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U.S. ARMY MANEUVER SUPPORT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FT. LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **U.S. Army Soldier Show returns to Fort Leonard Wood Aug. 1**

**FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo.** – Rousing music, vibrant costumes, entertaining choreography and colorful visuals – all the elements of a Broadway production will be on display when the U.S. Army Soldier Show comes to Fort Leonard Wood.

Army Entertainment is slated to present the Soldier Show at 6:30 p.m., Aug. 1 in Abrams Theater here. Admission is free and open to the public. Doors for the performance open at 5:45 p.m.

“The U.S. Army Soldier Show is the traveling Army Entertainment show that they do annually and is comprised entirely of active-duty service members from various installations,” said Eli Wilson, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Community Activities manager. “This is the 31st anniversary of their show. The concept of entertainment for the Soldier by the Soldier has always been a part of this event.”

The 2014 Army Soldier Show production began its performance tour April 11 bringing a theme of “Stand Strong” to garrisons.

“Stand Strong” explores “the foundational elements of what it is that instills the strength and character of our Soldiers and our Army,” according to Tim Higdon, U.S. Army Entertainment producer and program manager.

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The 2014 show will also honor the Army's continued resilience and strength with its mission to effectively inform, educate and inspire our audiences to action."

Cast members are selected not only for their ability to perform solo, but also their ability to entertain with musical instruments, work in ensemble dance numbers and inspire an audience from the stage.

As in the past, the cast and crew are also selected to exemplify the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

For the first time in recent memory, Fort Leonard Wood audiences will have a chance to see the U.S. Army Soldier Show in an indoor theater venue. For several years, the show coincided with the post's annual Independence Day celebration, and was held outdoors, which provided some acoustical challenges for both the performers and audience members.

"Sound-wise, it should be a much better venue for the show," Wilson said. "Of course, with today's technology, you can have a show with good sound outdoors. However, the acoustics in the theater are much better as opposed to outdoors, and it should make a big difference."

However, Wilson noted that seating is limited.

"We recommend people get there as early as they can. The theater has a limited amount of seating, and once it's full, it's full," Wilson said.

While the show is free, the Army and Air Force Exchange Services will be selling concessions prior to the show. "If people want to buy concessions, they can get something to eat before they settle in," he said.

Visitors are also advised to enter Abrams Theater from the south side, due to the portion of Iowa Avenue that remains closed after a sinkhole was found in May.

For more information, call the Installation Wide Events office at 573.596.6913.

Army Entertainment is the official agency for producing and delivering diverse musical, unit entertainment activities, special events, touring shows, talent competitions and theater entertainment to Soldiers, Families, civilians and retirees at home and abroad. All entertainment operations are headquartered at Fort Sam Houston Theatre in San Antonio, including the Soldier Show as well as Operation Rising Star and the Army Concert Series.

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Media interested in covering this event, should contact the Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office at 573.563-4145 no later than, 10 a.m., July 30.

*(Matt Decker is the Guidon Leisure and Sports editor. Information for this release provided by Army News Service.)*

Encl. Photo

Photo outline: By Tim Hipps, Installation Management Command Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Soldier Show presents its 2014 production, “Stand Strong,” at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 1 in Abrams Theater. Admission is free, and the show is open to the public.

#### *About Fort Leonard Wood*

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*Fort Leonard Wood is a thriving and prosperous installation that has evolved from a small basic training post 70 years ago to a premier Army Center of Excellence that trains more than 80,000 military and civilians each year.*

*Home to the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood now trains and educates service members and develops doctrine and capabilities for the Training and Doctrine Command’s U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear School, U.S. Army Engineer School, and U.S. Army Military Police School, three gender integrated Initial Military Training brigades, one of only five reception stations in the Army, and the Army’s largest Noncommissioned Officers Academy.*

*Over the past several years, Fort Leonard Wood has received numerous additional responsibilities to include supporting the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a large Forces Command unit that is responsible for all deployable capabilities at Fort Leonard Wood. A colonel-commanded Marine Corps Detachment and an Air Force Detachment, which are both the largest on any Army installation, are located on Fort Leonard Wood; a large Navy Seabee Detachment and elements of the Coast Guard train here as well.*

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