

**For Immediate Release:**

**Media Contact: Jason Nichols**

**E: nicholsj@festevents.org**

**P: 757-441-2345**



# **Rick Springfield**

## **Headlining at the 2016**

### **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Norfolk Harborfest®**

*The Largest, Longest-Running, FREE Maritime Festival in the Nation!*

**June 10-12, 2016 on the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront**

**Norfolk, Virginia (January 8, 2016)** –Norfolk Festevents announces National Recording Artist Rick Springfield to appear on Saturday, June 11, 2016, at the 40th Annual Norfolk Harborfest® at Town Point Park, along the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront, Virginia.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Norfolk Harborfest® transforms the downtown Norfolk waterfront into a distinctive, FREE, family-friendly fun outdoor extravaganza stocked full with activities on land and sea! Norfolk Harborfest® includes majestic tall ships in the Parade of Sail, one of the largest waterfront fireworks shows on the East Coast, local, regional and national entertainment, family activities, unique and unusual performances, water activities and much more.

**National Recording Artist Rick Springfield to appear June 11, 2016, at approximately 8:00pm:**

*Over the past three decades, Rick Springfield has worn many hats as an entertainer and performer. The creator of some of the finest power-pop of the '80s, he's a Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter, and musician who has sold 25 million albums and scored 17 U.S. Top40 hits, including "Jessie's Girl," "Don't Talk to Strangers," "An Affair of the Heart," "I've Done Everything for You," "Love Somebody," and "Human Touch." He's an accomplished actor who most recently starred opposite Meryl Streep in the feature film Ricki and the Flash*

and gave a chameleonic performance as the creepy Dr. Pitlor in HBO's prestige drama *True Detective*. He's also a talented author — both his candid 2010 memoir *Late, Late at Night* (which *Rolling Stone* named one of the 25 greatest rock memoirs of all time) and his 2014 comedic novel *Magnificent Vibration* earned rave reviews and spots on the *New York Times* Best Sellers' list. In 2013, Springfield wrote and recorded "The Man That Never Was" with Dave Grohl for the soundtrack to *Sound City* — the Foo Fighters' frontman's documentary about the San Fernando Valley recording studio that was Springfield's home away from home (his manager owned the building). *Rolling Stone* called Springfield's touching interview in the film its "breakout story." In 2014, Springfield was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, located around the corner from the first apartment he lived in when he first arrived in the U.S. from Australia in 1971.

That Springfield has not only enjoyed longevity, but remained vibrant and relevant at a time when many veteran artists would be resting on past laurels led *Rolling Stone* to dub this stage of his career "The Rickonaissance." "I guess it may appear like that, but in my head, I've never really left," Springfield says. "I think it's really important to stay connected to the vitality of your career. I have a certain pride that I'm not a total nostalgia act. I've never been the guy who hung the platinum albums on my walls because, to me, it was looking back. I'm very passionate about moving forward. I have to write new music. I have to record. I'm always working on the live shows. I have to always be working, otherwise I think I'd just turn to smoke and disappear."

Springfield's latest musical effort is *Rocket Science*, his 18<sup>th</sup> studio album, which he will release in February through *Frontiers Music*. Written largely with his longtime collaborator and former bass player Matt Bissonette, the album delivers the expertly crafted wide-ranging pop-rock songs Springfield is known for. "I wanted the album to be very open and electric — rock and roll with some country elements, and always with great hooks," he says. The lyrics largely address matters of the heart with the irreverence, wit, and dark humor that has always permeated his work. "The songs usually start with titles for me," Springfield says. "A title will catch my eye and inspire a lyric. Both Matt and I are happily married, but there's some heartache on this one. You can't just write about how everything is all good and bore people out of their minds. When different emotions come up, I just go with that. I don't set out to write about anything in particular. I just look for something that feels true and that I can hopefully say in an interesting way."

Music has always been a healing force in the Australian-born Springfield's life. The son of an Army officer, Rick and his family moved every two years. "Which meant every time I made a friend, I knew I'd be leaving him," he says. "It was super stressful for me. I'd go to a new school and go through the trauma of trying to fit in." Books and records became his savior. Then at age 11, he encountered his first guitar. "This kid brought one to a Christmas fair at my school in England and it was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen," Springfield recalls. "He let me hold it. I hit two strings and the two strings happened to be the first couple of notes of the theme song to my favorite cowboy show at the time, *Cheyenne*. I realized instantly I could play the guitar. Some guys fall in love with cars, some with football teams. I fell in love with guitars."

It has been a long and fruitful affair, and one that has gifted him with a powerful connection to his legions of devoted fans, who pack his annual fan getaway events, as well as the nearly 100 shows a year he performs both with his band and solo in an intimate "storyteller" setting that he captured on the 2015 CD/DVD and concert film *Stripped Down*. Though too self-deprecating to discuss his immense appeal, he will acknowledge that the fans connect with him through the



*music. "I guess they think I'm honest," he says. "They must like my approach, what I write about. I think they like that I have a sense of humor in it at times. Because the 'cute' thing isn't going to last forever."*

*Retrieved from: RickSpringfield.com. N.p., n.d. Web. 7 Jan. 2016.*

Additional local, regional and national performances will be announced in the coming weeks.

**Festival hours:** Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 11 pm, Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 11 pm, and Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 6 pm.

The **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Norfolk Harborfest®** presented by AT&T, is produced by Norfolk Festevents, Ltd. and sponsored by the City of Norfolk.

**Norfolk Festevents, Ltd.**, based in Norfolk, Virginia, is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating the most dynamic urban waterfront community in America through innovative programming and imaginative uses of its historic waterfront spaces. An extensive 10 month schedule of diverse outdoor cultural events, festivals, concerts, entertainment, holiday programs, tall ship visits, sports and recreation are presented in two popular and welcoming waterfront environments; Town Point Park located in downtown Norfolk on the banks of the Elizabeth River and Ocean View Beach Park situated on the shore line of the Chesapeake Bay. Norfolk Festevents has served as the City of Norfolk's official event marketing agency since the city's downtown waterfront revitalization initiatives began in 1982. The organization has garnered international acclaim for its advocacy for public access to waterfronts, outstanding quality programming and development of public spaces, transforming Norfolk into one of the most progressive, fun and livable waterfront communities in the country. Residents, workers, and visitors to Norfolk and the Hampton Roads region are invited to experience all the fun and excitement of the 2016 season!

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