

**But Singer-Composer's Cult Growing**

# Townes Van Zandt: Success Second

By **FRAN WEIL**

His associates say it's only a matter of time until the public starts singing the songs of 27-year-old, ascetic-looking Townes Van Zandt.

The soft-spoken composer-singer, whose four albums, "Our Mother the Mountain," "Townes Van Zandt," "Delta Momma Blues" and "High, Low and In Between" are available if you dig for them, doesn't concern himself much with overt success. He's just happy if people listen to his songs and enjoy them.

"It's not that I'm not interested in my career," he said Monday, sipping hot tea at the the Passim Coffee House in Cambridge, where he's appearing through Saturday. "I am interested. But I'm more interested in my set; what I do in front of the people who come to see and hear."

"I was doing music long before I thought about being successful. And everybody always says once you really make it they clap for all the wrong reasons.

"I don't have a big following. I have what they call a cult." And at this point, it seems to suit Townes Van Zandt just fine, thank you.

Townes (named after a



Townes Van Zandt

maternal grandfather — "I like the sound of it") was born in Forth Worth, Tex. and raised in Houston. He likes to remind you that Houston "is the second blues capital of the world."

Some of his songs have strains of Houston and strains of Nashville. "I guess you'd say my lyrics are blues, my music is folk and my voice is probably country."

He got into music after watching Elvis Presley gyrate

on television's "Ed Sullivan show."

He taught himself to play the guitar — a Christmas present — and combined \$10-a-night gigs with school.

The two didn't mesh. Townes dropped out and became a traveling folk singer.

"My family at first was mystified. Then they got worried." But Townes made out all right.

He started writing his own songs. People started listening, and better yet, other singers started singing his stuff. His song "Two Hands" was recently recorded by—of all people—Elvis Presley.

And "Rollin Stone" wrote him up. It said that "Townes' quiet unassuming voice and guitar come across like a fresh prairie breeze."

So Townes is now ambling along, enjoying the quiet recognition he's experienced so far. But he's uncertain about the success that inevitably awaits him.

**MOTION PICTURE RATINGS**

G All ages (General Audiences); PG All ages (Parental Guidance Suggested); R Restricted (Under 18 requires accompanying parent or guardian); X No one under 18 admitted (Age limit may vary in certain areas) All G, PG and R films receive the seal of the Motion Picture Code of self-regulation.

**Nicholas & Alexandra' in 5th Week**

"Nicholas and Alexandra," the dramatic and colorful account of the last ruling family of Imperial Russia, continues in its fifth week at the Circle Theater on a reserved seat basis.

Four years in preparation, it has been nominated for six Academy Awards, including "Best Picture" and "Best Actress" for Janet Suzman. The Sam Spiegel-Franklin J. Schaffner production also stars Michael Jayston, Harry Andrews, Tom Baker, Jack Hawkins.

Brian Cox plays Trotsky. He claims to be the only actor in the world to have played both Stalin and Trotsky. While "Nicholas and Alexandra" is the Scottish actor's film debut, he played Stalin in the TV production of "These Men Are Dangerous."

**Chateau de Ville dinner theatre**  
Route Nine • Framingham  
PRESENTS — ON STAGE

**Fiddler on the Roof**  
BROADWAY'S RECORD-SMASHING MUSICAL HIT  
GOURMET DINNER & SHOW FOR AS LITTLE AS \$9.95 PER PERSON  
SLIGHTLY HIGHER FRI. — SAT.

**Special Sunday Matinee!**  
Sun. Mar. 5 and Mar. 12 Showtime 1:30 pm. **\$4.95**  
no food service during matinee

Reserve early for best seating — group discounts available  
Call: 879-7100 332-3600

**SEND THIS COUPON NOW!**

**SOCIAL SECURITY COUPON**

REGARD AMERICAN-SUNDAY ADVERTISER  
**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER GAME**

P. O. BOX 900, BOSTON, MASS. 02103  
MY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IS: \_\_\_\_\_

I have a Medicare Card

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

My number may appear in the Record American or the Sunday Advertiser.

IF your number appears here, bring your Social Security Card to 5 Winthrop Sq., Rm. 200, in Boston, during normal working hours any weekday and collect cash. Or send your card by registered mail to the same address and the prize will be mailed. IF you include a MEDICARE CARD, a 50% bonus is added.

**This Number Worth \$100**  
**037-09-6808**

**Each Number Worth \$25**

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 002-34-7278 | 003-30-6006 |
| 005-38-0558 | 007-54-4589 |
| 008-46-1023 | 009-30-1773 |
| 011-05-4719 | 014-36-6649 |
| 017-26-9236 | 019-44-2089 |
| 027-03-0110 | 028-10-0175 |
| 030-16-0768 | 032-10-9860 |
| 039-10-0961 | 039-30-2093 |
| 041-07-4891 | 045-30-1235 |

**062-07-5341**

These numbers must be redeemed before 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 8, 1972

23 Record American, Boston, Thursday, March 2, 1972

**1ST BOSTON SHOWING-3 BOSTON CINEMAS**  
NOW PLAYING!

**THE HILARIOUS ESCAPADES OF AN INFAMOUS LOVER!**

HARRY NOVAK PRESENTS:  
**THE EXOTIC DREAMS OF Casanova** NO ONE UNDER 18 ADMITTED  
STARRING JOHNNY ROCCO JANE LOUISE VEDA VAN NESS MUSICAL SCORE: VIC LANCE  
BOXOFFICE INTERNATIONAL PICTURES WRITTEN, DIRECTED BY DWAYNE AVERY  
A RICHMOND FILMS RELEASE

**NORTH STATION CINEMA** OPP. BOSTON GARDEN  
**ART CINEMA** 208 TREMONT ST. OPP. LITTLE BLDG.  
**SYMPHONY CINEMA** OPP. SYMPHONY HALL

EXCLUSIVE BOSTON SHOWING

The story of a gambling man and a hustling lady.

**WARREN BEATTY & JULIE CHRISTIE** BEST ACTRESS NOMINEE  
**MRS. MILLER** GARDEN CINEMA

"Straw Dogs" is a brilliant feat of movie-making. Hoffman's performance is superbly realized!"  
—THE MAGAZINE

**DUSTIN HOFFMAN**  
**"STRAW DOGS"**  
Exclusive Boston Showing  
Park Sq. Cinema

**CAESAR'S Monticello**  
ROUTE 9, FRAMINGHAM  
OPP. SHOPPERS' WORLD  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

**Now to MAR. 5**  
World Famous Recording Star  
**JOHNNY MATHIS**  
Dancing Team  
**THE DUQUAINES**  
**ROY ROGOSIN**  
Musical Conductor

COMING  
**JOAN RIVERS**  
Mar. 10-21  
Engelbert Humperdinck  
Apr. 20-Apr. 30

FAMILY MATINEE SHOW EVERY SUNDAY  
• Popular Prices •  
• Children's Special Prices •  
Dinner from 12:30 • Showtime 3 P.M.  
**WEDDINGS • BANQUETS**  
OUR SPECIALTY

RESERVATIONS: 237-0060  
237-0292—875-1391

The NEW REVERE  
**FROLIC**  
155 BOULEVARD, REVERE BEACH

**PHIL BOGRAD**  
HIS TRUMPET AND HIS ORCH.  
EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY  
"STORM DANCE"  
FRIDAY, MARCH 3rd—Refreshments on the house—dancing 11:30 A.M. Admission \$2.00  
**FREE PARKING!**

AVCO EMBASSY Theatres  
BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR!  
—National Board of Review  
Columbia Pictures Presents a Playtex Production  
Roman Polanski's  
film of  
**MACBETH**  
Shown at: 2, 7, 9:30 P.M.  
**CINEMA KENMORE SQ.**  
664 BEACON ST 262 3799

**E.M. LOEW'S CENTER** 426-0889  
2 SPINE CHILLING Thrillers  
**"I Drink your Blood"**  
**"I Eat your Skin"**

**E.M. LOEW'S PUBLIX**  
WASHINGTON ST. NEAR BOYLSTON 482-1288  
2 BIG HITS IN COLOR  
YUL BRYNNER, ROBT. MITCHUM  
**VILLA RIDES**  
LEE "Monty" WALSH