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HOLLYWOOD SHINES ON 9TH ANNUAL GATHERING IN THE GAP MUSIC FESTIVAL

Actor Patrick Wilson and The Wilson Van headline annual music, arts and crafts festival in Big Stone Gap, Virginia

BIG STONE GAP, VA - APRIL 22, 2015. After eight years of celebrating the rich and authentic music from the mountains of Southwest Virginia, the organizers of the 2015 Gathering in the Gap have *gone Hollywood* - and they've done it with some Virginia boys.

Golden-Globe, Emmy and Tony-Award nominated actor Patrick Wilson is scheduled to return to his home state of Virginia - along with his brothers Paul and Mark - who make up their family rock band, The Wilson Van. Together they'll headline the ninth annual Gathering in the Gap Music Festival on May 23, 2015.

It's a familiar place for Wilson who stars alongside Ashley Judd in the upcoming feature film *Big Stone Gap*, the screen adaptation of bestselling author Adriana Trigiani's novel by the same name. Trigiani, a Big Stone Gap native, penned the novel and its subsequent sequels that sold millions worldwide.

Big Stone Gap the movie was written and directed by Adriana Trigiani and shot entirely in and around Big Stone Gap, Virginia. The film also stars Whoopi Goldberg, Jenna Elfman, Anthony LaPaglia and John Benjamin Hickey. Patrick's eldest brother Paul, the lead singer of The Wilson Van, also appears in the movie. While details are pending on the worldwide release and distribution of *Big Stone Gap*, festival organizers have decided to theme their event around the movie.

and Appalachia. Once a community populated by many coal miners and executives of the nearby coal mines, today the town is home to about 6,000 people. “The Gathering in the Gap is a wonderful asset to Big Stone Gap and surrounding residents who come from the region to celebrate music, arts and crafts, food and life in the mountains, “ said Aaron Davis, Assistant Park Manager of the Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park. Geographically, Big Stone Gap is located on the western tip of the Commonwealth and is closer to the capitals of seven other states than it is to its own capital Richmond.

“It’s like going home when we go to Big Stone Gap,” said actor Patrick Wilson. Wilson’s family has deep roots in Big Stone Gap like the Trigiani’s. Wilson’s father, John Wilson, was born and raised in Big Stone Gap. “To have shot the movie (*Big Stone Gap*) here and now to come back with my brothers and our families and to have The Wilson Van perform with If Birds to Fly, Michael Trigiani, both artists we worked with in the movie, is very special. I just hope the Gap is ready to rock,” Wilson added.

ABOUT- THE WILSON VAN

Brothers Paul, Mark and Patrick Wilson formed their rock band five years ago not only for their love of music but to raise money for some of their favorite charities. Since then, the Wilson Van has raised more than \$100,000 for a handful of Tampa Bay area charities after only 5 performances. “We grew up with music; listening, singing and now playing it, some of that time with our grandparents in their church in Big Stone Gap,” said Mark Wilson, who, when he’s not finger-tapping Edward Van Halen-style, is seen weeknights anchoring the 6pm and 10pm newscasts for WTVT-FOX 13 in Tampa/ St. Petersburg/ Clearwater, Florida. The brothers perform classic Van Halen tunes and other 80’s rock hits, along with original music written by Patrick, Mark and Paul Wilson. The Wilson Van appears on behalf of the non-profit Wilson Family Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3 tax exempt corporation.

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