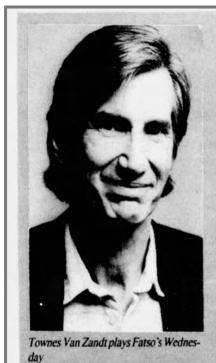


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CRITIC'S CHOICE

Townes Van Zandt at last may be getting the popular recognition he deserves as one of the all-time greats among Texas songwriters.

Van Zandt plays Wednesday at Fatso's Burgers & Blues in Arlington, a week ahead of another legendary Texas writer, Guy Clark.

His recording career has been spotty, beginning in 1968 with For the Sake of the Song. Van Zandt recorded seven LPs during the '70s for the Tomato label, then sat it out until At My Window (recorded in 1985 and released in 1987) and Live And Obscure (1989), both for Sugar Hill. That's also Guy Clark's record company.

Though the richness of Van Zandt's craft can be found in his own recordings (if you can *find* those recordings, that is), average country fans can relate to his tunes *Pancho and Lefty* (Willie and Merle) and *If I Needed You* (Don Williams and Emmylou Harris).

If Fatso's audience is lucky, they'll hear an odd little tune called The Shrimp Song, which dates from the Elvis movie Girls! Girls!

Cover is \$7 per person.

- SHIRLEY JINKINS