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5 questions with Dave Russell

By Megan Wood The Press Tribune



know and go

What: Dave Russell

When: 7 p.m. Saturday

Where: The Fountains at Roseville

North Carolina bred, Rocklin transplant Dave Russell is back in town for the summer concert series at The Fountains in Roseville this weekend.

His debut album, "Living it Up...on My Way Down" was released in 2005 online and in some small retail stores. The country music singer is in the final negotiations to launch his second album next year and took time out to introduce the man behind the music.

Rocklin resident Dave Russell will give a concert at the Fountains at Roseville Saturday at 7 p.m.

1. You've been traveling a lot, what brings you to Roseville?

"I've been up and down the state doing rodeos and fairs, doing shows in Vegas and Reno but anytime I get a chance to come back home I jump at the opportunity. Anytime I can play in my own backyard it's nice. It reminds me of where I grew up, just more high-tech. Here you can get right in there with the crowd... meet the families and the kids dance and have a good time."

2. Since you have no professional music training, how did you get your start?

"I consider myself very lucky and very blessed. I believe everybody can sing and everyone has a talent, it just so happens mine is singing and music. I feel very blessed I can do what I'm able to do. I always surround myself with musicians like George Jones, Tammy Wynette and Chris Cagle who push me and teach me. I'm able to learn so much from them. I was one of the few unsigned artists asked to perform on the Grand Ole Opry stage and asked to be part of the rededication ceremony in 1995. To walk out (onto the stage) of the 'mother church' of country music was just amazing."

3. You say you consider yourself an entertainer and not just a musician, why?

"I always strive to be an entertainer and not just a singer. I wanted to know what it was like be on stage in other capacities. I studied with a stand-up comic because I wanted to learn how to really bomb. Even the best comedians get out on stage and their best stuff some people don't find funny. I wanted to know what it was like to handle a crowd, so I learned magic and studied with a magician to add to my depth. I want people to feel connected when I perform. I don't just want to sing at them, I want them to feel entertained."

4. You've also crossed realms into video games, how's that?

"I do some of the voices for Karaoke Revolution. On Volume 2 I'm the voice for Garth Brooks and on the Country Version I perform 17 of the 23 male voices. It was a lot of fun and taught me a lot about recording in a studio. Everything (for the video game) had to be exact, there wasn't someone who could go in and do pitch correction so I really had to nail every note, every breath. I feel like I'm better when I go do a recording now."

5. Tell us about your next album?

"I just signed a new development deal with Cupit Records in Nashville so I'll be traveling back and forth writing and recording new material. Hopefully that will be coming out early next year. I'll be performing a new song (at The

Fountains) called "How Country is that?" which speaks about people in Lexuses who have never been near the country but want to get back to that way of life. I think country music and what it speaks to and talks about will always be something that people can connect with. It's about normal, everyday people working for a living, getting back to the simple way of life, the country life. I think that's kind of idealized and a lot of people miss that and want to get back to that and that's why country music will always be relevant and always have fans."

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