

[HOME](#) [SARASOTA](#) [VENICE](#) [MANATEE](#) [EAST MANATEE](#) [CHARLOTTE](#) [NORTH PORT](#) [ENGLWOOD](#)



Subscribe

Monday, May 10, 2004


Search

[NEWS](#) [COMMUNITY](#) [BUSINESS](#) [SPORTS](#) [A&E](#) [OPINION](#)
[JOBS](#) [AUTOS](#) [REAL ESTATE](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) [HELP](#)

Go



[NEWS](#)
[Local](#) [Florida](#) [Nation](#) [World](#) [Politics](#) [Health](#) [Weather](#) [Crime](#) [Photos](#) [SNN Video](#) [Obituaries](#) [InDepth](#)
[Archives](#)

About the Archives 

Questions?

Visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page, or contact **(800) 896-5587** for billing and password problems. You can also [e-mail](#) the news library.

Personal Use:

Articles purchased from this database are for personal use only. Permission must be granted before any articles obtained here may be reprinted. For permission, contact [InfoMart](#).

Can't find it?

If you're looking for more extensive archives, you can search other newspaper's [Archives](#).

Order Photos

» [Order Photos](#)

Purchase prints of *Herald-Tribune* staff photos.

Sarasota Herald-Tribune (FL)

One for 'The Road' at cabaret

January 11, 2004
Section: ARTS & TRAVEL
Page: G1
CHARLIE HUISKING charlie.huisking@heraldtribune.com

From pioneers in covered wagons to Beat Generation writers such as Jack Kerouac, Americans have long displayed a passion for the open road.

This desire to explore new territory -- both physical and emotional -- is celebrated in "On the Road," a musical revue opening this week at Florida Studio Theatre's Goldstein Cabaret. A four-member cast will perform a suitcase full of travel-related songs by artists ranging from Woody Guthrie and Carole King to The Beatles.

Encompassing country, bluegrass, pop and rock 'n' roll, the song list includes "Leavin' on a Jet Plane," "City of New Orleans," "The Long and Winding Road," "So Far Away," and even "We're Off to See the Wizard."

"This show really appealed to me, because, as an artist, I've been on the road forever," said **Dennis Courtney**, who helped conceive the production, and is directing it.

"But the show isn't just about taking a trip on a boat or a plane. Many of the songs explore the reasons why people travel.

"For example, Willie Nelson's 'On the Road Again' has a lyric that goes, 'The life I love is making music with my friends/I can't wait to get on the road again.' He's saying it's necessary to travel to experience the life he loves."

Other travel songs in the show are "metaphors for journeys that you take in your life," Courtney said.

The show begins with some railroad-related songs, reflecting the way train travel revolutionized American life in the 19th century, Courtney said.



SUNSET
PONTIAC

Proud member of:
SUNSET
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

Click here for a **FREE** trade-in **VALUATION**
(866) 609-9944

1850 Bay Rd., Sarasota, FL
sunsetpontiacsarasota.com

"But we're not doing the show chronologically, although there is a progression from songs reflecting youthful enthusiasm to those that reflect an older-and-wiser sensibility.

"And we end up singing about going back home, whether that's a real place, or a place in your heart. These are songs about coming full circle, learning something or getting peace about things."

The cast includes two FST newcomers, Pat McRoberts and Louis Tucci. Returning are Paul Blankenship, who performed in two previous cabaret shows, and Forrest Richards, who was in this season's first main stage production, "The World Goes 'Round."

In addition to singing, the performers will play electric and acoustic guitar, banjo, piano, accordion, cello, mandolin and synthesizer.

"Talking about going home, singing with a band like this is a real homecoming for me," said Richards, who grew up in Tennessee singing with rock and bluegrass groups.

"Then I moved to Sarasota and began doing musical theater," she said. "So it's fun to go back to my roots."

Courtney directed Richards in "The World Goes 'Round," a revue devoted to music by Broadway's John Kander and Fred Ebb.

"That production called for full-throated, Broadway-style belting, but she's showing a whole different side to her voice now," Courtney said. "And she can really handle the rock and country songs, too"

In addition to providing the show's female point of view, Richards represents "the detours along the road," Courtney added, smiling.

"To be true to the experience of travel, we also have to acknowledge the roadblocks and unexpected detours, whether it might be a birth or a death or an unexpected love affair."

TICKETS

On the Road

Opens at 7:30 p.m. Thursday following previews on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Goldstein Cabaret, Florida Studio Theatre, 1241 N. Palm Ave., Sarasota. Through March 20. Tickets are \$18 previews, \$20-\$22. Call 366-9000.

Caption: PHOTO / LEBLANC STUDIOS
Pat McRoberts and Forrest Richards

All content © 2004 Herald-Tribune Corp. and may not be republished without permission.

Send comments or questions to [NewsLibrary](#)

All archives are stored on a SAVE™ newspaper library system from MediaStream Inc., a Knight-Ridder Inc. company.

heraldtribune.com

Serving the Herald-Tribune newspaper and SNN Channel 6

© Sarasota Herald-Tribune. All rights reserved.