



Dierks Bentley Talks Partying, Pyro, Planes, and 'People'

By [Wendy Geller](#)
June 17, 2015 4:00 PM
[Live Nation](#)



On June 18 at 7:30 p.m. PT/10:30 p.m. ET, Yahoo Live will live stream Dierks Bentley's concert from the Hollywood Casino Amphitheater in St. Louis, MO. Tune in [HERE](#) to watch!



"I never put so much time into prepping a tour," says Dierks Bentley of his headlining Sounds of Summer Tour, which just kicked off this month and is promising to be one of the most fun-filled shows on country music's busy touring season. "We've been working really hard the past six months getting this thing ready....It feels like it's the best it's ever been. Fresh and raw, going for stuff every night on stage!"

The tour, in support of his Grammy-nominated album *Riser*, will reach an unlimited amount of fans on June 18, when his St. Louis date is live streamed by Yahoo. Bentley is a bit awed by the prospect, but feels up to the exposure: "It's pretty cool. It makes me a little nervous, but it's exciting," he notes. "I've always said to the band, the bigger the crowds, the better we play, and so this is a pretty large crowd!"

Pretty large indeed, as is Bentley's steady climb in Nashville over the past dozen years. He's currently racked up 13 No. 1 singles and holds the 2014 Video of the Year CMA Award (for his tune "Drunk on a Plane"). Bentley sat down with Yahoo Music in advance of his live stream to answer a few questions about things happenin' at the start of his tour, including a unique honor from People magazine plus what he's wanting most for Father's Day.

Yahoo Music: So I understand you have some pyro on this tour?

Dierks Bentley: Yeah we got some, why not. Sounds of Summer, fireworks—pyro. I don't know how it's going to translate over streaming, but we'll probably do some live pops in there. *(laughs)*

Be careful...you don't want any, like, Metallica/Michael Jackson accidents happening!

You gotta know where to stand, that's for sure *(laughs)*. We were trying to figure out how to use this stuff, and we had these fans underneath the stage. We set 'em off to check them out, trying to figure out they worked...and there's five holes in the aluminum stage. We quickly found out that the fire burns at about 3000 degrees and aluminum melts at 1200. The stage didn't stand much of a chance. We're learning as we go along...*(laughs)*. Making some corrections.

Are you working on any new music right now? Testing any new songs out live?

As far as [new music], I've been recording a bunch, I've been in the studio cutting songs and writing like crazy. I feel really good about what we have, but I felt we needed to put out one more song off this record. It was important to get "Riser" out there. So I'm not really doing anything new, new. This tour really feels like a celebration of that album, a small victory lap for us, and we're just having fun. We'll probably have new music in June 2016.

Complete change of subject: How did you feel about being named "country's hottest guy" by People magazine?

I have been asked that so many times and I can't find the right words to describe how I feel about it. My mom is extremely excited, she's trying to buy every possible copy there is of the magazine. My wife thought it was pretty funny...she liked it. My fans love it, which is great; that's the most important thing. Of course, I got a lot of grief from my buddies. My phone blew up. It's amazing how many people that reaches! But I certainly appreciate them for putting me on there. If it brings more people out to the show, I'm all for it.

You don't identify with the "hot" label, then?

I don't feel like a celebrity, more like a workingman musician. I don't make my living from TV shows and magazine covers, I'm not part of that world. I make my living by rolling up my sleeves and getting out on stage every night. We make our money with rubber and asphalt. I don't see myself in that celebrity light at all. It actually kind of freaks me out when I'm here at Fan Fair in Nashville and you get into a situation where people are really crowding around you and taking a lot of photos and stuff. "Is there someone here I'm missing? It's just me!"

When I get on stage I feel I go into a different mode, and exercise a side of my personality that seems to come out through that live stuff. But off stage, I feel like I'm a pretty normal dude.

That's a pretty unique way of solving the problem!

Yeah it's pretty cool. Make some pancakes, work out, hang out with them a little bit, jump in the plane, fly to the gig, go and party with 15,000 of my closest friends (*laughs*).

Father's Day is right around the corner. Do you have any special plans, or would like to do anything in particular for the holiday?

I don't. I don't want anything except to be with my family. Ideally for me it will be pretty simple. If there's a hockey game on TV that'd be pretty nice. Family dinner, kids go to bed, I get a chance to hang out with my wife. That's about as good as it gets. It's pretty good. Quality time with these guys is the best gift I can get.