



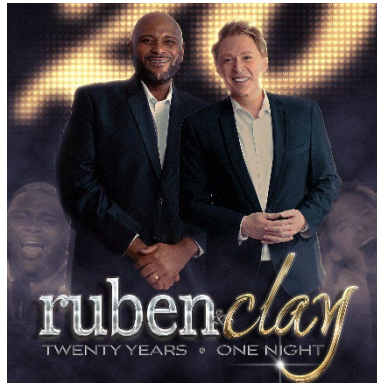
THE  
GRAND  
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## Press Release

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## Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken perform in Wausau just days before appearing on the American Idol season finale!



WAUSAU, WI – April 10, 2023 – They were the superstar finalists of the TV phenomenon *American Idol* in 2003, launching them both into successful singing careers. Twenty years later, Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken are thrilled to reunite on a national concert tour that brings them to the Grand Theater in Wausau on May 16.

Wausau is the last stop on their Twenty | The Tour. Immediately after their show at The Grand, they head to Los Angeles to prepare for their guest performance on the *American Idol* season 21 finale, broadcast live on ABC, Sunday, May 21. Wausau audiences will see Ruben & Clay perform on stage at The Grand with the thrill of knowing that, just a few days later, they will watch the same fantastic singers on a prime-time TV show viewed by millions!

Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken have remained good friends since first gaining fame in 2003 as they battled for the top spot in the second season of *American Idol*. Since then, both have built successful careers as singers, recording artists and stage and television actors. More recently, they appeared together on Broadway in *Ruben & Clay's First Annual Christmas Carol Family Fun Pageant Spectacular Reunion Show*. Their 2023 tour celebrates the 20-year anniversary of their sensational run on *Idol*.

Twenty | The Tour will highlight the music that made Ruben & Clay *American Idol* favorites and household names. From Clay's iconic rendition of "Bridge Over Troubled Water" to Ruben's soulful single "Sorry," join America's favorite odd couple for an unforgettable evening of music and memories, spanning two decades, delivered as only these true superstars can.

After winning the second season of *American Idol*, Ruben Studdard received a Grammy Award nomination in December 2003 for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance for "Superstar." Studdard has released six studio albums, including his platinum-selling debut, *Soulful*, and the top-selling gospel follow-up, *I Need an Angel*. He is most well-known for his recording career, which has produced hits

including "Flying Without Wings," "Sorry 2004" and "Change Me," but he has also segued into television and stage work. Most notably, he toured with Robin Givens in the comedy-drama *I Need a Hug* and in 2008 starred as Fats Waller in a national tour revival of *Ain't Misbehavin*, which spawned a Grammy nominated soundtrack. *Ruben Sings Luther (a tribute to Luther Vandross)* was released in 2018 and supported by an acclaimed North American concert tour. During *American Idol*, Studdard gained the nickname "Velvet Teddy Bear" and was noted for his shirts printed with "205," the telephone area code of his hometown of Birmingham.

Clay Aiken became the first *Idol* alum in history to have his first single debut at #1 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart, to have a single certified platinum, and to have an album certified triple platinum. As a concert artist he's played some of the most iconic venues in North America, including on the 2003 Independent Tour which Clay co-headlined with Kelly Clarkson. Clay's album, *Measure of A Man*, also debuted at #1 with the highest first week sales by a debut artist.

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Ruben & Clay perform at the Grand Theater Tuesday, May 16 at 7:30 pm. Tickets start at \$45. Buy online at [www.grandtheater.org](http://www.grandtheater.org), by phone at 715-842-0988, or at the Ticket Office, 401 N. Fourth St., downtown Wausau. Open Mon.-Fri. 9 am-5:30 pm for phone and in-person orders.

*The Grand Theater strongly advises patrons to buy online **only** through [grandtheater.org](http://grandtheater.org) and [tickets.grandtheater.org](http://tickets.grandtheater.org). Third party ticket outlets commonly found online are **not** authorized sellers, and might sell invalid tickets and/or charge excessive fees that are often double or triple the face value of the ticket.*

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