



Country's Merry Pranksters

However you classify what they do—American roots music, alt-country, Americana—**Lucinda Williams**, **Steve Earle**, and **Dwight Yoakam** are three of the most respected musicians in any genre, making a mark on generations of singer-songwriters. They are teaming up to hit the road this summer for the fittingly titled LSD tour (a hallucinogenic hat tip to their first names). The trio of Grammy winners spoke with EW about shared histories, favorite songs, and what fans who drop in on this run of shows can expect. **BY KATHERINE TURMAN**

Where did the idea for the LSD tour begin?

YOAKAM It sprang forth from Steve and I bumping into each other in 2016. We were at a birthday bash and hadn't seen each other for a few years. We were all talking, and I said, "Why don't we do something together?"

EARLE [Dwight] had the suggestion of me and him, but the next thing I heard, it was me and him and Lu. Lu and I, we do the Outlaw Country cruises together. We were headed toward something like this, so the two things kinda collided.

WILLIAMS I think [being outliers] is what connects me and Steve.

EARLE Lu lived in Nashville about the time I got out of jail [in 1994]. The first time we saw each other, Emmylou [Harris] was making *Wrecking Ball*, and [producer Daniel] Lanois came up with the idea of everybody playing on the songs they wrote. I spent my 40th birthday playing on *Wrecking Ball*; I played on Lu's song ["Sweet Old World"], too. After that, we saw each other around town.

YOAKAM The three of us have reputations that precede us, individually and collectively. We landed on LSD as a fun moniker for the tour, because you don't gotta take nothing. Just come see us and you'll be hallucinating.

What are some of your favorites of one another's tunes?

YOAKAM Lucinda's "Changed the Locks" is one of my favorite songs. It's brilliant.

WILLIAMS Awww, I didn't know that. I love Steve's song I sang on, "You're Still Standing There," and I love the song about the guy on death row, "Ellis Unit One"—it's like a troubadour ballad, and it was in that movie with Susan Sarandon, *Dead Man Walking*. That's a brilliant song.

The audience is going to want to see you all on stage together for this tour. Will that happen?

YOAKAM I got a suspicion we're gonna end up doing something, some mischief that we'll make together. I've got an idea, but...

You can't tell me?

YOAKAM Nah, I can tell you. We'll probably scrap it after the first night. We'll do it and the three of us will go, "Umm, you wanna do that again?" "No. I'm bored with it now." I was thinking about the three of us doing Lowell George and Little Feat's "Willin'." That kind of suits the moment. But if not that, there's plenty of other stuff.

WILLIAMS I know a Merle [Haggard] song, I know a Buck Owens song!

EARLE Lu's band and mine are getting to be buddies and know each other, because we've done the cruises together. We used both bands for a Tom Petty tribute...my band for half, Lu's band for half. This'll be really easy and really entertaining, I promise.

YOAKAM, WILLIAMS, ERIKA GOLDRING/FILMMAGIC (2); EARLE, RICK KEERN/WIREIMAGE; JORDAN, MICHAEL LAVINE



Yoakam, Williams, and Earle