



Trace Adkins  
by Tamela Meredith Partridge  
"The Times" newspaper in Ottawa, Illinois  
June 23, 2011

Grand Ole Opry member, Trace Adkins, states he's "Proud To Be Here" with his August 2nd release of second album for Show Dog-Universal Music, the label headed by Toby Keith and producer/songwriter Mark Wright.

"Proud To Be Here" is another project I'm proud to put my name on," Adkins told The Times during a recent phone interview. "I found as good of songs as I could find, I wrote as good of songs as I could write, and I sang them as good as I could sing them."

The albums' first single and video, "Just Fishin'", features Adkins youngest daughter, Trinity, in a father's tender observation on how quickly children grow.

"It doesn't really matter what kind of wholesome activity you choose to do with your kids as long as you spend quality time with them and make those memories that will last them a lifetime," says Adkins of the steadily climbing Billboard Top Twenty country hit.

In addition to the 10-track traditional release of "Proud To Be Here," a 14-track Deluxe Edition version will be available July 12th for presale on iTunes, while a 16-track Deluxe Edition will be available exclusively through Target.

"The title track song is kinda autobiographical," says Adkins, a Sarepta, Louisiana native. "It has been well chronicled that I've had several near death experiences. I'm going on 15 years in this business now and I went past the normal life span a long time ago. All of which makes me proud to still be here."

No stranger to adversity, Adkins recently lost his Brentwood, TN home to a fire on June 4th. After reassuring fans that he and his family were safe, Adkins has redirected offers of support he received to the American Red Cross (<http://american.redcross.org/TraceAdkins>) in an effort to help those who were recently devastated by recent floods and tornadoes in the South.

"We're blessed because my family wasn't hurt and we had somewhere else to go," says Adkins, who currently lives at his family farm cabin where the Just Fishin' video was filmed.

Adkins, a traditionalist who speaks his mind and honors the past, has charted such career hits as "Every Light In The House," "(This Ain't) No Thinkin' Thing," "Ladies Love Country Boys," "Honky Tonk Badonkadonk," "You're Gonna Miss This," and "All I Ask For Anymore."

Adkins, who has testified before Congress on the importance of protecting Civil War battlefields, is also a successful author ('07 autobiography), veteran tv personality, voiceover narrator, commercial spokesman and accomplished tv and film actor. Acting gigs for Adkins include being a finalist on tv's "The Celebrity Apprentice" (2008), the Angel of Death in "An American Carol" (2008), and a motorcycle gang leader, Eddie Vogel, in "The Lincoln Lawyer" (2010).

"It really wasn't a stretch for me to play Eddie," says Adkins of his supporting role in The Lincoln Lawyer. "I had a blast getting paid to ride around Los Angeles on a motorcycle. If they ever do a sequel, sign me up, because it was a lot of fun."