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CAYLEE HAMMACK, INGRID ANDRESS & MORE STUN AT CMT NEXT WOMEN OF COUNTRY SHOWCASE



Caylee Hammack performs at Billboard Live featuring CMT Next Women of Country Showcase Event at Analog at the Hutton Hotel on June 3, 2019 in Nashville, Tenn.

Billboard and CMT joined forces for the second annual *Billboard Live Featuring CMT Next Women of Country* on Monday (June 3), featuring a versatile lineup of performances by Caylee Hammack, Ingrid Andress, Lauren Jenkins and The Sisterhood Band. Hosted by CMT's Leslie Fram, the evening served as an introduction to the up-and-coming singers with each act performing a three-song set.

Hammack closed out the evening with a high-energy full-band performance and shared her journey to Nashville with the audience. "I was 19 when I had my heart broken for the last time in my little hometown. I threw my stuff in trash bags, drove to Nashville, and slept in the Target parking lot in Brentwood. It's a really nice parking lot if you ever have to do it," she said.

Eventually, she got a gig at a local bar on Broadway with the help of her fake ID. "My daddy always told me I went to the university of hard knocks and honky tonks. That was my two-year degree, working downtown," she added.

Her lively performance included the infectious “Just Friends,” a song about a boy she should have never dated. Hammack’s star power was evident on the stage while backed by percussion and a guitar as she played a child’s xylophone alongside her bandmates. The singer’s storytelling was at the forefront as she prefaced the emotional “Small Town Hypocrite,” a song about an old boyfriend who cheated on her. By the end of the night, she had the entire room singing along to her debut single “Family Tree.”

Billboard Live Featuring CMT Next Women of Country serves as the kickoff to CMA Fest in Nashville, where Hammack, Andress, the Sisterhood Band and Jenkins will all perform throughout the week. The 2019 CMA Fest is held throughout Music City this week June 6-9.