

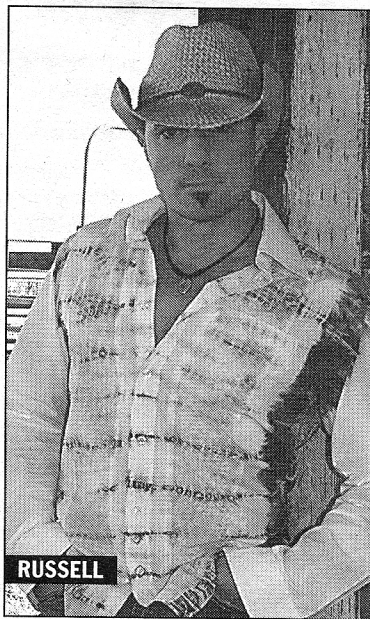
# Country musician Russell on Sunday

Country music entertainer Dave Russell, often described as "California's hottest country act," will perform at 7 p.m., Sunday on the Leber Garden Stage.

A two-time Star Search television show champion, Russell has performed on the Ryman Stage, the original Grand Ole Opry Stage, and on the newest Opryhouse Stage in Nashville as part of the Grand Ole Opry Show. He has shared the stage with Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Chad Brock, Darly Singletary, Rhett Atkins and more.

Russell has been called the "consummate performer" for his ability to hold the audience with not only his voice, but for the way he makes everyone within ear-shot, feel as if they have known him for years, critics say. A crowd favorite is the title track of his new CD, "Livin' It Up, on My Way Down."

"He takes the stage like Elvis Presley in 1968 for his comeback special," said a judge for the nationally seen show, "Nashville Star," after seeing his



audition. "He has a great stage presence."

"There will always be fantastic singers in the world," Dave says, "and a lot of times when you see them that is all they have to offer, a great vocal talent. I want people to see and feel, that there is an energy at

my shows, and me. I want to try and be the total package of singers. Fun, energetic, accessible, and relatable, that is who I am. I want that to be how I am seen. To have people see one of my shows and come away saying how much fun they had, along with enjoying the music, that is, and always will be my goal."

Russell grew up in rural North Carolina, right outside of the tobacco town of Winston-Salem. The youngest of seven, he always loved music, especially that of Johnny Cash, Hank Williams and George Jones.

After winning two championships on "Star Search," Russell packed up, auditioned for Opryland. He was asked to do a show in San Antonio. From there it was off to Nashville, Branson, Biloxi, and Reno.

To him, "it's all about the show," he says, adding that artists like Garth Brooks, Travis Tritt, Marty Stewart and Tim McGraw "who know how to work an audience inspire me the most."