

## Blake Shelton Rolling Into Etess Arena

By Dave Lukow

Blake Shelton is making a stop in Atlantic City.

The award-winning country singer and songwriter is playing Etess Arena at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Saturday, August 18. The show, featuring Devin Dawson, starts at 8 p.m.

Shelton, an Oklahoma native, first caught the attention of the music world with the release of the single, *Austin*, in 2001. The song, off the album of the same name, spent five weeks at the top of Billboard's Hot Country Songs. The album, Shelton's debut, has since gone platinum.

Two other songs from the release, *All Over Me*, and, *Ol' Red*, also made the charts.

*The Dreamer*, Shelton's second album, was released on Warner Bros. Records in 2003. The first single from the album, *The Baby*, reached No. 1 on country charts.

Texoma Shore, Shelton's 11th studio album, was released in November 2017 by Warner Bros. As of June, more than 236,000 copies were sold.

To date, Shelton has won nine Country Music Association Awards, five Academy of Country Music Awards, seven CMT Music Awards, and has been honored as CMT Artist of the Year. Additionally, he's received eight American Country Awards, three People's Choice Awards, two American Music Awards, one Billboard award, and one iHeart Radio Music Award.

Shelton's been nominated for eight Grammys and won the Gene Weed Special Achievement Award from the Academy of Country Music in 2013.

Inducted into the Grand Ole Opry in 2010, he became a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2014.

Along with his recording prowess, Shelton is known for being a judge on the NBC program, *The Voice*. A fixture on the reality show since it first aired, he's guided his team to wins in six of 14 seasons.

Dawson, like Shelton a country singer and songwriter, found fame after filming a mashup of Taylor Swift songs that attracted a following on YouTube. He signed with Warner Bros. Records last year. His first single, *All on Me*, has made the Hot Country Songs and Country Airplay charts.

Dawson's first album, *Dark Horse*, was released in January.

Born in California, he's toured with Tim McGraw and Faith Hill.

