

2012-05-11 – The Buddy Holly Story  
Alex J. MacPherson for *Verb*

Music history is brimming with mythological figures — innovators, revolutionaries, and icons. Most of them died young, their boundless potential vaporized in an instant of misjudgment or bad luck. And no one left a bigger hole than Buddy Holly. Although he was just twenty-two when the Beechcraft Bonanza ascended into the gloom, headed for immortality in a miserably cold Iowa cornfield, Holly had already left his mark. The story of how a kid from Lubbock, Texas changed rock & roll is on display in *Buddy — the Buddy Holly Story*, a play by Alan James, now showing at the Globe Theatre in Regina. Part rock concert and part tragic history, *Buddy* traces the story of one of the most promising young men to lose his life chasing rock & roll. Verb tracked down Sef Wood, who stars as Buddy Holly, to chat about Holly's contribution to music, his death, and why Wood has never seen the play performed.

Alex J. MacPherson: Why do you think Buddy Holly is so important?

Sef Wood: Personally, I think there's no way he couldn't be remembered. When we think about the contribution he's made to music — he was really only in it for eighteen months — it's impossible to think that couldn't have grown. The Beatles and the Rolling Stones and all the other massive rock bands starting up at that time were all influenced by him, and he was just a kid. And the fact that he died so young makes his story interesting.

AJM: And tragic.

SW: [In the play] he doesn't know he's doomed. He thinks he's got his whole life ahead of him, and that's what makes it so tragic. He was just busting out, just moved to New York, and was ready to start it in the big business.

AJM: How do you go about preparing for this role?

SW: We haven't started rehearsal yet, so my heavy preparation of getting his voice down and his mannerisms hasn't really started yet. I've been watching some videos of him to get an idea of who he was, and I do a bit of research. Mostly what I've done thus far is get an idea of who he was and how that applies to the script — and also get into the music, which is mainly what people come to see.

AJM: You say you've actually never seen this show performed. Does that make it harder?

SW: I think sometimes not having seen a show can be an advantage. You get to make your own choices and you're not informed by what other people who are doing. Everybody I've talked to about the show who's seen it or been involved in it, they all say it's a great show and it has people on their feet every night. To be honest, everybody is

in this crazy business for their own reasons, but that's definitely mine at the end of the day.

AJM: So I have to ask: what is your favourite Holly song to sing and play?

SW: For some reason I really love "Peggy Sue Got Married." It's fun to sing. But it's hard to pick a favourite because every song is just fun. That's the thing with rock & roll. Now it's sex, drugs, and rock & roll. Then it was just rock & roll — playing and singing and dancing. Music at that time is just fun, that's all it is.