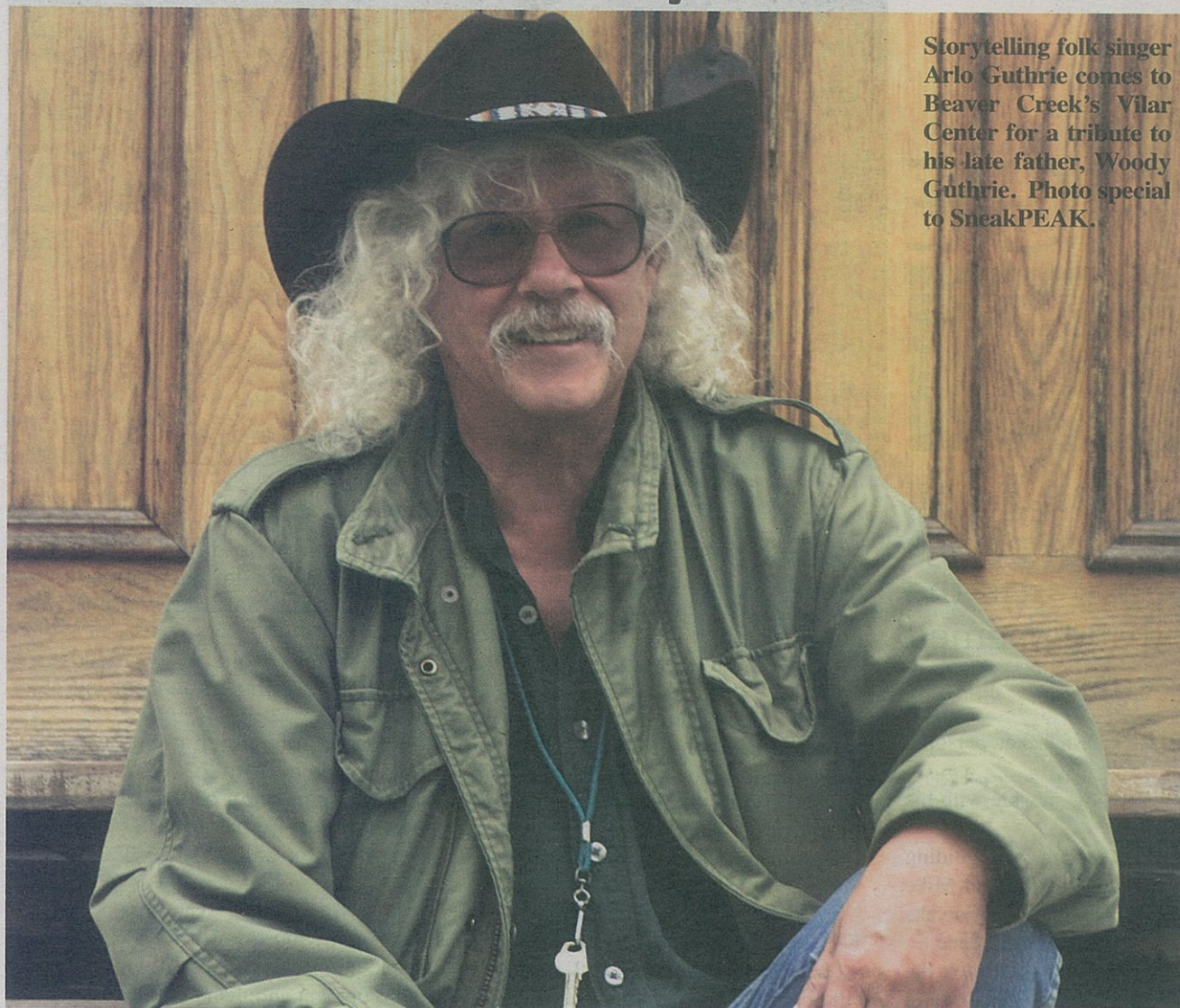


Like father, like son



Storytelling folk singer Arlo Guthrie comes to Beaver Creek's Vilar Center for a tribute to his late father, Woody Guthrie. Photo special to SneakPEAK.

Folk singer Arlo Guthrie pays tribute to Woody Guthrie's 100th with Vilar Center concert. By Laura Lieff.

Celebrating what would have been his father's 100th birthday, Arlo Guthrie is performing "Here Comes the Kid" – a solo tribute to Woody Guthrie, a '30s and '40s folk singer – at the Vilar Center. Spanning more than 40 years, Arlo's legendary music career comprises political messages, brilliant stories and even a renowned performance at Woodstock.

"Music has always been a part of my life, especially when I was younger, when that was about the only interest I had," Arlo recalls.

In 1967, Arlo wrote a satirical anti-war anthem called "Alice's Restaurant" – an 18-minute song based on a true incident in which Arlo was called up for a draft examination and then rejected as unfit for military service due to a criminal record he had for littering and creating a public nuisance on Thanksgiving Day when he was 18 years old. The song defined a generation and solidified his legacy as a folk hero.

Arlo says most of his songs tell the story of true-life events because it offers an element of authenticity that is not as attainable when writing from another person's point of view or from his imagination.

"My dad used to say, 'Write what you know,' so I generally stick to writing about things I'm more sure of," he says. "For me it's always been about telling stories worth hearing."

Since "Alice's Restaurant," Arlo has done about 30 records, a few motion pictures, a TV series, a children's book, started a few recording and production companies and launched two nonprofit foundations. Among his other career highlights, Arlo was made famous for his Top 40 hits "The City of New Orleans" and "Coming into Los Angeles,"

If you go...

Who: Arlo Guthrie
Where: Vilar Performing Arts Center, Beaver Creek
When: Monday, July 15 at 8 p.m.
Cost: \$58
 For more information or to purchase tickets, see www.vilarpac.org.

which he sang at the legendary Woodstock music festival.

"For me, all music, (and all art for that matter), protests something, or it isn't much good," Arlo says. "You either like the way things are so you protest change or you think something ought to be better so your protest standing still. Your dog died, your truck broke, you found out your girlfriend is a nun - the list goes on. Whatever you sing about ends up saying something about your life, and all life has problems."

The vein is one he picked up from his father's influences.

"My dad let everyone know that although everyone struggles, we also, as human beings, have ways to make things better and we'd all be better off doing that instead of making things worse. I'm with him on that stuff," he says.

Arlo has always honored his father in song as well as in life, and Monday's show will be a unique tribute to the man who brought us "This Land Is Your Land." During the concert, Arlo will reflect on his family, his own library of music and Woody's library of music.

"You should expect a couple of hours with me as your tour guide," Arlo says. "I've been to the Vilar Center a few times and am looking forward to being there again." ▲

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