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JOHN MELLENCAMP BRINGS HIS PLAIN SPOKEN TOUR TO THE BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

FORT LAUDERDALE – AEG Live and the Broward Center for the Performing Arts present Rock And Roll Hall of Fame inductee and Grammy Award-winner John Mellencamp in his *Plain Spoken Tour* with special guest Carlene Carter on **Tuesday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Au-Rene Theater

Mellencamp's career in music, spanning more than 35 years, has seen him transition from pop star to one of the most highly regarded songwriters of a generation. The "Voice of The Heartland" continues to evolve artistically with *Plain Spoken* — his 22nd full length album and the first new music from the artist since 2010's critically acclaimed *No Better Than This*.

The *New York Times* raved, "Folk-rock and philosophy are the makings of John Mellencamp's new album, *Plain Spoken*. The music looks back towards Bob Dylan's *Blood On The Tracks*, with strummed guitars, and brushes on the drums and neck-rack harmonica, and the words ponder trouble, power, love, God, freedom, and mortality — the concerns of a songwriter acting his age."

With the #1 hits "Hurts So Good" and "Jack and Diane," the legendary singer-songwriter made music history with classic tunes that embrace the American spirit, including "Crumblin Down," "The Authority Song," "Small Town," "R.O.C.K. In The U.S.A.," "Lonely Ol' Night" and "Cherry Bomb."

The unique instrumentation of his band and his poignant songs about everyday life in the American heartland, are widely credited with being the forerunner of the Americana/No Depression genre of rural-inflected music. The social activism reflected in his songs helped catalyze Farm Aid, the concert series and organization that has addressed the struggle of American family farmers for more than 25 years.

The tour kicked off to sold-out shows in South Bend, Ind. with the *Louisville Courier-Journal* reporting, "Mellencamp had his share of fun — he's always been a consummate showman — but there was an underlying richness to his set that was far more impressive."

The North America tour is crisscrossing the nation for a total of 80 shows, hitting Mellencamp's hometown of Bloomington, as well as Chicago, Los Angeles, four nights in New York, and multiple dates across Canada. His final performance will be held in Indianapolis at the Bankers Life Fieldhouse on August 4th to benefit the Riley Children's Foundation, which supports Riley Hospital for Children.

Incredibly acclaimed, Mellencamp is a recipient of the John Steinbeck Award, ASCAP Foundation's Champion Award, The Woody Guthrie Award and Americana Music Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mellencamp wrote the music and lyrics to the theatrical musical *The Ghost Brothers of Darkland County* that has a libretto by author Stephen King and production by T Bone Burnett. This extraordinary collaboration 16 years in the making is a haunting tale of fraternal love, lust, jealousy and revenge,

performed by an ensemble cast of 15 actors and a four-piece live band, comprised of members of John Mellencamp's band. Also an accomplished painter, Mellencamp's one-man show *The Paintings of John Mellencamp* is currently on view at Morris Museum of Art in Augusta, Ga. until April 12, 2015.

Tickets are \$42.50 to \$129 with Club Level tickets available for \$189. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at BrowardCenter.org or, Ticketmaster.com; by phone at 954.462.0222 or TTD/TTY at 800.359.2525; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or the Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office. Know who you are buying from when you purchase tickets. We CANNOT PROVIDE REFUNDS OR CUSTOMER SERVICE for tickets purchased from unauthorized sites, brokers or secondary ticket sellers.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

ADT Security Services, AutoNation, Bank of America, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, MasterCard, Paramount Refreshment Solutions, Rick Case Automotive Group and *Sun Sentinel* are proud sponsors of the Broward Center.

All dates, programs and artists are subject to change.

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CALENDAR BRIEF: AEG Live and the Broward Center for the Performing Arts present Grammy Award-winner **John Mellencamp** on **Tuesday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Au-Rene Theater at the Broward Center in his *Plain Spoken Tour* with special guest Carlene Carter. With the #1 hits "Hurts So Good" and "Jack and Diane," the legendary singer-songwriter made music history with classic tunes that embrace the American spirit, including "Crumblin Down," "The Authority Song," "Small Town," "R.O.C.K. In The U.S.A.," "Lonely Ol' Night" and "Cherry Bomb." Tickets are \$42.50 to \$129 with Club Level tickets available for \$189. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at BrowardCenter.org or Ticketmaster.com; by phone at 954.462.0222 or TTD/TTY at 800.359.2525; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or the Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

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About The Broward Center for the Performing Arts

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is one of America's premier performing arts venues. Presenting more than 700 performances each year to more than 600,000 patrons, the Center showcases a wide range of exciting cultural programming and events, and offers one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the United States, serving more than 150,000 students annually. The Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Inc. receives and maintains funds to sustain, develop and secure the future of the Broward Center. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, visit BrowardCenter.org.

The Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment Consortium is a cultural partnership between the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Florida Grand Opera, Fort Lauderdale History Center and the Historic Stranahan House Museum. It is supported by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. Programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.