYS
ARE BACK FOR
A FUN-FILLED
SEQUEL AS
HOSTS OF
THE 49TH
ACM AWARDS

SCENE: Slow-motion shot of Blake Shelton and Luke Bryan, onstage, sharply dressed in jackets and crisp white shirts.

VOICE OVER: "Last year, they made you laugh, they made you cry....this year, they will make history!"

BLAKE: "We're just hosting, right? Not rescuing kittens or performing heart transplants?"

LUKE: "I just signed up for hosting, that's all."



Watch Our
Behind the
Scenes
Outtakes at
acmcountry.com

After last year's triumphant turn as hosts of the *Academy of Country Music Awards*, it's no wonder fans and country insiders alike might actually think Blake and Luke could rescue kittens and perform heart transplants. Their good-natured sarcasm, striking looks and musical prowess gave fans at home a great reason to watch and solidified the sum of their star power now and forevermore known as "Bluke." On a Nashville soundstage Feb. 20th shooting promos for this year's *ACM Awards*, the two friends fell right back into their old rhythm, suiting up for their second hosting turn at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on April 6th.

"I think the biggest thing that I learned last year is I can't depend on Luke as much as I would like to be able to say that I can," Blake shared during a quick interview on the set. "I intended for him to lean on me a little bit being that it was his first year, but that favor is really not one that's returned often when I need his help."

"I'm not a crutch," Luke deadpanned back.

The year that has passed since the 2013 ACMs has been good to both Shelton and Bryan. Blake continues in his role as the most charming host on NBC's *The Voice*, and his latest album, *Based on a True Story*, helped earn him five ACM Award nominations—including Album, Male Vocalist, Song, Vocal Event and Entertainer of the Year. His growing fan base outside the country genre helped him sell out upcoming shows on his "Ten Times Crazier Tour" at both New York's Madison Square Garden and the Hollywood Bowl.

"I'm in L.A. to film *The Voice*, and I drive by the Hollywood Bowl on my way to the set. It is such an iconic venue in LA and I have wanted to perform there for a long time," said Blake. "Then there is Madison Square Garden. Hands down, there is not one artist who doesn't dream about playing Madison Square Garden. It's mind blowing to think I'm performing at Madison Square Garden and the Hollywood Bowl, let alone selling them out."

Luke's career has continued to blast to another level since fans voted him ACM Entertainer of the Year at the 2013 show. His fourth album, *Crash My Party*, debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Country Albums chart, going on to sell more than a million copies. Luke is up for ACM Album, Male Vocalist and Entertainer of the Year, and his 2014 headlining tour will for the first time wrap in some stadium shows, including Pittsburgh's Heinz Field, Chicago's Soldier Field and Philly's Lincoln Financial Field.

BY LISA LEE

"There's nothing that feels better on this earth than to know you're loved by fans," Bryan said during a press conference to announce the stadium dates.

Back at the *ACM Awards* promo shoot, Blake and Luke were joined on set by Miranda Lambert and Tim McGraw, who are this year's top nominees at the ACM Awards. Miranda and Tim got in a few comedic jabs of their own, thanks to some great scripts from CBS. And, Miranda—who is nominated for 7 ACM Awards—admitted it wasn't a bad gig.

"Hanging out with three hot guys all day and being the only girl doesn't suck obviously!" Miranda joked in a dressing room between takes. "But Tim McGraw—we were all at one point standing around with him like vying for his attention. I think he's kind of been a hero in all of our lives—Luke, Blake and myself. So I think it was cool for all of us to get to hang out with him today. But he's poised and classy. We're all kind of hillbillies compared to him. So he's probably glad to get the hell out of here!"

McGraw, who has won 15 ACM Awards and is nominated for another 7 this year, knows a thing or two about holding an audience. He's expecting good things from "Bluke 2."

"I've known those guys for a long time," McGraw said. "To be able to be out there on something like this and doing something off the cuff, it's a lot of fun."

ACM Awards producers Rac Clark and Barry Adelman are expecting great chemistry and a lot of ad libbing from the duo this year. They are working on scripts that will turn them loose... to an extent.

"We like to do the most current comedy possible, so we are adding to it day by day as new things happen," Adelman said. "Blake and Luke also have a couple of wild and crazy ideas of their own, and if we can pull them off they will be water cooler moments."

Clark jokingly added, "We want to give them enough rope, but not enough to hang themselves."

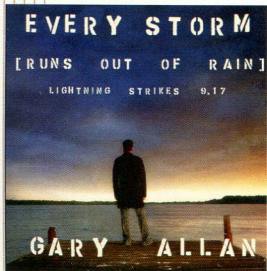
Until the magic happens on April 6th, Blake and Luke are just enjoying the ride—and each other's company.

"We've been talking fish. We catch up on each other's hunting and fishing," Luke said. "You know, the important stuff." ●

BEHIND THE SONG

Every song has its own story. Just what inspired this year's nominees for **ACM SONG OF THE YEAR**? We scoured the online world for some interesting facts behind the songs, songwriters and artists who brought these stellar tunes to life.

BY MIA O'BRIEN



“EVERY STORM (RUNS OUT OF RAIN)”

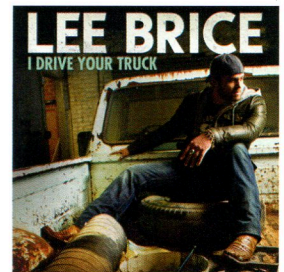
ARTIST: Gary Allan | **COMPOSERS:** Gary Allan, Hillary Lindsey, Matthew Warren

- Gary Allan has had No. 1 hits as an artist before, but this is his first as a singer and songwriter.
- This track marks the first time that songwriter Hillary Lindsey also contributed back-up vocals on one of her songs.
- The song was inspired when songwriter Matthew Warren was randomly hit by a rock in the face while weeding. The “voice inside his head” told him to keep going, and that “every storm runs out of rain”... so he immediately wrote down the lyric on his iPhone and soon got in touch with Hillary Lindsey about writing this song.
- In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, Gary Allan created a relationship with the American Red Cross. Fans who donated to the Red Cross via Allan's website received a free download of an acoustic version of “Every Storm.”
- This song is also Hillary Lindsey's first number one song for a male artist.

“I DRIVE YOUR TRUCK”

ARTIST: Lee Brice | **SONGWRTIERS:** Jessi Alexander, Connie Harrington, Jimmy Yeary

- Jessi Alexander and Connie Harrington are nominated together twice this year as songwriters.
- The idea for the song came to Connie Harrington when she was listening to NPR over Memorial Day Weekend. The station was interviewing Paul Monti, the father of fallen U.S. Army Sgt. Jared Monti, who died while trying to save a fellow soldier in the crossfire. When the interviewer asked Paul how he kept his son close, he responded “I drive his truck.” The quote immediately struck a chord with the songwriter, who wrote it down on a notepad and set out to write this song.
- Miley Cyrus' hit “The Climb” was among the songs that Alexander wrote for Disney's Hannah Montana. Ironically, that was the song Paul Monti, played at his son Jared's memorial service.



“MAMA'S BROKEN HEART”

ARTIST: Miranda Lambert | **SONGWRTIERS:** Brandy Clark, Shane McAnally, Kacey Musgraves

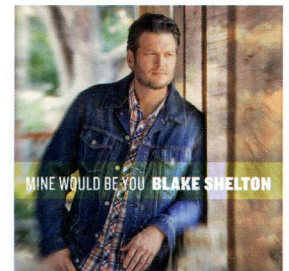
- According to The Boot, Kacey Musgraves and Miranda Lambert grew up writing songs together before eventually going their separate ways in the country music industry. They would reconnect at Miranda Lambert and Blake Shelton's rehearsal dinner, where Musgraves' sister was shooting pictures and Musgraves was in attendance. During the dinner, Lambert approached her long-time friend to ask if she would be cutting this track—to which Musgraves replied, “I'll think about it for a couple of days.” Eventually, Musgraves emailed Lambert to give her blessings—if Musgraves was allowed to sing harmony.
- “Mama's Broken Heart” and “Merry Go 'Round” (from Musgraves' *Same Trailer Different Park* album) were both nominated for Best Country Song at the 2014 Grammy Awards—“Merry Go 'Round” won the award.
- Shane McAnally also produced Kacey Musgraves' *Same Trailer Different Park*, including co-writing “Merry Go 'Round” and eight other tracks.



“MINE WOULD BE YOU”

ARTIST: Blake Shelton | **SONGWRTIERS:** Jessi Alexander, Connie Harrington, Deric Ruttan

- Both “Mine Would Be You” and “I Drive Your Truck” mark the first two times Alexander and Harrington have worked together.
- Deric Ruttan was on vacation in Mexico and sitting at the same table as songwriter Jimmy Yeary (“I Drive Your Truck”) when both found out they had been nominated for Country Song of the Year at the Grammys.
- This song marks the first time Ruttan and Alexander have worked together, but they have been friends for nearly 12 years—she even sang at his wedding.
- ACM Nominee Sheryl Crow called the tune “the perfect song,” and said it has inspired her own songwriting.



DARIUS RUCKER
wagon wheel



“WAGON WHEEL”

ARTIST: Darius Rucker featuring Lady Antebellum | **SONGWRTIERS:** Bob Dylan, Ketch Secor

- This song was pieced together over the course of nearly forty years. The track, originally referred to as simply “Rock Me Mama,” was a cast-off cut of Bob Dylan's in 1972, and, later, in 2004, Old Crow Medicine Show's Ketch Secor completed the song by writing his own verses (with Dylan's blessing). Darius Rucker then cut his own version of the song in 2013.
- This isn't the first time Dylan has inspired Rucker's work. Back in 1995, Rucker, then the front-man for Hootie and the Blowfish, used several quotes from Dylan's “Idiot Wind” for his own #1 hit, “Only Wanna Be With You.”
- Rucker toured with Lady Antebellum from 2011-2012 on their “Own the Night” Tour, and he frequently plays golf with the band's Charles Kelley.

Thanks to our sources: Yallwire, CNN, The Boot, Rolling Stone, The Tennessean, CBC News