



For Immediate Release

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# **RICK** **WAKEMAN**

**THE EVEN GRUMPIER OLD ROCK STAR TOUR**

**COPERNICUS CENTER**

**Thursday November 4th at 7:30 pm**

Reserved Seat Tickets \$75/\$55/\$25

**Tickets on sale Monday, June 28th at 10 am**

@ [etix.com](http://etix.com), or [Copernicuscenter.org](http://Copernicuscenter.org)

**Chicago, IL.** - Danny Zelisko Presents & One Eleven Productions welcomes RICK WAKEMAN @ Copernicus Center on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for reserved seating go on sale Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and can be purchased at [etix.com](http://etix.com) or [Copernicuscenter.org](http://Copernicuscenter.org).

Rock Royalty  
**RICK WAKEMAN**

Returns to the US with a Solo Show Full of Music and Mirth

Keyboard wizard **Rick Wakeman** has two reasons to celebrate. First, his outstanding career in music has just been recognized by Queen Elizabeth II, who named him a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in her recent annual Birthday Honours.

And secondly, after 18 months of lockdown in the UK, he is finally able to announce the long-delayed follow-up to 2019's sell-out *The Grumpy Old Rock Star Tour* with - **The Even Grumpier Old Rock Star Tour!**

Having made his name creating prog rock extravaganzas, in his solo shows Wakeman returns to his roots with a program packed with virtuosic piano performances and hilarious anecdotes inspired by his 50-plus-year career. Repertoire will range from his solo works and his stints in the band YES through to his early days as a session musician playing keyboards on such classics as David Bowie's *Life On Mars*, plus surprises like his unique interpretations of Beatles' hits and many more memorable tunes, adapted for the grand piano. And all of this glorious music is punctuated by riotous reflections on his life and the people he's met along the way. As he himself often observes, life is rarely dull when Rick Wakeman is around!

The 25-city tour will kick-off on Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> in Derry, NH at the Tupelo Music Hall and continue through November. Tickets go on-sale starting Friday, June 25th, 10am local time. Check Rick Wakeman's website [www.RWCC.com](http://www.RWCC.com) or the theatre's sites for specific on-sale information.

Professional musician, keyboard player, songwriter, broadcaster and raconteur, Wakeman's career started as a much-in-demand session player, who performed on recordings by David Bowie, Elton John, Lou Reed, Al Stewart and hundreds more artists. His big break came in 1971 when he joined YES, who went on to become the most successful prog rock band in the world, but Wakeman has also always gone his own way outside the framework of that group.

In the Seventies, he achieved chart-topping success with solo albums such as *Journey To The Centre Of The Earth*, *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* and *The Myths and Legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*, which cumulatively sold over 10,000,000 copies in North America alone.

He has written several film scores, amongst them two for director Ken Russell (*Lisztomania* and *Crimes of Passion*) and two ‘Harry Palmer’ movies starring Michael Caine (*Bullet To Beijing* and *Midnight in St Petersburg*), and in the UK, has built up an impressive reputation as a witty guest and host on shows like *Grumpy Old Men*, *Countdown*, *Watchdog* and the comedy cabaret show *Live at Jongleurs*. His wickedly irreverent acceptance speech when YES was inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2017 nearly brought the house down!

That same year, he made British chart history when his *Piano Portraits* record became the first solo piano instrumental album to enter the UK’s Top 10 on release – a feat he then repeated with last year’s *Piano Odyssey*. Both records feature tunes that have a special connection with Rick’s personal musical journey and his subsequent tours, in which he performs a selection of tracks accompanied by hilarious memories and anecdotes have been instant sell-outs in the UK.

Now the achievements of his incredible career have been officially recognized with a CBE in recognition of his services to music, so come and celebrate with him on his forthcoming tour. And don’t worry – Rick will still find plenty of reasons to be grumpy...

### **RICK WAKEMAN**

#### **The Even Grumpier Old Rock Star Tour – North America 2021**

October	14	Tupelo Music Hall, Derry NH
	15	Academy of Music, Northampton MA
	16	Garde Arts Center, New London CT
	19	Narrows Center for the Arts, Full River MA
	22	The Paramount, Huntingdon NY
	23	Concert Hall at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, New York NY
	24	The Birchmere, Alexandria VA
	26	Asbury Hall, Buffalo NY
	27	Wellmont Theatre, Montclair NJ
	28	The Vogel @ Count Basie Center for the Arts, Red Bank NJ

	29	Scottish Rite Auditorium, Collingswood NJ
	30	Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield CT
November	1	The Kent Stage, Kent OH
	3	The Sheldon, St Louis MO
	4	Copernicus Center Theater, Chicago IL
	5	Pantages Theatre, Minneapolis MN
	9	Celebrity Theatre, Phoenix AZ
	11	Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, San Francisco CA
	12	The Theatre at Ace Hotel, Los Angeles CA
	13	Magnolia, El Cajon CA
	15	Neptune Theatre, Seattle WA
	17	Variety Playhouse, Atlanta GA
	18	Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Amaturo Theater, Fort Lauderdale FL
	19	Nancy and David Bilheimer Capitol Theatre, Clearwater FL
	21	The Plaza Live, Orlando FL

### ***Reviews from Rick Wakeman's Grumpy Old Rock Star US Tour 2019:***

“A wonderfully intimate, hilarious, and jaw-dropping performance... Not a grumpy soul in the room, least of all Mr Wakeman himself.” – *Parklife DC*

“A dazzling display of dexterous fingerwork on the ivories” –  
*www.vintagerock.com*

### ***Reviews from Rick Wakeman's UK solo tours:***

“A hugely enjoyable night for fans and newcomers to Rick Wakeman. Genuine laughs and exquisite musicianship – what more can you ask for?” – *Lancashire Telegraph*

“The audience... were thoroughly entertained with masterful piano playing and wonderous stories.” – *Global Entertainment and Media*

“No other artist could entertain a theatre full of people, playing alone, and keep them riveted for the entirety of his set. Rick is one of the warmest, wittiest, most talented musicians around.” – *Wolverhampton Express & Star*



“Prog lover or not, if you get the opportunity to see Rick Wakeman, go for it; he’s a national treasure, and he’ll make you laugh too.” – *Bucks Herald*

“An inimitable mixture of dry humour and blinding talent” – *East Anglian Daily News*

***And from YES’ 2017 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame:***

“Rick Wakeman’s ornate, detailed keyboard work... was just the icing on the cake... Wakeman had already brought the house down with an acceptance speech that contained a hilarious stream of dirty jokes.” – *Rolling Stone*

**About Danny Zelisko Presents:** Danny Zelisko has been bringing shows to the Southwest since 1974. He founded the legendary Evening Star Productions starting in 1976, helping make the Southwest a viable stop on most contemporary tours and producing thousands of shows over the years. After years of practice, DZP promotes about 150 shows annually around the nation. For more information: [www.dannyzeliskopresents.com](http://www.dannyzeliskopresents.com)

**About One Eleven:** Scott Gelman, President of One Eleven Productions, has produced and promoted events, both public and corporate as the VP of Talent at two of the largest Live Entertainment companies in the country. Scott has produced and promoted such notable talents as The Rolling Stones, U2, Billy Joel, Elton John, Dave Matthews, Jerry Seinfeld, Madonna, Jimmy Buffett, and many others. For more information: [www.oneelevenprod.com](http://www.oneelevenprod.com).

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