

Welcome to www.MusicCityNews.com



▼ Monthly Line-Up

- [Around The Block](#)
- [Catching Up](#)
- [Cover Story](#)
- [Feature Stories](#)
- [Have a RICE Day](#)
- [Hey Good Lookin'](#)
- [Looking Back](#)
- [Macon<>Cleveland CD Reviews](#)
- [News and Views](#)
- [Note the Quote](#)
- [Snap Shot](#)
- [Ten Gallon Hat / The Texas Music Connection](#)
- [The Sheriff's Corner](#)
- [Unsung Heroes](#)
- [Vinyl Destinations](#)
- [What's Cooking](#)

▼ Artists In The News

CLINT BLACK will perform at the re-opening of Buck Owens' Crystal Palace on Tuesday. The venue has b>>>

❖ SheDAISY's KRISTYN OSBORN has been tapped to host the 27th annual Words & Music Night at the Museum.>>>

❖ During public viewing at Crystal Palace nightclub in Bakersfield, California Some 7,000 fans filed p>>>

❖ GEORGE JONES was hospitalized Thursday afternoon at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, TN for pneumonia.>>>

▼ Featured Story

ANDY ANDREWS MAKES 'EM LAUGH AT SERIOUS ISSUES

by Chuck Dauphin

Looking at his biography, **Andy Andrews** has in deed been blessed. He's entertained in front of some of Country Music's most legendary stars and has become personally acquainted with a number of America's most beloved personalities. Andrews, who was a regular performer on Ralph Emery's *Nashville Now* and has been recognized with several industry nominations and awards (including *Music City News*), has witnessed amazing highs and just as incredible lows during his lifetime. The Alabama resident found himself homeless at the age of nineteen following the deaths of his parents. That experience made him ask the questions: *"Is life just a lottery ticket or is there something that we can do? Does every person just 'get' happiness and a family? Or does he or she just 'end up' under a pier?"* Over the years, he began to research the matter. *"I read over two hundred biographies to try to find out,"* he says in his attempt to delve into the reasons why some people enjoy success and some people don't. Upon reading and studying, he determined that each person had seven things in common. Andrews has assembled those traits combined with his humorous approach in a book called *THE TRAVELER'S GIFT* (Thomas Nelson).



Photo by Peter Nash

What's this, you ask? A funnyman goes serious? Yes, but don't think that you're going to be in for a lecture in any way. Andrews delivers his material in a thought-provoking, yet funny manner. He says that part of the reason for his "re-invention" comes from someone that he has opened for many times, Kenny Rogers.

"Kenny and I were on the bus one night talking about how we grew up and what happened to us as young adults. I got to talking with him about these seven ideas and he was telling me about growing up in Houston, living in a garage with his brothers and sisters. He said 'You oughta add some of this to your shows.' I replied 'In my comedy act?' He said 'yeah.' It actually became one of the more popular parts of the show. People would come up and let me know that while they loved the comedy, they also liked the serious stuff."

That's not always the kind of response a comedian likes to receive, but Andy stuck with it. He started getting calls from corporations and civic organizations asking him to speak. That led to the book, of which he said *"is a story of a family that is going through a tough time. The dad gets to travel through time and meets with seven historical figures that are also going through rough times, such as Anne Frank and Harry Truman. Each of them gives him a separate decision, that if put into place in his life,*

CLAY WALKER announces the 4th Annual Clay Walker FAMILY Reunion Fan Club Party to be held in Nashville>>>

[read more](#)

- ▼ HOT Topics
- ARCHIVE - Previous Issues
- Country Countdown
- Fan Clubs
- On the Road Again...
- Question of the Month

In light of the recent events (The Chesney/Zellweger annulment; Chris Cagle's paternity question and Garth and Trisha's marriage?)

Is Media going overboard?? How much do we REALLY want to know?

To what extent should the media get involved in publicizing an artist's or celebrity's personal affairs?

In what instances do you feel the media exploited the celebrity or artist??

In what instance do you feel the media appropriately covered a personal tragedy or event? Do you feel it's the media's responsibility to get to the nitty gritty to tell all?

Would you rather "know all"? /or/

Would you prefer media respect the private affairs of the artist or celebrity?

- read more -

Send your answer and/or comments to
noelle@musiccitynews.com

▼ Advertise on MCN.com

The "VOICE" of Country Music and Music City, Tennessee
Banner and Classified ad rates available.

To advertise with us contact
Jeff Lindsey
jeff@musiccitynews.com
615.804.5472

things will change." The book has led to a successful PBS series by the same name.

Their overall reaction to his work has been positive. Andrews says "I think they're happy. I appreciate their thoughts on it." He adds that re-inventing himself helps him to avoid what happened to him a few years earlier. "I was on a plane with a Country comedian who was 70 years old or so and I asked him what he was doing," he starts, "He told me who he was opening for. I remembered thinking 'I don't know if I want to be 70 and be the opening act for a 23-year old having their first hit. There's got to be more to this for my family and my friends. I knew from the beginning that what I was supposed to do was speak—to communicate how different we are and the differences we can make. I wasn't put on earth just to make people laugh. While that's part of it, I wanted to make a difference in peoples' lives."

Whether in front of a group of radio programmers at the Country Radio Seminar or people in other important roles, Andy enjoys the opportunity to truly try to make such a difference. "I work with the troops, the Special-Ops Squadron Commanders..." he tells us, "and I'm the last guy who speaks with them and their spouses before they are deployed. Part of what I try to do is let them understand that it's not just your spouse serving the country, it's you. You have just as big a part in this as they do. We appreciate what you're doing." That approach lends itself to CEO's, as well. "I try to let them know the value of human beings--the person who answers the phone is also the director of first impressions for the entire company. You can be gone on vacation for a month and we might not know you're gone, but if they're off for an afternoon, people might think you're closed."

All of the principles outlined in Andy's book, THE TRAVELER'S GIFT, are principles that each and every person can identify with, as Andrews told me. "There's one thing we all have in common. There are people reading this that are going through the worst time of their lives. People we see everyday. One of the things that I want to make sure they know is--it's normal. We're all either in a crisis or headed there. You need to take a breath and realize that you're still here--which means that it's not over yet! What you've been put on earth to accomplish hasn't been fulfilled. This is guaranteed proof that there's more fun to have, more success and more friends to make. Even in the worst times of your life, things are going to get better."

One thing that keeps Andrews going is his family. Of his home life, he says "my wife and I are raising a 6-year old and a 3-year old, so they keep me working. I write every morning and spend the evenings with my family when I'm not speaking." His speaking engagements keep him in high demand, however. Whether speaking in front of a Fortune 500 company, the President of The United States, a Church group, or whatever the crowd, there's something in Andy's words that will ring true for all. For more information about books or tapes by this creative gentleman, log on to www.andyandrews.com

