

# OUTLAWS & ARMADILLOS COUNTRY'S ROARING '70s



Exhibit artifacts L-R: Jessi Colter and Waylon Jennings portrait, from the Leonard Kamsler photo collection; Kris Kristofferson's U.S. Army shirt; Willie Nelson's signature sneakers

## **OUTLAWS AND ARMADILLOS: COUNTRY'S ROARING '70s** **TO OPEN AT THE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM®** **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

### **A Tale of Two Cities: Nashville Rebels and Austin Cool Form** **A Rowdy Foundation for Country Music**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. May 9, 2018 – On May 25 the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum will unveil *Outlaws & Armadillos: Country's Roaring '70s*, a first-of-its-kind major exhibition. Running through February 14, 2021, the exhibit presents a tale of two cities—Austin and Nashville—and explores an era of freewheeling cultural and artistic exchange that skirted the status quo and forever changed country music.

Featuring renegades including Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Cowboy Jack Clement, Jessi Colter, Jerry Jeff Walker, Guy Clark, Joe Ely, Billy Joe Shaver, and Bobby Bare, the exhibit compels and surprises with never-before-seen interviews, rare photos, commissioned artwork, personal memorabilia, costumes and ephemera that are sometimes funky and often wondrous.

Artifact cases line the walls and vibrate with energy, as touchstone artifacts sit side-by-side, for the first time: Nelson's signature sneakers, Clark's Randall knife, Colter's dresses, Susanna Clark's album cover paintings, Shel Silverstein's worn and battered songwriting guitar, Doug Sahm's 1963 Fender Telecaster, and the whiskey still shared by Tom T. Hall and Rev. Will D. Campbell are all included, and the story is enriched by large video screens on which visitors can experience interviews with the era's legends.

A plethora of film footage, photos, and concert memorabilia help tell the tale of *Outlaws & Armadillos*, as Austin filmmaker Eric Geadelmann's artist interviews and archival footage bring the story to vivid life. There are never-before-seen images from photographer Leonard Kamsler's slides and transparencies, and there are words and perspective from storied writer Chet Flippo, whose keen perspective in *Rolling Stone* and other publications brought the outlaws to national prominence. Poster art from famed venues including Austin's Armadillo World Headquarters and Nashville's Exit/In is eye-catching and artful.

An exhibit companion two-CD set, *Outlaws & Armadillos: Country's Roaring '70s*, will be released May 18 in digital and CD formats, in partnership with Sony Music's Legacy Recordings. The compilation will be available this summer on 12-inch vinyl. The set contains 36 tracks and a 32-page booklet detailing the rich history of the era. The set is available for pre-order now at: <https://lnk.to/Outlaws>

Also complementing the exhibit is a colorful, 124-page exhibit companion book featuring rare artist photos, documents, artifact photos and original artwork, with vital essays from Country Music Hall of Fame member Bobby Bare, Armadillo World Headquarters co-owner Mike Tolleson, and writers Joe Nick Patoski and Peter Cooper. The \$24.95 publication will be available on May 25, with pre-ordering available now by emailing [Store@countrymusichalloffame.org](mailto:Store@countrymusichalloffame.org).

Over the course of the exhibit's nearly three-year run, the museum will present numerous public programs, including film screenings, panel discussions and interviews made possible, in part, by exclusive magazine sponsor *Texas Monthly* and supporting sponsors Ben Milam Whiskey and Luckenbach, Texas.

On opening night, May 25, Dave Cobb and Shooter Jennings are producing a sold-out, all-star concert featuring Bare, Colter, Jason Isbell, Billy Joe Shaver and many more. The special event will be recorded for future broadcast on satellite radio SiriusXM's Outlaw Country channel. The radio presentation will include additional content related to the museum exhibit.

Check for more information and schedule updates at [countrymusichalloffame.org/outlaws](http://countrymusichalloffame.org/outlaws)

A few artifact highlights of the exhibition include:

- Randall Model 1 all-purpose fighting knife that became the inspiration for Guy Clark's song "The Randall Knife"
- Kris Kristofferson's original U.S. Army shirt
- Black velvet cape with silk lining stage wear given to long-time drummer Paul English by Willie Nelson
- Copper still used by Rev. Will D. Campbell and Tom T. Hall to make whiskey
- Leather-bound folio containing handwritten lyrics and notes by Waylon Jennings
- Coveralls worn by Joe Ely when he worked for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in the early '70s
- Susanna Clark's original paintings used on the album covers of Willie Nelson's *Stardust* (1978) and Guy Clark's debut album, *Old No. 1* (1975)
- Door from the general store in Luckenbach, Texas, made famous on the album cover of *Viva Terlingua*, Jerry Jeff Walker's 1973 classic

- Costumes worn by Jessi Colter on the cover of her albums *I'm Jessi Colter* (1975) and *That's the Way a Cowboy Rocks and Rolls* (1978)
- Willie Nelson and Family gold ring with diamonds, made for the group's harmonica player, Mickey Raphael
- Hat embellished with a mink skull, gemstone, feathers, and snakeskin—given to Bobby Bare by Willie Nelson in the early 1970s
- Test pressing of an unreleased album by Double Trouble, an Austin R&B group that included guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan and singer Lou Ann Barton
- Guitars used and played by several influential musicians including:
  - Shel Silverstein's hard-traveled classical guitar (maker unknown) used to write many of his songs
  - 1952 Gibson SJ-200 played by Cowboy Jack Clement on many recordings, including Johnny Cash's "Big River" and "Ring of Fire"
  - 1952 Martin D-28 used by Steve Young to write notable songs including "Lonesome, On'ry and Mean," recorded by Waylon Jennings, and "Seven Bridges Road," a hit for the Eagles
  - 1963 Fender Telecaster used by Doug Sahm on recordings including "Mendocino," a Top Forty hit for the Sir Douglas Quintet
  - Gibson J-45 used extensively by Joe Ely. Ely is pictured with it on the cover of his second album, *Honky Tonk Masquerade* (1978)
  - 1958 Martin 0-18 given to Guy and Susanna Clark by Jerry Jeff Walker. Susanna Clark used it to write songs including "Old Friends," a collaboration with Guy Clark and Richard Dobson, and "Easy From Now On," co-written by Carlene Carter
  - 1960 Gibson ES-355 used by Asleep at the Wheel's Ray Benson from approximately 1972 to 1985

For more information about this exhibition, visit [countrymusicHalloffame.org](http://countrymusicHalloffame.org).

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**About Texas Monthly**

*Texas Monthly*, the national magazine of Texas, has chronicled life in contemporary Texas since 1973, reporting on vital issues such as politics, the environment, industry, and education. *Texas Monthly* produces elite journalism across print, digital, and live platforms that captures the unique spirit of Texas and speaks to Texans. The magazine is known for astute political commentary and compelling longform narrative nonfiction. As a leisure guide, it is the

indispensable authority on the Texas scene, covering music, the arts, travel, restaurants, museums, and cultural events with its insightful recommendations. *Texas Monthly* has a reputation for providing its readers with the highest editorial and design quality and has won thirteen National Magazine Awards. For more information, visit [www.TexasMonthly.com](http://www.TexasMonthly.com).

### **About Ben Milam Whiskey:**

Ben Milam Whiskey is an award winning craft whiskey produced in Blanco, Texas. Named after its founder's namesake, Ben Milam, a hero of the Texas revolution, Ben Milam distillery produces single barrel and small batch whiskeys. It is currently available in Texas. Ben Milam was a revolutionary, a soldier, an impresario and ultimately a martyr in the cause of Texas freedom. He was exactly the sort of larger-than-life character the Lone Star state routinely produces. Marsha Milam founded Ben Milam distillery to honor the Milam spirit of independence. Ben Milam Whiskey is for those who choose to live life on their own terms, the bold, the true, the gallant. [Benmilamwhiskey.com](http://Benmilamwhiskey.com)

### **About Luckenbach Texas:**

Luckenbach, Texas, an 1849 antique town, is a mecca and shrine for Texas music. In 1970, the charisma of its owner, Hondo Crouch, the "Clown Prince" and Mayor of Luckenbach, population 3, attracted music lovers – amateur and professionals – to play in his "pickers circles". Willie Nelson's Picnics and Jerry Jeff Walker's recording three albums there ignited the fire for Outlaw Music in Texas. Hondo was the inspiration for the hit song "Let's Go to Luckenbach, Texas – Back to the Basics." His motto: "Everybody's Somebody in Luckenbach."

### **About Sirius XM:**

Sirius XM Holdings Inc. (NASDAQ: SIRI) is the world's largest radio company measured by revenue and has approximately 32.7 million subscribers. SiriusXM creates and offers commercial-free music; premier sports talk and live events; comedy; news; exclusive talk and entertainment, and a wide-range of Latin music, sports and talk programming. SiriusXM is available in vehicles from every major car company and on smartphones and other connected devices as well as online at [siriusxm.com](http://siriusxm.com). SiriusXM radios and accessories are available from retailers nationwide and online at SiriusXM. SiriusXM also provides premium traffic, weather, data and information services for subscribers through SiriusXM Traffic™, SiriusXM Travel Link, NavTraffic®, NavWeather™. SiriusXM delivers weather, data and information services to aircraft and boats through SiriusXM Aviation™ and SiriusXM Marine™. In addition, SiriusXM Music for Business provides commercial-free music to a variety of businesses. SiriusXM holds a minority interest in SiriusXM Canada which has approximately 2.8 million subscribers. SiriusXM is also a leading provider of connected vehicles services, giving customers access to a suite of safety, security, and convenience services including automatic crash notification, stolen vehicle recovery assistance, enhanced roadside assistance and turn-by-turn navigation. To download SiriusXM logos and artwork, visit <http://www.siriusxm.com/LogosAndPhotos>.

*The Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum collects, preserves, and interprets country music and its history for the education and entertainment of diverse audiences. In exhibits, publications, and educational programs, the museum explores the cultural importance and enduring beauty of the art form. The museum is operated by the Country Music Foundation, a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) educational organization chartered by the state of Tennessee in 1964. The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, and in 2015 and 2016 welcomed over one million patrons, placing it among the most visited museums in the U.S. The Country Music Foundation operates Historic RCA Studio B™, Hatch Show Print® poster shop, CMF Records, the Frist Library and Archive, and CMF Press. Museum programs are supported by Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission, Tennessee Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

*More information about the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum is available at [www.countrymusicHallofame.org](http://www.countrymusicHallofame.org) or by calling (615) 416-2001.*

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