

Dave Ehlert Will Bring Mark Twain to Life at SWOSU This Wednesday

10.19.2011

Dave Ehlert will take the stage as Samuel Clemens to revisit "Mark Twain: 100 Years Later" on Wednesday, October 26, at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Ehlert is a Branson (MO) stage performer who travels the United States as part of a national, grant-funded program. The 90-minute performance (with intermission) is free and open to the public. The 7:00 p.m. performance will be held in the SWOSU Fine Arts Center.

Embracing the role of Mark Twain, Ehlert gives entertaining performances across the country with historical insight into this famous American literary author. Ehlert began performing in 1967 as Elvis in what has become the longest running Elvis Tribute Show in the world. He has performed in 33 states and several countries.

Since 1994, he has operated the first theatre ever built in Branson, the Owens Theater. There he widened his act to include tributes to many other characters including Tom Jones, Neil Diamond, Liberace, Willie Nelson, Conway Twitty, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, Nat King Cole, Ray Charles, Hank Williams, and many more. In 2004, he was drafted into the role of Mark Twain when the scheduled performer was unable to take stage. With a week's preparation, he took stage and remained silent for two minutes while looking at the audience and then, as Mark Twain himself said of his own first lecture, "I began to speak."

Performing six Twain programs a week for the first year in Branson and then taking the performance on the road, Ehlert's portrayal of Mark Twain has evolved into a richer, funnier, and more convincing performance. From Elvis impersonator to Mark Twain lecturer, the journey has been a long, wonderful and continuing quest for the complete Mark Twain story for Ehlert.

To learn more about Ehlert's performances, visit www.bransonsuperstars.com/theshows/breakfastwithmarktwain.html. For more information about the SWOSU event, please contact Jason Dupree, head of public services, SWOSU Libraries, at 580.774.3031 or email jason.dupree@swosu.edu.