

Arts & Entertainment

Come on, baby, let's all do the Twist with Chubby Checker



Courtesy of Pershing

Nostalgia fans can do the Twist again this weekend when the legendary Chubby Checker visits Pershing Auditorium. See article for show times.

By Stew Magnuson
Senior Reporter

Chubby Checker, the man who made the Twist, the dance sensation that's sweeping the nation. Chubby Checker, the man who gyrated his hips and revolutionized dancing in the 1950s. Chubby Checker, the man playing five performances at Pershing Auditorium this weekend, has been called one of the three major influences in rock 'n' roll by Dick Clark, along with the Beatles and Elvis Presley.

lard's little known B-side "The Twist," rock 'n' roll didn't have its own dance. Everyone was still doing the Jitterbug, Checker said.

"Just pretend you're grinding out cigarette butts with each foot," Checker once said on a TV show.

It was a liberating dance and something physically healthy long before anyone had heard of low-impact aerobics. Go out and do the Twist on any dance floor in Lincoln when a good, rocking song is being played, and chances are fellow dancers will join in.

But fans stopping in to see one of Checker's five performances this weekend should expect more than just a nostalgia show.

"If you're looking for the Chubby Checker of 1960, go home," he said. I sing the old songs of course, but there's always a change in them. It's like a new version of an old Cadillac."

Along with his big hits, "Popeye, the Hitchhiker," "Pony Time," "Let's Twist Again" and "Twistin' U.S.A.," Checker

will play new songs from his 1982 LP, "Change Has Come," a work Checker describes as a contemporary album.

"My music isn't stale," he said. "I've been influenced by other music through the years as well."

The highlight of Checker's show won't be the music alone. Checker is backed by a reportedly hot, five-piece band, The Wildcats, and Checker himself is a true performer and, of course, a great dancer. He played 287 dates in 1986 alone, so his show should be sharp and lively.

Chubby Checker and The Wildcats are playing during the Second Annual Metro New Car Expo at Pershing Auditorium. Skip the new cars and head to the dance floor. Twist contests will be held at all five performances: Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 3 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 and 4 p.m. Tickets will be \$3.75 for adults and \$2.75 for kids ages 6 to 12. Kids five and under get in free.

"So come on, Baby, let's do the Twist!"

Concert Preview

Maybe the average college-age student doesn't realize the debt he or she owes to Mr. Checker.

"Do you dance apart?" Checker asked in a phone interview. "That's why the Twist was different."

Before Checker covered Hank Bal-

Holistic feminist folk music

Claudia Schmidt to perform at the East Union Saturday

By Charles Lieurance
Senior Reporter

Claudia Schmidt is perhaps the most eclectic and versatile of the songsmiths in the Flying Fish stable. Flying Fish is one of the few major folk labels in the nation, recently specializing in socially inspirational music that's especially popular with feminists and those interested in a holistic lifestyle.

Concert Preview

Schmidt, who will perform in the Great Plains Room of the East Union, has a unique voice. Her music is more percussive and diversified than most modern socially conscious music and is less prone to both solipsistic blandness or over-generalization than other artists in this sphere, such as Chris Williamson or even Holly Near. In her choice of cover material and originals Schmidt is very aware of the value of metaphor and humor, thus she escapes lyrics that look better on placards in protest marches than on a lyric sheet.

Schmidt has recorded four albums worth of material on Flying Fish, and each one is an improvement over the last.

The sound on her first, self-titled LP was more overtly folksy with a heavy reliance on acoustic instrumentation and "important issues." Her latest LP, "Out of the Dark," is more percussive and textured than any of her past LPs. Her choice of cover material is just odd enough to make the whole album unpredictable, a musically stripped-down version of the chestnut "Sky Lark" and, as a strange aside, the metaphor-laden "San Diego Serenade" by Tom Waits. Although finer recordings of each of these songs exist, Schmidt's humble, wisely under-produced versions have their own understated charm.

Schmidt's choices of covers aren't



Courtesy of Fleming and Associates

Singer Claudia Schmidt

the only chances she takes on the album. She manages to make respectable forays into (very white) scat singing, lounge jazz and even free-form poetry readings to music. "Hip to Be Homeless" is a string-bass-heavy satire of the Reagan-era attitude toward this nation's homeless in the same musical vein as Rickie Lee Jones' "Slow Train to Peking." The most noticeable star on Schmidt's latest is Dan Dance, whose piano pieces are simple but warmly affective.

Schmidt's ability to transcend New Age platitudes should make her show enjoyable for a broad

audience, not just for feminists and jump-for-a-cause-even-if-it's-a-symptom liberals. With four albums and innumerable live performances under her belt, Schmidt's show Saturday night should be sharp and professional.

The performance will begin at 8 p.m. and is being sponsored by the UNL Women's Resource Center's Women's Words and Music Committee. Tickets are \$6 for students, seniors and children under 12; \$7 for the general public.

Tickets are available at both unions.

Entertainment Shorts

● The figure-drawing sessions held in the art department every year will begin this semester next Wednesday. As usual, they will be held in Richards Hall 226 at 7 p.m.

Cost will depend on attendance, but it will probably be \$20 per person for 10 sessions, or \$2 for a single session.

Drawing will begin the first night, but even if you can't draw then, come anyway and bring your money so the

department will know you wish to take the course.

If you have any questions, please contact the UNL art department before Wednesday.

● Saturday 13 Nightmares will play at the Cather-Pound-Neihardt Pub. Opening will be the all-new band New Brass Guns, featuring Lori Allison and Brian Barber, formerly of the Go-Bats. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. It's free, and all ages are welcome.

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