



# Total Theater<sup>SM</sup>

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## CRITICOPIA REGIONAL THEATER

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<b>Show Title</b>	Three Friends, Two Guitars
<b>Subtitle</b>	(and a broken tambourine)
<b>Total Rating</b>	**1/4
<b>Currently Running?</b>	NO
<b>Dates</b>	Opened March 22, 2005; Ended May 28, 2005
<b>Country</b>	USA
<b>State</b>	Florida
<b>City/Town</b>	Sarasota
<b>Theater Type</b>	Regional
<b>Producer/Theater Co.</b>	Florida Studio Theater (Richard Hopkins, artistic director)
<b>Theater</b>	Florida Studio Theater - Goldstein Cabaret
<b>Theater Address</b>	1241 North Palm Avenue
<b>Box Office Phone</b>	(941) 366-9000
<b>Running Time</b>	90 min
<b>Genre</b>	Musical Revue
<b>Author</b>	FST troupe
<b>Director</b>	Dennis Courtney

<b>Director</b>	Dennis Courtney
<b>Review</b>	<p>With this retrospective of 20th-Century folk music, it appears that sins, regrets, and politics were its staples. So despite the upbeat smiles of Forrest Richards and her jingling tambourine and no matter how earnestly Ryan Kipp and Steve McWilliams strum and sing, these Three Friends bring forth a rather glum show. More like three acquaintances, they're sort of surrogates for Peter, Paul, and Mary — getting by but on Prednisone. Even corny jokes from pianist Michael Sebastian and a number of songs stressing unity and the human family don't relieve the heaviness.</p> <p>The musicianship is fine. The unusual backdrop with textured mountains and mesa is well lit according to mood. Costumes are a strange mix of formal black pants suit with sequins for Forrest with less formal shirts and trousers on the men. "Take Me Home, Country Roads" begins the show with an engaging promise not lived up to until the final "Turn, Turn, Turn" and "Light One Candle," although "The Times They are a Changin'" hints things will turn around. Depending on their politics, part of the audience loved "Draft Dodger Rag" whereas part failed to applaud. Overall, is FST's Cabaret the right venue for such a show?</p>
<b>Caution/Guidance</b>	
<b>Other Critics</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Cast</b>	Forrest Richards, Ryan Kipp, Steve McWilliams; Jim Prosser (piano)
<b>Technical Staff</b>	Composer/Arranger: Jim Prosser; Set & Costumes: Marcella Beckwith; Lights: Allan L Mack
<b>Critic</b>	Kilker, Marie J.
<b>Date Reviewed</b>	March 2005

