

## Bio

By the age of 20, Show Dog – Universal Music's Joel Crouse has already accomplished more than many artists ever dream of doing. He wrote his first song at the age of 14, started a band when he was 15, graduated from high school at the age of 16 and was signed to his record deal not long after his 19th birthday. He has opened shows for Toby Keith, Darius Rucker, Rodney Atkins, Sara Evans, and Goo Goo Dolls.

Joel and his grandfather share a strong bond, which is where his love for country music began. His grandfather lived with his family off and on throughout his childhood and during that time Joel was introduced to the music of Johnny Cash, Hank Williams Jr., Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, and Merle Haggard. Crouse also grew to love classic rock music from the 70s, particularly story songs like those performed by Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Eagles, and Fleetwood Mac, to name a few. At the young age of 20, Crouse is an old soul who loves the classics and thinks there's no better sound than listening to a vinyl recording.

As a songwriter, Crouse feels and writes with a lot of emotion, which he reflects on his debut album as a co-writer on all of the tracks. He has written with some of the biggest songwriters in Nashville including BMI Songwriter of the Year, Luke Laird ("Pontoon", "Drink In My Hand"), Craig Wiseman ("Live Like You Were Dying", "Summertime") and Bob DiPiero ("Gone", "Southern Voice"). His debut single will be released in early 2013 to country radio and with the buzz already starting about this artist you can expect to hear a lot more about him in the near future.

### Fun Facts:

- Born Joel Thomas Crouse on June 14, 1992
- Grew up the son of a preacher man in a small town, where his mom works as the church secretary. He has two older siblings (a brother and sister)
- His first public singing experience was in church
- Personal motto: Always be yourself
- Song ideas come from life experiences and traveling
- If he could trade places with anyone for a day, it would be Mark Wahlberg

- He is obsessed with Chipotle and dreams of having them as a tour sponsor one day
- When asked if he has a lucky charm, his response was: “I have an autographed picture of Gerald Ford and since I was 15, it has always been with me wherever I've lived. It's very pointless, but I like it.”
- When he was 9 years old, he challenged himself to find out how many licks it takes to get to the center of a tootsie pop. It took him 600 licks.
- Co-wrote his single “If You Want Some” with Jamie Houston and Luke Laird
- Album is produced by Jamie Houston
- Dream duet partner is Carrie Underwood or Adele
- In 50 years when people look back on his life he hopes they think both he and his music had integrity
- What would he put in his personal time capsule? “Maybe my picture of Gerald Ford... but probably not.”