



# Total Theater<sup>SM</sup>

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## CRITICOPIA REGIONAL THEATER

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**Show Title** My One And Only Gershwin

**Subtitle**

**Total Rating** \*\*\*1/2

**Currently Running?** NO

**Dates** Opened November 5, 2002; Ended January 15, 2003

**Country** USA

**State** Florida

**City/Town** Sarasota

**Theater Type** Regional

**Producer/Theater Co.** Florida Studio Theater (Richard Hopkins, artistic dir)

**Theater** FST Goldstein Cabaret

**Theater Address** 1241 North Palm Avenue

**Box Office Phone** (941) 366-9000

**Running Time** 90 min

**Genre** Musical Revue

**Author** Music & Lyrics: George & Ira Gershwin; Concepts & Text by FST (Dennis Courtney, Cristin Kelly, Rebecca Langford, Jim Prosser w/ Dir. Richard Hopkins)

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Director</b>         | Dennis Courtney  |
| <b>Review</b>           | <p>Representing classics from before mid-20th Century rendered in dramatic and humorous "clusters" by a small group, this is supposed to be the last of cabaret revues of its type Florida Studio Theater wants to develop. But it's certainly not the least!</p> <p>Thanks to imaginative dramatizing of lyrics and musical arrangements that make old favorites sound new, this Gershwin revue "swonderful." In their shiny, sophisticated outfits (predominantly gold at first, then liberally applied red and black), four attractive young performers produce "Fascinating Rhythm" over and over.</p> <p>With a voice that easily can bring down the rafters (and definitely doesn't need all those amps), Laiona Michelle fully commands "Slap That Bass," proves to be "Delicious," and yet lullabies "Summertime" with surprising subtlety. Richie McCall complements her "Naughty Baby" by surrounding it with "Nice Work If You Can Get It" and, after mirror moves, "When You Want Em, You Can't Get Em." Stephen Hope's words, by contrast, sometimes get slurred. That makes his glib tongue-twisting on "Tchaikowsky" a pleasant surprise. Beautiful blond Ellie Mooney's innocent looks add to her naughty effectiveness singing "The Saga of Jenny" as does her red feather boa-brandishing. Her vigorous, unexpected "Clap Yo Hands" leads the Company up-up-up their "Stairway to Paradise."</p> <p>Whether romantic or rocking, the four -- ably backed by Jim Prosser's piano -- confirm the audience's "Love Is Here to Stay" toward them and the Gershwins in the FST Cabaret.</p> |
| <b>Caution/Guidance</b> |  |
| <b>Other Critics</b>    | SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE Jay Handelman +  |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>    |  |
| <b>Awards</b>           |  |
| <b>Cast</b>             | Stephen Hope, Richie McCall, Laiona Michelle, Ellie Mooney w/Jim Prosser (piano)   |
| <b>Technical Staff</b>  | Choreog: Dennis Courtney; Music Dir: Michael Sebastian; Costumes & Scenery: Marcella Beckwith  |
| <b>Critic</b>           | Kilker, Marie J.   |

**Date Reviewed**      October 2002