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WILLIE WATSON RETURNS WITH A SOLO SHOW IN SHELDON BALLROOM

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents Willie Watson, Saturday, October 20 at 8 p.m. in The Sheldon Ballroom with a special guest opener to be announced at a later date. Armed with an acoustic guitar, banjo and the occasional mouth harp, Willie Watson takes center stage, breathing new life into traditional folk, blues and Appalachian inspired-music. He most recently appeared at The Sheldon with the Dave Rawlings Machine, featuring Gillian Welch, John Paul Jones, Willie Watson and Paul Kowert with bandleader Dave Rawlings.

A former member of Old Crow Medicine Show, Watson’s debut solo album, *Folk Singer Vol.1*, produced by Dave Rawlings, features everything from American folk standards such as “Midnight Special” and “Mexican Cowboy,” to more obscure selections by Memphis Slim and St. Louis bluesman Charley Jordan. A true solo album in every sense, Watson now takes center-stage, performing on acoustic guitar, banjo and the occasional mouth harp. With a voice that can quaver in the operatic style of his favorite singer, Roy Orbison, he counters a masterful bravado with the tragic fragility of one who has been wounded. “There’s a lot of weight in the way Willie performs,” says Rawlings. “He’s had some tragedy in his life, which has informed his art. There’s an emotional edge to what he does because of who he is as a human being. Willie is the only one of his generation who can make me forget these songs were ever sung before.”

Tickets are \$17 general admission, and are on sale now through MetroTix at 314-534-1111, through The Sheldon’s website at TheSheldon.org, or in person at The Fox Theatre Box Office, 534 N. Grand Blvd. For more information, call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900 or visit TheSheldon.org.

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