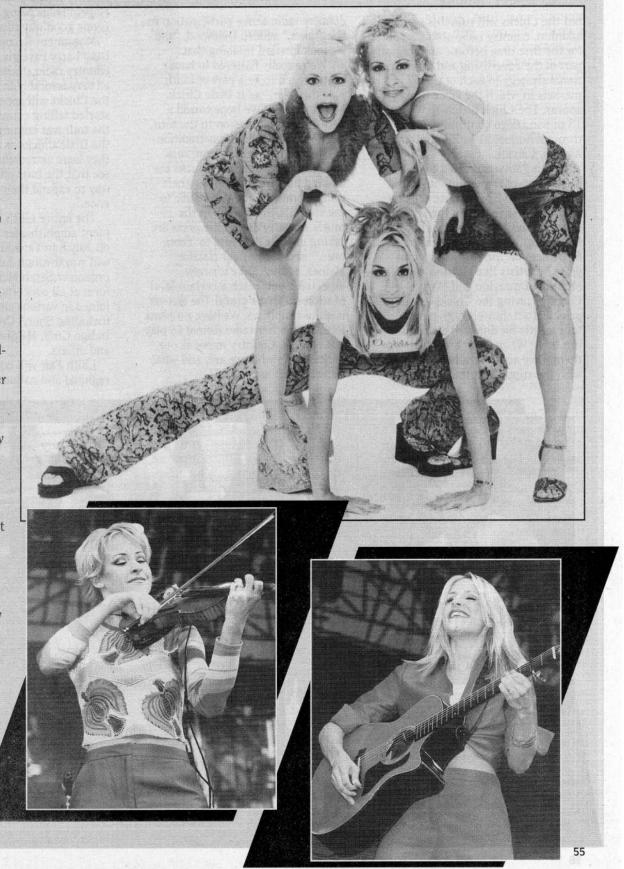
chicks Makë Lilith Dixië

eave it to those everlovin' funlovin' twangfilled sexy Dixie Chicks to make the usually conservative and mellow Lilith Fair fly with hot ... twang this year! By adding the Grammy Awardand Country Music Association Award-winning Dixie Chicks as co-headliners, what is shaping up to be the summer's hottest pop ticket attraction this year has just been made considerably hotter! Lilith Fair founder and star Sarah McLaughlin has confirmed what most of us already know. Them Chicks is hot!

The pairing of Dixie and Lilith marks the first time a country act will participate as a principal headlining performer on the tour. In past years, such respected country ladies as Emmylou Harris and Mary Chapin Carpenter had recurring guest slots on certain legs of the tour,



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but the Chicks will rule this year. In addition, country radio stations will for the first time become an integral part of the advertising and promotional strategy in each of the 17 markets in which the Dixie Chicks appear. The Chick Watch starts July 15 in San Diego continuing on through August 31 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

"Lilith Fair was created to be a celebration of women in music and no women have been more celebrated in the past year then the Dixie Chicks," says tour organizer Marty Diamond. "We've enjoyed great performances on the Fair in previous years by artists like Martina McBride, Emmylou and Mary Chapin. Having the Chicks as a principal act, however, gives the tour a little bit different and exciting slant. When we approached them, they accepted a headline slot with the stipulation that we offer

country radio active participation in the shows," addded Diamond, "and we look forward to doing that."

"We're really flattered to have been invited to be a part of Lilith Fair this year," adds Dixie Chick Martie Seidel. "We hope to add a new musical dimension to the tour."

Though Lilith Fair has traditionally highlighted female pop, rock and alternative acts, the Chicks are looking forward to bringing their unique brand of country music to the stage. "Some people in the music industry and in the press are asking us if we're trying to 'cross over," says lead singer Natalie Maines, adding, "like it's now expected if you reach a certain level of success. That's crazy! The answer is quite simply no. We have no plans to ask any other radio format to play our records. Country music is our heritage, it's what we are, and what we will continue to be."

"Music fans and the country music industry are being so supportive of us," adds Chick Emily Erwin, "that we not only are feeling responsible for growing our particular fan base but also to help keep country music growing as a while. Hopefully, us being at the Lilith Fair is one good way to achieve both."

Monument Records promotion head Larry Pareigis noted that country radio stations have responded very favorably in markets where the Chicks will appear. "When we started telling country stations that the tour was coming their way with the Dixie Chicks as a co-headliner, they were extremely positive. They see that the tour offers them a great way to expand their listening audience."

The entire Lilith Fair 40-engagement amphitheater tour will kick off on July 8 in Vancouver, Canada and will run through August 31. Tour organizer Sarah McLachlan will perform at all concerts, and will be joined in various cities by artists including Sheryl Crow, Monica, Indigo Girls, Me'Shell Ndegocello and others.

Lilith Fair will continue its regional and national charitable



efforts. Since 1997, Lilith Fair has raised almost two million dollars for national and regional charities. The tour's organizers are looking to build on that success this year. Once again \$1.00 from each ticket sold will be donated to a local charityin 1997 and 1998, Sarah McLachlan, on behalf of Lilith Fair, made a check presentation to a local battered women's shelter in each market visited. On the national level. the tour continues its association with sponsors who share Lilith Fair's commitment to charity. As in '97 and '98, corporate sponsors involved in the tour will all make large contributions to select non-profit organizations on behalf of Lilith.

The year 1999 will be Lilith Fair's North American farewell. "We want to end the tour on a high note," says Sarah McLachlan. "From the beginning, we had a three year plan. It's a lot of fun, but it is also a lot of work." There have been discussions about developing the tour overseas, but plans remains tentative at this time.

To check out a run-down of the tour routing and lineup, see the Lilith Fair website at www.lilithfair.com.

Very recently, in May, Emily Erwin was wed to fellow country singer Charlie Robison, Emily Robison was seen in all her newlywed splendor on national television (where she spent a good portion of her honeymoon week!), with appearances on the Academy of Country Music Awards, The Tonight Show, The Late, Late Show with Craig Kilborn, and Prime Time Country. In the meantime, the ever-working Chicks continued their appearances on the George Strait Country Music Festival.

The Chicks just finished the recording, photo and video shoots for thier new album, and are touring Europe as you read this. On July 1, the Dixie Chicks will begin a string of dates with Tim McGraw, with the Lilith Fair appearances beginning July 15.—Concert photography by Tammy Van Winkle*





