

Buddy

The BUDDY HOLLY Story

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— Christopher Eudy
star of Buddy Holly show



'Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story,' a touring show, will take its audience through the life and times of Buddy Holly in a one-night performance at the Monfort Concert Hall on March 12 at 8 p.m.

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Holly's story bops its way to Greeley

By **MATTHEW ANDERSON**
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Forget about Elvis Presley. Buddy Holly is playing a one-night stand at the Monfort Concert Hall on March 12 at 8 p.m.

"Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story" takes its audience through the life and times of Buddy Holly, from starting as a country musician playing beebop in Lubbock, Texas, to being the first white act to play at the legendary Apollo Theatre in New York City.

"People are always standing by the end and clapping and kind of groovin' around a little bit," said

Christopher Eudy, the 22-year-old star.

"We've had some people dancing in the aisles before, but I wish it would happen more often."

That enthusiastic reaction was commonplace on London's West End and on Broadway. "They went crazy in London over it," Eudy said of the audiences. "People were dancing all over the place."

"We elicit a great response and we have been favorably compared to Broadway and in some cases people say they like our tour a lot better," Eudy said.

"I talk to people after the show

and they say, 'I just wanted to get up and dance.' And I was like, 'Well, why didn't you?'"

The touring show is a leaner presentation of the London and Broadway versions, having been trimmed by an hour to cut some scenes that the producers felt detracted from the show.

"It's not as glitzy," Eudy explains. "We don't have the big costumes and the big rotating sets, but I think it's a lot more honest."

Eudy studied acting at the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, N.C., and it's his own college band, The Nubile Thangs, which back him up as

Holly's Crickets.

The band does all of its own singing and plays its own instruments.

The production presents Holly as a driven and dedicated musician and Eudy describes the content as 50 percent biography and 50 percent "playing and singing and having a good time."

Included are behind-the-scenes reworkings that went into creating "Peggy Sue" from the rough version "Cindy Lou." Simply put, it involves a band member and his girlfriend. "It's a funny moment," Eudy said.

The show builds to a crescendo

as it recreates the last concert of Holly, The Big Bopper, and Richie Valens in the Surf Ballroom at Clear Lake, Iowa. Those three entertainers died in a plane crash after that concert.

The show-within-a-show features such classics as Holly's "Maybe Baby," "Rave On," "That'll Be the Day," and "Oh Boy," The Bopper's "Chantilly Lace," and Valens' "La Bamba."

Tickets, \$14.50 and \$12.50 for adults, \$12.50 and \$10.50 for students and seniors, are available at the Union Colony Civic Center box office or at all Ticketmaster locations.