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Country Music News for Thursday, 26 January 2006

Rascal Flatts will make their acting debuts as themselves in the CBS' hit comedy "Yes, Dear" next Wednesday night. Trace Adkins' Honky Tonk Badonkadonk tour is off to a great start after one week. The inaugural show last Thursday was a sellout in Burlington, Iowa with supporting act Josh Gracin. They continued to play to packed houses through the weekend with stops in La Crosse, Wisconsin and Waterloo, Iowa. Tonight, Trace plays another sold-out show when the tour rolls into Columbus, Ohio. Montgomery Gentry will perform tonight at The 24th annual Colgate Country Showdown National Final at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. The winner of the competition will be awarded 100-thousand dollars and a recording contract with Midas Records.

Strait Breaks Own Record George Strait has broken an attendance record of his own. The country legend recently performed at Little Rock, Arkansas' Alltel Arena, where he drew in a sell-out crowd of 17-thousand-559 fans. That was 330 more than the venue's previous record, which George set himself in February 2004. Strait kicked off the new tour back on January 12th. Since then, he's played sold-out gigs in Omaha, Nebraska and Oklahoma City, along with the Little Rock show. George's road trip with Tracy Lawrence and Miranda Lambert continues tonight in Albany, New York before heading on to Philadelphia tomorrow night.

Van Zant Love "New" Status Johnny and Donnie Van Zant are experienced musicians, but you'd never know it with the labels they've been given in the country music world. While Johnny continues to tour with his group Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Donnie with .38 Special, the duo has been dubbed a "hot, new country group" since releasing their debut country album last year under the name Van Zant. Johnny says one of the great things about recording "Get Right With the Man" was the family aspect of it. The boys didn't expect to do very well when releasing their first country album. However, they've scored a top ten hit with "Help Somebody," and even grabbed a CMA nod for Duo of the Year last November. Currently, Van Zant is on the road with Gretchen Wilson. The tour makes a stop in Chattanooga, Tennessee tonight, before hitting Columbia, South Carolina tomorrow.

Nichols' "Tequila" Makes Fans' Clothes Fall Off Joe Nichols is quickly learning that it's not just tequila that makes clothes come off. Ever since he hit the road on Toby Keith's Big Throwdown Two Tour last Friday, Nichols discovered his live performance has the same effect on female concertgoers. Women in Oregon and Washington state were hurling their garments toward the stage when sang his hit "Tequila Makes Her Clothes Fall Off." Joe admits, quote, "From the moment I heard 'Tequila' I thought it was a hit." Joe says his new single, "Size Matters (Someday)," is also proving to be another crowd pleaser. The Big Throwdown Two tour heads into Yakima, Washington tonight, and Nampa, Idaho tomorrow.

"Totally Country's" Fifth Installment Due Soon Sony BMG Music is ready to launch the next "Totally Country" CD. "Totally Country Volume 5" will feature 17 tracks that had solid chart runs in recent months. Artists like Gretchen Wilson, Sara Evans, Big & Rich and Dierks Bentley are

included. The "Totally Country" series began in 2002, with the previous four versions amassing total sales of over two-million units. "Totally Country Volume 5" hits stores on February 7th. Here's The Complete Track Listing For "Totally Country Volume 5:" 1. Miranda Lambert -- "Kerosene" 2. Gretchen Wilson -- "Homewrecker" 3. Dierks Bentley -- "How Am I Doin'" 4. Big & Rich -- "Comin' To Your City" 5. Sara Evans -- "Suds in the Bucket" 6. Van Zant -- "Help Somebody" 7. Cowboy Troy -- "I Play Chicken With the Train" 8. Montgomery Gentry -- "You Do Your Thing" 9. Craig Morgan -- "Redneck Yacht Club" 10. Keith Anderson -- "XXL" 11. Ray Scott -- "My Kind of Music" 12. Lonestar -- "You're Like Coming Home" 13. Blake Shelton -- "Goodbye Time" 14. Jason Aldean -- "Hicktown" 15. Martina McBride -- "God's Will" 16. Andy Griggs -- "Heaven" 17. Brooks & Dunn -- "Getting Better All the Time"

Rascal Flatts, Sugarland Fall Just Short In Grammy Poll If Recording Academy voters follow public sentiment, it looks like some country artists will leave the Grammys empty-handed. VH1 recently conducted a telephone poll of 529 18-to-49-year-olds in the U.S. The results of the fourth annual survey show Sugarland and Rascal Flatts each coming in second place to R&B singers. In the Song of the Year category, pollsters gave Mariah Carey's "We Belong Together" a 12 percent margin of victory over Rascal Flatt's "Bless the Broken Road." Sugarland fell four percent short of singer Ciara in the Best New Artist category. When the Grammys air February 8th on CBS, Faith Hill and Keith Urban will perform a duet. Here Are The Country-Related Results Of The Fourth Annual VH1 Grammy Poll: Song of the Year 1. "We Belong Together" -- Mariah Carey (33 percent) 2. "Bless the Broken Road" -- Rascal Flatts (21 percent) 3. "Sometimes You Can't Make It On Your Own" -- U2 (19 percent) 4. "Devils & Dust" -- Bruce Springsteen (Nine percent) 5. "Ordinary People" -- John Legend (Five percent) Best New Artist of the Year 1. Ciara (24 percent) 2. Sugarland (20 percent) 3. John Legend (15 percent) 4. Fall Out Boy (14 percent) 5. Keane (Six percent)

Country TV Today And Tonight

100 MOST WANTED BODIES (VH1) Included: Faith Hill.

MOVIE: NINE TO FIVE (FX) Dolly Parton co-stars in the movie about three office workers who hatch an outrageous plan against their sexist boss.

COUNTRY MUSIC ACROSS AMERICA (GAC) Included: Dierks Bentley, Joe Nichols and Randy Owen.

Trace Adkins Songs

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