

Review

Van Zandt performs in PA

By Bryce Hoffman
Singer and songwriter Townes Van Zandt brought his folksy music and down-home humor to Point Arena Saturday night.

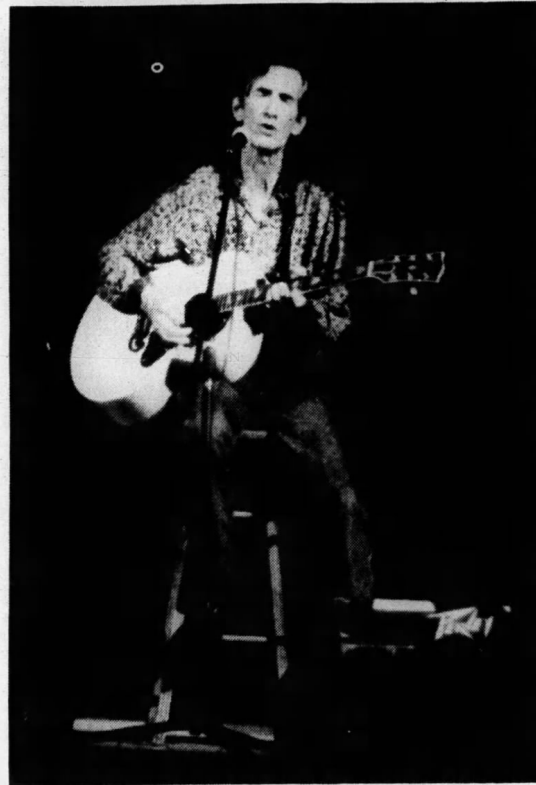
Most will recognize Van Zandt's songs before they recognize his name. He has written for everyone from Willie Nelson to Janis Joplin — leaping with ease over the walls of generation and genre. Van Zandt played some of his best Saturday, including the popular "Poncho and Lefty."

The performance travelled along a winding musical road that ranged from blues to folk and country, punctuated by wry interjections, wonderfully funny stories and a smattering of jokes.

This was a most unpretentious and informal show. Perhaps that was the best thing about it.

This is not meant to detract from the real skill Van Zandt demonstrated as a musician and songwriter. This was surely some of the best guitar heard on the coast in a long while. But this reviewer was impressed by the absence of any barrier between Van Zandt and his audience. It was as though he had stopped by one's house for a visit, and happened to bring his guitar.

Van Zandt promised to return to the Arena Theater in a few months. If you missed him this time, don't make the same mistake again.



Townes Van Zandt played some of his songs in concert at the Arena Theater on Saturday. Bryce Hoffman photo.

Gualala, California