The Peppermint Lounge Encyclopedia Article

The Peppermint Lounge

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The Peppermint Lounge, or The "Pep," a mid-town biker bar on West 45th Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenues in New York, was the site where rock 'n' roll and youth culture crossed generational and social boundaries. A brief mention by Cholly Knickerbocker (Oleg Cassini) in September of 1961 in the *Journal-American* made the tiny club a mecca for society types and celebrities. Judy Garland, Noel Coward, Elsa Maxwell, Greta Garbo, and the Duke and Duchess of Bedford mingled with a young crowd, many of them New Jerseyites attracted by New York's 18-year-old drinking age. They twisted to the music of the house band, Joey Dee and the Starliters, who shortly thereafter had a number one record with *Peppermint Twist-Part I* and starred in a movie, *Hey, Let's Twist.* Extensive media coverage re-ignited the Twist dance craze and made it an international phenomenon.

Further Reading:

Carpozi, Geroge, Jr. *Let's Twist.* New York, Pyramid Books, 1962.

Dawson, Jim. *The Twist: The Story of the Song and Dance That Changed the World.* Boston and London, Faber & Faber, 1995.

Lucchese, John A. *Joey Dee and The Story of the Twist.* New York, MacFadden, 1962.