

TEMPO

The Taos News

Arts, Calendar, Entertainment, TV Schedule · Thursday, Oct. 23, 1986

C Section

Here to set the story straight

Singer-songwriter Eric Andersen returns to Taos after an absence of 20 years. This time, he's bringing Townes Van Zandt with him.

By Meg Scherch

What does Eric Andersen remember about Taos when he came through town 20 years ago as an 18-year-old folk singer?

"There's this place," he says in a telephone conversation, "Somewhere on the Plaza. They've got all these D.H. Lawrence paintings. Just blew me away."

While here back then, Andersen wrote a trilogy of stories. And part of the reason he and Townes Van Zandt are coming through Taos (they'll appear at the Kachina Cabaret Friday at 9 p.m.) is to check out some of the places in the stories and make sure they fit with reality.

"Has much changed?" he asked.

Probably about as much as any place. Or person, for that matter.

Some 20 years ago Andersen himself was a coffee-house folkie and his music and poetry reflected the stridency of the times.

"Violets of Dawn," one of his most popular songs, dates back to the folk scene in Greenwich Village. His "Rolling Home" was made popular by Peter, Paul and Mary and "Thirsty Boots," another favorite-oldie, is a civil rights anthem.

Since the 70s, when his American record contracts lapsed, not much has been heard from him. This is largely due to distribution problems since his last three albums have been made in Europe.

To get his music to the states, Andersen recently founded his own label, "Wind and Sand," so his two latest albums are

available via order (Wind and Sand, 50 W. 34th St. Suite 11C-5, NY, NY 10001.)

One of the albums is "Tight in the Night," and the other, "Istanbul," is the soundtrack to a new movie that features the Brussels Symphony Orchestra strings.

Writing music for a symphony orchestra is a long way from the folk musician of 20 years ago, yet Andersen says his first love has always been song-writing.

"People like to pigeon-hole you," he says. Some of his projects include writing an opera and publishing the writings of friends.

In fact, writing is what brings him to town. He says, "Townes and I are going to hole up for five days and just write."

Which is what they both were up to last week in New York. "We just wrote five songs together. The words were like passports to whole regions and realms. If that can give you some idea of the momentum we had going."

Andersen was surprised that the collaboration with Van Zandt worked at all. "I'd write a line or a verse, then he'd write one. And it went like that."

There's no doubt Andersen feels honored to share the stage with Van Zandt and, more importantly, to have him as a friend. "Townes is a poet. He's the best writer in the South right now."

Please see ANDERSEN, Page C-2



**Ship of dreams:
Taos Balloon Rally,
A special. Inside**

**Artist Lilly Fenichel
turns Arroyo Seco students
on to art. 4**