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## **“ROMANCING THE WEST” TOUR KICKS OFF HISTORICAL CONCERTS AT MAIN STREET THEATERS IN April**

### **“The First Lady of Woodstock” Melanie headlines the time traveling concert**

The **Romancing the West Tour**, a narrative-style concert featuring an ensemble of acclaimed performers will launch this spring, telling the epic story of the American West. The musical and visual presentation journeys across a rich cultural history of 240 years, from the Native tribes, the Spanish Missions and Gold Rush to the Great Depression and The Sixties. A diverse group of musicians will perform an original score that capture the eras, from ragtime to rock, swing bands to folk tunes. The shows kickoff in March at landmark theaters along Main Street America, offering audiences a unique visual concert experience.

Singer-songwriter **Melanie Safka** (“**Candles in the Rain**” and “**Brand New Key**”) and pop/rock duo Gypsy Soul are featured artists in a cross-genre gathering of award-winning artists including Native American “Educator of the Year,” **Jacque Nunez**, cowboy balladeers **Sons of the Oregon Trail**, jazz pianist **Patti Moran McCoy** who played with Duke Ellington, **Martin Gerschwitz** (Iron Butterfly), **Chuck Girard** (Lovesong), fusion rock guitarist/composer **Byron Fry**, multi-instrumentalist/songwriter **John Elliott**, **Nick Garrett Powell** (The Fret Drifters), and GRAMMY nominated singer/songwriter **Pam Mark Hall**. Singer/songwriter **Christina Duane**, who created and produced **Romancing the West**, and co-producer legendary cowboy poet **Butch Martin** will also share the stage and bring the stories of the characters of the West on screen with historic imagery and reenactments.

This multimedia theatrical presentation was inspired by Duane’s vision and includes period costumes and full-screen imagery, reflecting significant times over the last two centuries, from the beauty of the Native people’s culture when the West lay untouched by time, to exploring the Oregon Trail to building the railroads and the preservation of the majestic lands. Concertgoers will enjoy an entertaining and educational production for all-ages that boldly remembers the tragic and celebrates the triumphant episodes in Western History. “Romancing the West” covers themes across the decades of social and political change to celebrate the pioneering human spirit and diverse legacy of the American West.

Historical venues in small towns along the West Coast on the tour include the Rogue Theater in Grants Pass, Oregon and The Tower in Bend, as well as the Autry National Center of the American West in Los Angeles. In addition, some acts will integrate their

better-known songs into the program, such as Melanie's signature anthem "Candles in the Rain" and Iron Butterfly's classic "In a Gadda Da Vida."

For dates and theater locations visit [www.RomancingtheWest.org](http://www.RomancingtheWest.org). Portions of proceeds will benefit "Oh Oregon Frontier Park and Cultural Center" and its interpretive history walk and children's camps. The show is sponsored by Oregon Historical Society, and Travel Pendleton. For booking call (541) 292-7829.

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