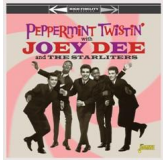


Joey Dee & The Starlites – Peppermint Twistin’ (2020)

Written by bluesever (Bogdan Marszałkowski)

Sunday, 04 April 2021 14:45 -

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01 – Lorraine 02 – The Girl I Walk to School 03 – Shimmy Baby 04 – Face of an Angel 05 – Peppermint Twist (Part 1) 06 – Peppermint Twist (Part 2) 07 – Ya-Ya 08 – Fanny Mae 09 – Hot Pastrami (With Mashed Potatoes) 10 – Sticks and Stones 11 – Hey, Let’s Twist 12 – Roly Poly 13 – Shout (Part 1) 14 – Shout (Part 2) 15 – Let’s Have a Party 16 – Crazy Love 17 – All the World Is Twistin’ 18 – Goin’ Back to My Home Town 19 – Everytime (I Think About You) (Part 1) 20 – Everytime (I Think About You) (Part 2) 21 – Hello Josephine 22 – Kansas City 23 – Money (That’s What I Want) 24 – Have You Ever Had the Blues 25 – What Kind of Love Is This 26 – Wing-Ding 27 – Twistin’ on a Liner 28 – I Lost My Baby 29 – Keep Your Mind on What You’re Doin’ Joey Dee (b. Joseph DiNicola) - vocals David Brigati - vocals Larry Vernieri - vocals Carlton Lattimore - organ Willie Davis - drums

In early 1962, the No. 1 song in the country, Chubby Checker’s “The Twist,” was replaced in that position, after two weeks there, by “Peppermint Twist— Part 1.”

How was that possible? There’s a long tradition, of course, of pop artists trying to have hits of their own by imitating other hits. But how were saxophonist and Passaic native Joey Dee and his Starlites, featuring lead singer David Brigati of Garfield, able to get there so quickly?

The gist of the answer is: “The Twist” was not a new craze in 1962. The song had been a minor hit for Hank Ballard in 1959 and a major one for Checker in 1960, spawning a number of imitation hits, including Checker’s own “Let’s Twist Again” and “Slow Twistin’,” and Danny and the Juniors’ “Twistin’ U.S.A.” It also inspired several movies, including “Twist Around the Clock,” “Don’t Knock the Twist” and “Hey, Let’s Twist.”

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This last movie starred Dee and the Starlites, and helped draw big crowds to the Peppermint Lounge in New York, where they performed regularly. All of this helped make Checker's "The Twist" zoom up the charts again, with the Starlites' "Peppermint Twist— Part 1" (the song was too long to fit on a single, so the mostly instrumental Part 2 went on the B-side) right behind it.

Dee and the Starlites had some more hits, including "Shout— Part 1" in 1962, and featured in its lineup, at various times, Jimi Hendrix, Joe Pesci, Charles Neville of the Neville Brothers and Young Rascals members Eddie Brigati (David's brother), Gene Cornish and Felix Cavaliere. David Brigati often worked with the Young Rascals (later The Rascals) but never became a full member. Dee is still performing. ---Jay Lustig, njarts.net

Although the irrepressible Chubby Checker was the undisputed King of the Twist, JOEY DEE & THE STARLITES (sometimes, Starlighters) ran him a close second, during 1961 and 1962.

A powerful live band, they famously made "The Peppermint Lounge" in New York City's West 45th Street, into the Twist centre of the world, patronised by A-List celebs, Royalty and even The First Lady!

This compilation presents the very best of Joey & The Starlites from their first release in 1958, for an obscure New York label, Little, through all their big hits to the end of 1962.

Includes their million-sellers 'Peppermint Twist (parts 1&2)', 'Shout (parts 1&2)' and tracks from their million-selling LP "Doin' The Twist At The Peppermint Lounge" (from which cuts like 'Ya-Ya' and 'Hot Pastrami (With Mashed Potatoes)' would later be spun off as successful 45s), alongside other significant hits like 'Hey Let's Twist', 'Roly-Poly', 'Everytime (I Think About You)', 'What Kind Of Love Is This', 'I Lost My Baby'.

This is the first time that this body of work has been thus compiled. ---imusic.dk

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