

# Pierce Arrow

# A Show of Force!

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Photography by Stan Griffin

After 10 years of sensational success on the Branson stage, "Branson's Hottest Show" is hitting all cylinders as it roars into the 2011 season!

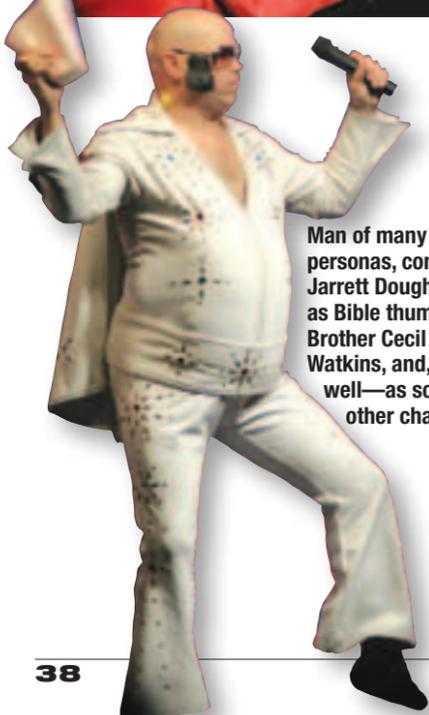


Like the classic cars of 100 years ago, Pierce Arrow has become the class act of the Branson show circuit, featuring a blend of music, showmanship, and a wholesome message packaged in a state-of-the-art production that continues to wow and delight.

While nearly every show in Branson could be considered "family friendly," containing some element of spirituality and patriotism, Pierce Arrow doesn't just contain such elements—the show is built upon them.

The calling cards of Pierce Arrow remain the same as in past years – a nearly painfully hilarious comedian (**Jarrett Dougherty**) the likes of which will not be found elsewhere, the lowest bass singers in the *Guinness Book of World Records*, Singer/Producer **Dan Britton** (formerly of *The Branson Brothers*) and Bass man **Tim Storms** (formerly of *Freedom, Vocal Union, AVB, Acappella* and *Rescue*). The two join an assembly of veteran Christian performers such as **Casey Ellison** and **Scott Fraker** (*Chosen Few*) Christian chart topper **Kim Boyce** and Kim's husband **Gary**

Man of many personas, comic Jarrett Dougherty as Bible thumpin' Brother Cecil Watkins, and, well—as some other character.



**Korieba**, (former sidekick to Russ Taff and a Gaither Homecoming alumni.) Add to this a red hot live band. The show's positive, spiritual core remains as powerful as the engine under the hood of their namesake's classic luxury car.

Pierce Arrow is unapologetic about its Christian theme. Not only is "gospel" one of the show's most popular styles, a clear statement of faith interwoven into several songs removes all doubt about the purpose behind the performance. A Christian tour group visiting Branson will most likely find nearly any show in town refreshingly wholesome. But most Christians will find Pierce Arrow is cut from their same cloth.

Fans of contemporary Christian music of the 80s and 90s will recognize **Kim Boyce**, who recorded several hit songs and was nominated for multiple Dove Awards. She and others can understandable belt out the Imperials "I'm Forgiven" with all the conviction of a revivalist, then slide smoothly into The Spinners "Then Came You."

The Pierce Arrow vocal group features five male vocalists led by Kim's husband

Gary. They are at their best when singing a gospel set that includes favorites like "This Old House" and "When the Saints Go Marching In." But they are equally adept on salutes to the Oak Ridge Boys or the Gatlin Brothers.

Pierce Arrow yields the stage to soloists Boyce and **Desta**, a spunky singer of a more modern, edgy country style. And providing excellent musicality, as well as fodder for much of the humor, is Pierce Arrow's awesome band headed up by **Bobby Blackburn**.

While visitors to the theater will go home humming and tapping their feet to tunes heard during the show, they'll likely also be chuckling over the antics of Preacher Cecil Watkins, Edwin the RV mechanic, and the elderly Harry Pitts – all characters performed by comedian Jarrett Dougherty.

Interspersed throughout the musical numbers, Dougherty keeps the show moving with humor that is sometimes naughty but never bawdy. His humor will appeal to visitors of any age, and he is capable of making a simple announcement or transition in the show an occasion for hilarity.

A former Miss Florida, **Kim Boyce** had a run of success as a contemporary Christian soloist with hits like "Here," "Not For Me," and "Darkened Hearts." She belts out one of the most powerful songs of the evening show, Lee Ann Womack's "There is a God."

Many shows in Branson have a wholesome message and patriotic tribute. Many have talented musicians and funny comedians. Pierce Arrow does feature a few elements that are unique to Branson. The stage set and lighting are very impressive, and fireworks, smoke and confetti make the atmosphere like a combination rock concert and New Years Eve party. And a better mix of country, both old and new, gospel and rock won't be found in Branson.

No non-Christian will come away from the Pierce Arrow show offended. In fact, it's likely they'll come away with a more positive impression of Christians and their beliefs. But for the churchgoer, the Christian who is looking to be inspired as well as entertained, Pierce Arrow is the ticket. ✧

**Editor's Note:** Pierce Arrow performs two completely different shows daily. A ticket to one show earns a generous half price discount for the second show, which is good for the next five days!



Branson's hottest cast poses beside their ice sculpture during their 10 year anniversary barbecue this past summer.



Christian chart topper Kim Boyce.



Desta, singing the "hot" country hits.



The Pierce Arrow quartet: (L. to R.) Gary Korieba, Cary Ellison, Scott Fraker and Tim Storms

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