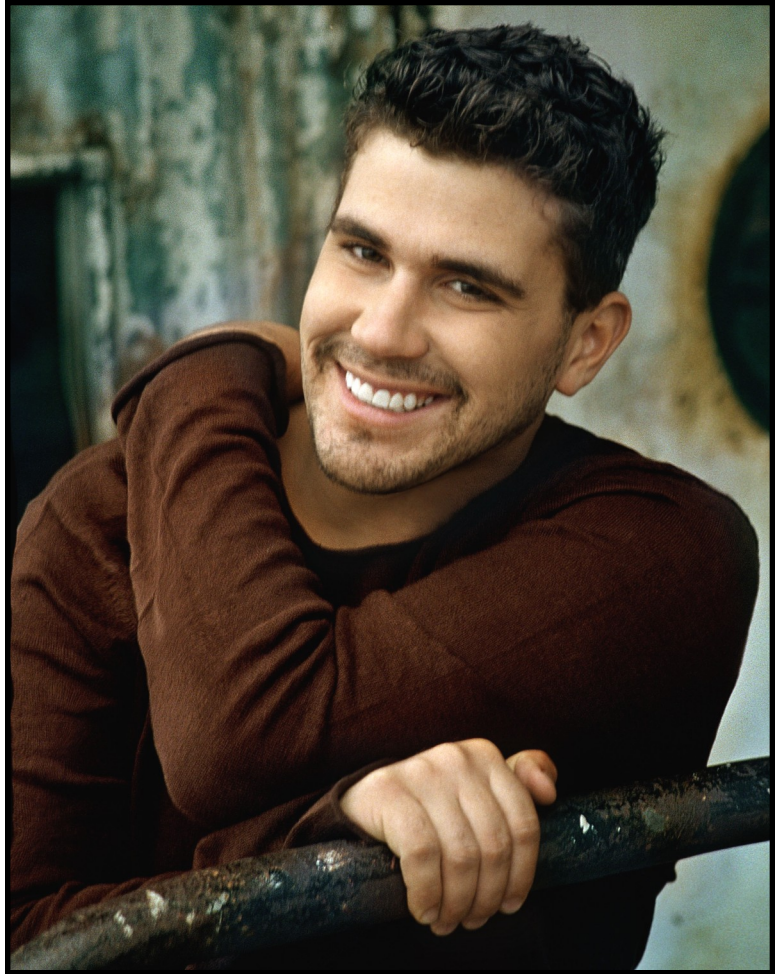


## JOSH GRACIN

by Tamela Meredith Partridge  
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According to country singer, Josh Gracin, in order to obtain stability in life and love, sometimes you have get a little crazy.

"We Weren't Crazy is the title track single from my upcoming sophomore album," says Gracin, who wrote or co-wrote three out of eleven songs for the new album, slated for an April 1 release. "It's an autobiographical song I co-wrote with Tony Lopacinski and Bobby Pinson about my personal journey from childhood to raising children and having a family of my own."



Gracin will perform at The Rosebud Theatre in Effingham on Friday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m.

"I'm from the midwest, so performing at The Rosebud Theatre is a bit like coming home for me," Gracin says.

Gracin, the only son in a family of four daughters, was born and raised in Westland, Michigan, a small rural town about 30 minutes west of Detroit.

"Growing up, my parents listened to a local radio station that played vintage rock, pop, and later became an all country music format," Gracin says. "Radio taught me that music is a powerful thing. People listen to music to get them through the good and the bad moments of their lives. They'll hear a song on the radio, and if it's a song that connected with them, or they applied it to their life in some way, they'll always remember the first time they heard that song and how it made them feel."

Gracin's first public appearance was at an eighth grade talent competition where he sang Garth Brooks '93 hit, "Standing Outside The Fire."

In high school, Gracin played saxophone in the marching band and sang everything from opera (school choir member) to Motown (The Fairlane Youth Pop Orchestra member).

After high school, Gracin enlisted in the Marines and was stationed at Camp Pendleton in Southern California.

Two years into his four-year term of the Marines, Gracin was chosen as a finalist for the second season of the American Idol talent show, ultimately placing fourth.

"American Idol 2 was a great experience," Gracin says. "I was also fortunate to have the support of my commanding officer. He really fought on my behalf so I could have the opportunity to participate in the show."

As an active-duty U.S. Marine Lance Corporal, Gracin simultaneously served his country while recording his '04 self-titled debut album. The near platinum selling album resulted in three smash singles, "I Want To Live," "Nothin' To Lose," and "Stay With Me (Brass Bed)."

"It's important to me that the songs I sing reflect my energy, values, beliefs, and point of view," Gracin says. "I've learned not to back away from what I believe in and from what I think is right. I've fought all along to be who I am. The further I go, the more I see that I only succeed when I follow my heart and stay true to myself."

Now a civilian, Gracin has bought a new home near Nashville with his wife, Ann Marie, and their three children.

"My life has changed a lot in a few years, but I haven't changed," Gracin says. "I have a family that keeps me grounded. For me, it's all about the music. I just want to get out there and help people have a good time and play some great music for them."