

JOHN MELLENCAMP TO EMBARK ON CANADIAN “SAD CLOWNS & HILLBILLIES TOUR”

FOLLOWING 100+ SOLD-OUT U.S. SHOWS, CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED SINGER-
SONGWRITER WILL SET OUT ON 20+ NEW CANADIAN DATES

TICKETS ON-SALE FRIDAY, JUNE 1



PRESS PHOTO (CREDIT MARC HAUSER) – [DOWNLOAD](#)

New York, NY (May 29, 2018) – Following two hugely-successful U.S. concert tours, **JOHN MELLENCAMP** will set out once again this Fall for 20+ stops across Canada for his **SAD CLOWNS & HILLBILLIES TOUR**. Hailed by critics and fans alike as one of Mellencamp’s most authentic and crowd pleasing concerts of his career, the tour will begin September 26th in Moncton, NB and span two months.

Tickets for the tour will be available to the general public beginning **Friday, June 1st at 10:00am local time**. Mellencamp.com and VIP pre-sale tickets will be available beginning Wednesday, May 30th at 10:00am local time until Thursday, May 31st at 10:00pm local time. For more information and all ticketing information please visit Mellencamp.com.

Mellencamp’s live shows have garnered huge critical acclaim with the *Hollywood Reporter* calling it a “triumphant, career-spanning show” and a “superb performance...still full of fiery defiance” by the *Boston Globe*. His extensive touring and live shows have solidified the Rock and Roll Hall-of-Famer’s place at the forefront of American music for the past 40 years.

ADDITIONAL PRAISE FOR JOHN MELLENCAMP

“...a triumphant career spanning show...[Mellencamp] still displays joy in performing.” *Billboard/The Hollywood Reporter*

“Mellencamp’s music felt as timeless as it did nostalgic Monday night before what was essentially a sold-out crowd.” *Green Bay Press-Gazette*

“If you mixed a **PREACHER**, a **PUNCH PRESS OPERATOR** and an **OLD BLUESMAN** together in the back of a cement mixer, John Mellencamp would come out in the pour.” *Duluth News Tribune*

JOHN MELLENCAMP CANADA 2018 TOUR DATES

Date	City	Venue
September 26, 2018	Moncton, NB	Moncton Events Centre
September 27, 2018	Saint John, NB	Harbour Station
September 29, 2018	Halifax, NS	Halifax Forum
October 2, 2018	Ottawa, ON	TD Place
October 4, 2018	Kingston, ON	Rogers K-Rock Centre
October 6, 2018	Oshawa, ON	Tribute Communities Centre
October 7, 2018	St. Catharines, ON	Meridian Centre
October 10, 2018	Sudbury, ON	Sudbury Arena
October 11, 2018	Sault Ste Marie, ON	Essar Centre
October 13, 2018	Thunder Bay, ON	The Community Auditorium Thunder Bay
October 23, 2018	Winnipeg, MB	Bell MTS Place Theater
October 24, 2018	Brandon, MB	Westoba Place
October 26, 2018	Estevan, SK	Affinity Place
October 28, 2018	Lethbridge, AB	Enmax Centre
October 29, 2018	Saskatoon, SK	Sasktel Centre
November 1, 2018	Cold Lake, AB	Imperial Oil Place
November 3, 2018	Dawson Creek, BC	Encana Events Centre
November 4, 2018	Prince George, BC	CN Centre
November 6, 2018	Kamloops, BC	Sandman Centre
November 7, 2018	Cranbrook, BC	Western Financial Place
November 10, 2018	Kelowna, BC	Prospera Place
November 12, 2018	Victoria, BC	Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre
November 14, 2018	Abbotsford, BC	Abbotsford Centre

ABOUT JOHN MELLENCAMP

John Mellencamp's career in music, spanning more than 35 years, has seen him transition from pop star to one of the most highly respected singer/songwriters of a generation. Mellencamp is incredibly acclaimed; he is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, a Grammy winner, a recipient of the John Steinbeck Award, ASCAP Foundation's Champion Award, The Woody Guthrie Award and Americana Music Association's Lifetime Achievement Award and more recently, the Founders Award, the top honor assigned by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. Additionally, he will be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame on June 14, 2018. He is also one of the most successful live concert performers in the world. In 1985, Mellencamp, together with Willie Nelson and Neil Young, created Farm Aid. The social activism reflected in his songs helped catalyze Farm Aid, the concert series and organization that has addressed the struggle of American family farmers for more than 25 years.

John Mellencamp's album, *Sad Clowns & Hillbillies*, featuring Carlene Carter, is his 23rd over the course of a remarkable career. *Sad Clowns & Hillbillies* returns Mellencamp to the musical eclecticism that is, itself, a reflection of his wide-ranging musings on life and showcases a poet who has wisely used the years between youth and the present day to become an absolute master of songwriting and interpretation. That passion and experience resonates most beautifully in this showcase of his music.

John also wrote the title song for the film, *The Yellow Birds*, an American war film directed by Alexandre Moors and based on the novel *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers. The film stars Tye Sheridan, Jack Huston, Alden Ehrenreich, Jennifer Aniston, and Toni Collette. A theatrical release of this movie will debut June 15, 2018. As well, John journeyed into the darkness of coal mining life in his reverent cover of Merle Travis' 1946 song "Dark as a Dungeon," recorded in support of National Geographic's acclaimed documentary about the mining industry, "From The Ashes," produced by Michael Bloomberg, former NYC Mayor.

John continues to focus on another facet of his artistic expression: painting. His style has progressed over the years as evidenced by several gallery shows and published portfolios, and in recent years he has increased his output by completing over 100 new works. Currently John's second solo exhibition at the ACA Gallery titled "Life, Death, Love, and Freedom" opened on April 26, 2018 running through June 2, 2018.

Ghost Brothers of Darkland County, a musical/play with music and lyrics by John Mellencamp, a libretto by author Stephen King and production by T Bone Burnett will travel to various colleges and regional/local theaters in 2018.

Mellencamp continues his journey as the walking embodiment of heartland rock; passionate, plain-spoken, and a self-proclaimed rebel. John Mellencamp continues to live and work in Bloomington, Indiana.



JOHN MELLENCAMP

-**Billboard/Hollywood Reporter:**

A **triumphant** career-spanning show ... The familiar music, delivered in slightly tweaked arrangements that gave them freshness, was perfectly delivered ... [Mellencamp] still displays a tremendous joy in performing.

-**New York Times:**

John Mellencamp, **still defiant** ... The songs in the show, old as well as new, often shared a theme of unbowed resilience in the face of inexorable forces, especially the march of time.

-**Hamilton Spectator:**

A 'plain-spoken' poet facing down life's longest days ... [Mellencamp] is looking back on his Hall of Fame career with some sentimentality, but living fully in the present and ready for what lies ahead. Mellencamp hasn't lost any of his song-writing powers. If anything they've grown with maturity. He remains the "plain spoken" poet of the hinterland, his lyrics never requiring interpretation.

-**Louisville Courier-Journal:**

[Mellencamp's] always been a consummate showman, but there was an underlying richness to his set that was far more impressive ... as he's gotten older the songs have gained a sense of gravity that resonates with unexpected impact.

-**Dallas Morning News:**

Effective as the classics were, Mellencamp also thrilled with some left-of-center performances ... The capacity crowd ended up enjoying many shades of Mellencamp on Saturday -

as a performer, he delivered on every level.

-**Boston Globe:**

[A] superb performance ... still full of fiery defiance [Mellencamp's] rightfully refusing to become a nostalgia act

-**Chicago Tribune:**

[Mellencamp has] created some of his most vital music over the past decade on records steeped in roots fare and serious reflection. Mellencamp channeled gospel grit by professing humble appreciation for what life offers.

-**New Orleans Times-Picayune:**

Mellencamp's own 30-odd-year catalog of rustic, muscular rock 'n' roll hits is as deep as the cold, triky Mississippi and from which he drew thoroughly ... [But] Mellencamp, the rough-hewn heartland rocker, is actually **a lot weirder and darker than you remember.**

-**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette:**

One of the more artful transitions from arena spectacle to theater show, offering something rich and beautiful while also bringing the rock ... With nothing left to prove but his staying power, [Mellencamp] still has the fight in him and he's **still finding ways to push his limits as an artist.**

-**Charlotte Observer:**

John Mellencamp is every bit as edgy and his music just as relevant as when he came on the scene in the 1970's.

-**MLive:**

Mellencamp is as **compelling a performer as ever.**

-**Tampa Bay Times:**

Mellencamp goes his own way, always has, even when those paths weren't the most obvious or popular ... He's managed to remain exactly who he wants to be.

-**Kansas City Star:**

Forty-plus years into a career in music, [Mellencamp] can still deliver a live show filled with energy and enthusiasm.

-**Tampa Tribune:**

From anti-authority to an appreciation of the simple life, Mellencamp's gift may be his ability to capture the American spirit.

-**Ft. Worth Star-Telegram:**

The pique Mellencamp once externalized so forcefully has become a pitched, internal struggle. Watching an artist work through it in real time was **something to see, baby.**

-**Cincinnati Out Of The Blue**

Although the words "good old days" are often used to describe John Mellencamp, he is **by no means a nostalgia act.**

He proved this when he hit the stage with two straight album tracks from his new album *Plain Spoken* [which] follow familiar themes in his music: music about everyday life and people. These songs resonate as much as any of his older material.

-**Florida Times-Union:**

Going to a John Mellencamp concert has always been sort of like sitting in the passenger seat of a hot rod. **Strap in and hang on, because it's gonna be a wild ride.**

-**Des Moines Juice:**

Mellencamp is looking to the future, not the past.

-**Austin Events Examiner:**

[Mellencamp's] songwriting talent and command of the stage has simply grown and gotten better over the years.

-**Green Bay Press-Gazette:**

[Mellencamp's] found his sweet spot making the move from arenas to theaters, where **his masterful storytelling gets the spotlight.**

-**Columbia Free Times:**

John Mellencamp proved he's still not willing to play it safe ... More recent ruminations such as "Troubled Man" stood shoulder-to-shoulder with classics like "Rain on the Scarecrow," both benefitting from the proximity ... Given how he's grown into his position as an elder statesman of rock'n'roll without becoming a caricature of himself or a frozen-in-time oldies act, I'd say that time is definitely on his side.

-**Virginian Pilot:**

John Mellencamp is still cool.

-**AXS Entertainment (RI):**

It was a career-spanning night that emphasized just why Mellencamp is the voice of the heart-land. Both his new tracks and his classics speak loudly and clearly to what it means to be an American, resonating with listeners young and old. The music is timeless, and his execution of was flawless.

-**Philadelphia City Paper:**

Bluesy, inventive and energetic, it was **one of my favorite concerts so far this year.**

-**Oakland Press:**

Putting John Mellencamp in an opera house seems like the proverbial bull in the china shop scenario ... but the Indiana singer and song-writer has expanded his musical reach to comfortably fit such intimate confines ... There was an age-appropriate gravitas and deliberate arc to the show that made it **MORE vital than just another rock'n'roll showdown.**

-**Peoria Journal Star:**

[Mellencamp's] voice still roars with power ... [He] still brims with plenty of swagger and appeal.

-**Toronto Sun:**

The Indiana-born musician (is) pretty great at the performing part and his six-piece band delivered a high energy, sonically creative set.

-**Nashville AXS:**

One thing that hasn't changed about John Mellencamp ... **is that he puts on one of the most electrifying rock shows in the business.**

-**The Roanoke Times:**

Nearly 40 years have passed since John Mellencamp started in the music business, and he still knows how to get a crowd stirred up.

-**Fort Wayne News-Sentinel:**

John Mellencamp and his band rocked the Embassy Theatre on Saturday evening to a sold-out crowd ... At 63 his voice sounded as true as it did in his 20's. After touring for nearly four decades, Mellencamp still had the audience on their feet

-**South Carolina Music Guide:**

John Mellencamp, a **masterful songwriter** and gracious band leader, gives every indication that he will continue writing, and performing some of the new stuff, and some of the old stuff, and leading fans old and new through songs with tales of caution, of small towns, of protest, and of people, for some time yet to come

-**San Antonio Express-News:**

Plainspoken from start to finish - not a bad way to rock'n'roll.

-**New Orleans Advocate:**

[Mellencamp] remains the populist poet-rocker he was three decades ago.

-**Atlanta Journal Constitution:**

Mellencamp demonstrated that even an artist with one of the most durable catalogs in classic rock can produce relevant material nearly four decades into a career. Mellencamp and the band sounded record perfect, with some added grit.

-**Broadway World (RI):**

Mellencamp can still rock and roll with the best of them, and better than most. He has not slowed down, nor has he lost any of his ability to work a guitar or belt out a tune, whether it's hand-clapping, foot-stomping rock or down- and-dirty blues ... It was an incredible atmosphere to be in as Mellencamp and the entire building absolutely rocked.

-**Cleveland Plain-Dealer:**

The show-opening "Lawless Times," "Troubled Man" and especially "The Isolation of Mister" spotlight a poet who wisely used the years between youth and his 60's to become the absolute master of songwriting.