

# THE REAL JUDDS

Upcoming 'docu-series' follows mother-daughter duo as they try to heal relationships on farewell tour

By ANGELA HENDERSON-BENTLEY  
For The Herald-Dispatch

**T**he mother-daughter relationship between Ashland natives Naomi and Wynonna Judd has been unfolding in front of the cameras for decades. But now the duo is giving us our most intimate look yet with a new television docu-series.

"The Judds" will premiere with a two-hour episode at 9 p.m. Sunday, April 10, on the Oprah Winfrey Network. The six-episode series will follow the Judds as they try to heal their relationship while on their farewell tour.

During a conference call with the media, Naomi Judd said she wanted to do the show as a way to continue her personal growth.

"All my toothpaste is out of the tube now," she said. "You can't put it back in. I've thrown the cap away. I'm doing this because it challenges me again to continue making sure that I'm doing all my work."

Wynonna Judd said during the call that for her, the show was all about her relationship with her mother.

"We're in such a good place right now that I want to celebrate that — the good bad and ugly," she said. "And we're willing to be real. And it's scary sometimes. It's easy to forget that the cameras were there and that's a good thing because we're able to be ourselves."

But Wynonna is quick to point out that the show is not a reality series.

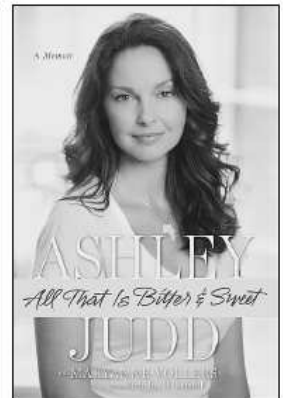
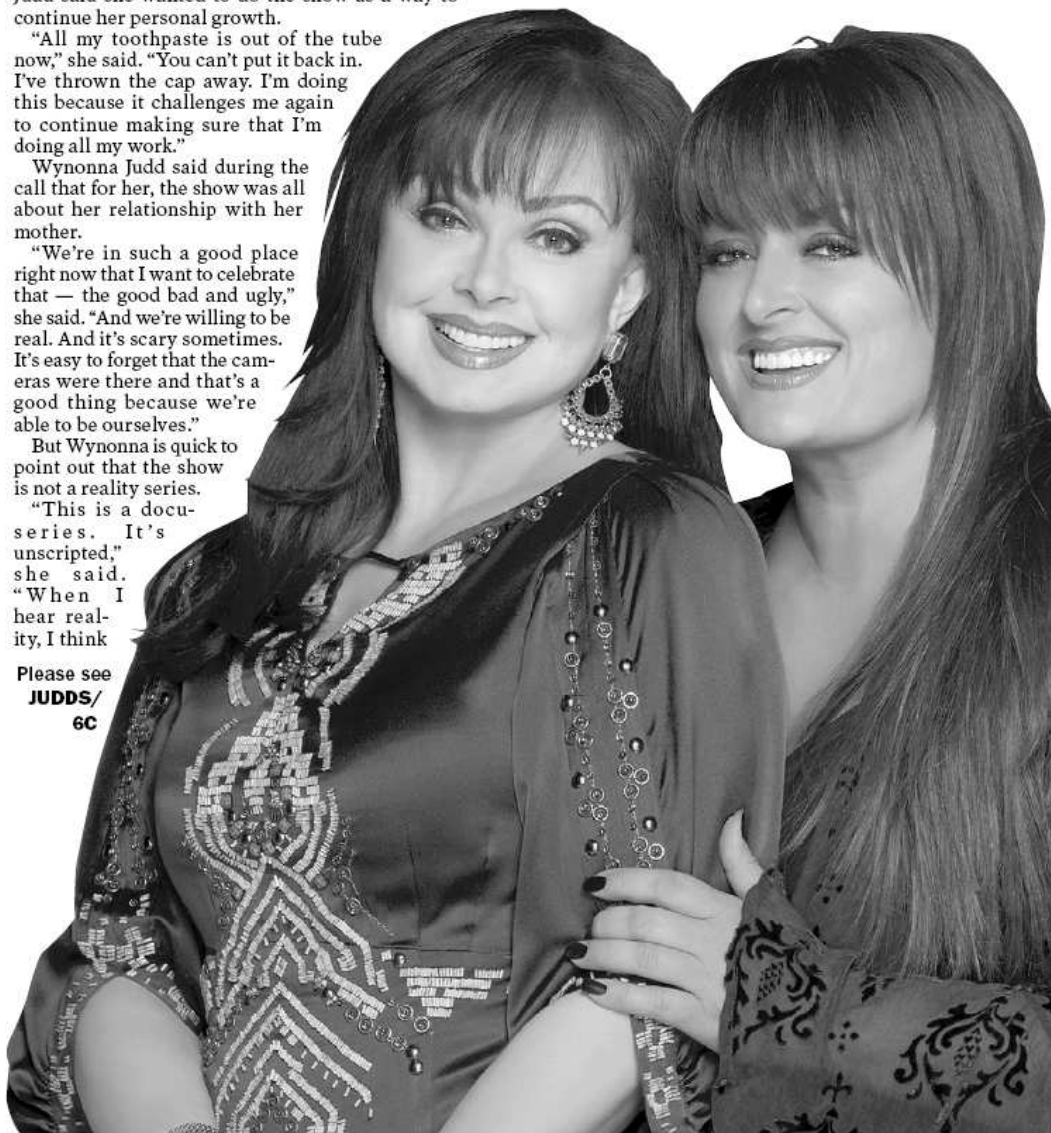
"This is a docu-series. It's unscripted," she said. "When I hear reality, I think

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**JUDDS/  
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## New Judds material

The Judds have just released a new album called "I Will Stand by You: The Essential Collection." The compilation features two newly-recorded songs, "I Will Stand By You" and "Back Home" featuring Allison Krauss. It marked the first time the duo recorded together since 2004. In addition, the album features 12 classic hits including "Mama He's Crazy," "Grandpa (Tell Me 'Bout The Good Old Days)," "Turn It Loose," and "Love Can Build A Bridge."

**BELOW:** Naomi, left, and Wynonna Judd



Ashley Judd released "All That Is Bitter and Sweet" on April 5.

## New book released by Ashley Judd

By ANGELA HENDERSON-BENTLEY  
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Naomi and Wynonna Judd are not the only Judds sharing their story this month. Ashley Judd released her memoir, "All That is Bitter and Sweet" April 5.

For the past seven years, Judd has served as global ambassador for Population Services International/Youth AIDS. She recorded her experiences on four different continents in more than 500 pages of journal entries, which she drew on for the book.

"I hope that this book will be a call to action as well as a memoir," Judd said in a press release. "By sharing my own story along with those of the beautiful and resilient people I've met in the most desperate places, I want to show how the change we seek in the world must start within us."

Judd also shares personal details about her childhood struggles with depression and her complex family dynamic both before and after they became famous. Though she writes in the book that her family is "healthier that it has ever been," she makes it clear that it has been a struggle to get there.

"There was too much trauma, abandonment, addiction and shame," Judd writes. "(My mother) and my sister have been quoted as saying that our family put the 'fun' in dysfunction. I wondered: Who exactly was having all the fun? What was I missing?"

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## Ashley

■ Continued from 3C

In a media conference call to promote her new show, "The Judds," Ashley's mother, Naomi, said she has only read the first couple of chapters of the book.

"I probably will get around to reading it because as a mom I certainly want to honor her reality," she said. "It may be very different than mine. But I certainly want to know my daughters.

"I would've loved it if my mother had read my autobiography," she added. "I know

that as a mom I owe it to both my daughters and certainly the people I care about in my family to try and discover and comprehend their reality."

Ashley Judd will continue to explore her family reality when she appears on the NBC genealogy series, "Who Do You Think You Are?" She will try to uncover the truth about the stories told to her by her paternal great grandmother. According to an NBC press release, her journey leads her to find a family connection to the first settlers of America. The episode airs at 8 p.m. Friday, April 8.

## Judds

■ Continued from 3C

of a train wreck, not that we haven't had our own at certain times during the tour. But we definitely have what I would refer to as more moments of teaching and more moments of celebration than we did the 'do they really get along and let's sensationalize that,'" Wynonna Judd said.

"I think what people need to

know about this show honestly is, it's real," she added. "Nowadays, you can go into a video room and make yourself look 10 times lighter. You can make a photo look any way you want. We do not go into processing our photos. You can see the lines on our faces. We let the fans know who we are and just what we do. And this show is so real and so raw that people are going to be surprised."

Both women agree that they would not have done the show

for any other network.

"It's about quality, not quantity for me," Wynonna Judd said. "After 25 years, I want to be with people I really enjoy and that I trust and that I know have my back. And I really trust Oprah as a person both in business and personal."

Her mother agreed.

"I definitely wouldn't be doing this if it were any other network because (Oprah) has personal integrity," Naomi Judd said. "I know that her approach

to storytelling will be to get the emotional baggage and the skeletons out of the closet but use it as a teachable moment."

Naomi and Wynonna both feel that the tour and the show helped them achieve their main goal - a closer relationship with each other.

"What mom and I are accomplishing on this show is we are breaking a cycle of unhealthy behavior that's taken place generations ago," Wynonna Judd said.