

Woodstock legend changin' with the times



Ethereal ... Richie Havens

► **WHO:** Richie Havens

► **SUPPORT ACTS:** Dave Marks and The Hidden Years, Roger Lucey

► **WHERE:** Civic Theatre

Legendary folk musician Richie Havens held his small, but appreciative, audience spellbound at the Civic on Wednesday with his reminiscences, his home spun philosophies and touching soulful music.

He is also a remarkable guitarist and his lightning fast technique is a sight to behold as he provides fresh interpretations on a few classic songs.

He is relaxed, he has an ethereal presence and he communicates. Whereas Michael Jackson uses videos to set the scene, Havens employs the power of speech. And he does a damn fine job of it, using that warm, molasses-drenched voice to stunning effect.

It was a real folkie get-together, a kind of extended coffee bar ambience, where the show started late, where two good, but unnecessary acts set the early mood, and where the star attraction came on after 10pm and ended this vigorous set just before midnight.



Review

PETER
FELDMAN

It was quite a sweat.

Havens leaves *Freedom*, his rallying call and a number which helped perpetuate the myth at Woodstock, for the finale.

And a rousing spectacle he makes of it, too.

The man gets through a lot of material during his stint on stage—he rambles on a little before finally

hitting the first note—and proves a slick craftsman with such gems as *Here Comes The Sun*, *The Times They Are A-Changin'*, *Just Like A Woman*, *High Flying Bird* and *All Along The Watchtower*.

He also raises a laugh or two with his wry observations, especially when aiming barbs at the late Richard Nixon and at sixties politics.

Havens is backed by two superb musicians in guitarist Paul Williams and bongo specialist Emile Latimer, who provide the tasteful shadings to the songs.