

*VILLAGE VOICE and BACKSTAGE

'COMFORT ZONE'

Tom Andersen, Scott Coulter and Tim DiPasqua—each man capable of doing fine on his own –have just hit on something big. They’ve combined their singing and chatting talents into a countrified act called SouthernComfort. What the guys have developed is an eclecticprogram of country and country-influenced songs to which they lay on dynamic harmonies that’d charm the birds off the trees... Andersen, Coulter and DiPasqua are worth it when singing in unison or singly. Their versions of “Walkaway Joe” (Vince Melamed-Greg Barnhill) and “Always on My Mind” (Wayne Thompson-Mark James-Johnny Christopher) sound like chart-busters to this city boy’s ears. (Yoo-hoo, fellas, if you have a demo, send it this way.) And the banter is a hoot. Coulter’s naturally funny and fires ad-libs 10 to the dozen. Andersen, a one-man quirk festival, seems able to channel hilarious country stereotypes. DiPasqua’s the earnest one, ready to give background on any selection. It’s early days for the act, of course, but it’s already dazzling hee-haw.

*NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

THE THREE HONKY-TONK TENORS

If you're a country music fan but feel like a fish out of water in the city, there's good news. Try a swig "Southern Comfort: A Down-Home Country Music Jamboree." It's a rollicking revue of hits by Vince Gill, k.d. lang and Dolly Parton starring Tom Andersen, Scott Coulter and Tim Di Pasqua, who all received a Nightlife Award for this show from Grammy winner Larry Gatlin himself.

*PLAYBILL

These three thrilling tenors raise the roof with toe-tapping tunes by Vince Gill, Alan Jackson, Randy Travis and many more. Andersen, Coulter and Di Pasqua work in perfect harmony, and it's worth traveling a country mile to hear their heavenly sound.

*CABARET SCENES

Long associated with towns like Nashville and Branson, most urbanites associate country music with bouffant hairdos, twanging guitars and story-songs about guys who got in their car, went to the bar, drove over their dog and got lost in a bog. And though hair, guitars and stories of loss continue to be an integral part of country music, the genre has undergone a considerable metamorphosis the last several decades. One need look no further than k.d. lang's brilliant *Shadowlands* (released in 1988) to understand and appreciate that country music, in all its varied forms, has taken its place as one of the most accomplished American song forms.

In fact, depending on who you ask, there are even a lot of 'closet' country fans living in urban centers like New York. At least that's what Tom Andersen, Scott Coulter and Tim DiPasqua are counting on with their new collaboration with each other. Multiple award winners all, Andersen, Counter & DiPasqua have put together a wonderfully entertaining show called *Southern Comfort* that cleverly runs the gamut of country colors, from bluegrass to folk to gospel with a healthy dose of tear-jerking ballads on the side. Listening to their distinct voices blend into an ethereal whole, it's hard not to be reminded of the equally dazzling and unexpected collaboration of Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris and Linda Ronstadt on *Trio* in 1987, from which a song, *Those Memories of You*, makes an early and welcome appearance in *Southern Comfort*. With Coulter's light, shining falsetto sitting on top, Andersen's steady, lyric tenor in the middle and DiPasqua's flexible baritone anchoring the bottom, their three voices form a gorgeous triad as unique as it is joyous. And backed by a superb quartet of musicians, including Marc Daine on guitars/banjo, Alan Grubner on fiddle, Dennis Lichtman on mandolin and Tim Kiah on bass (the latter three being part of a group called *Astrograss*), the song choices in *Southern Comfort* are unexpected and tuneful. The show starts off with a rousing *High Lonesome Sound* by Vince Gill and quickly segues to selections as disparate as k.d. lang's *Full Moon of Love*, George Jones' *He Stopped Loving Her Today* and Ricky Skaggs' *Uncle Pen*. And, of course, there's a medley near the end that wraps up all manner of hits by John Denver, Willie Nelson and Hank Williams, just to name a few. Benefiting from each other's luxurious backing vocals, Andersen, Counter & DiPasqua are all in terrific voice and each have several moments to shine.

Southern Comfort is a toe-tapping, soul-stirring delight that will make even die-hard resisters of country music true believers.

- David Hurst

*TALKIN' BROADWAY, *The Two of Clubs*

They call their show "Southern Comfort," but it's more like "Tenor Lightning." Tom Andersen, Scott Coulter and Tim Di Pasqua – three of cabaret's most accomplished tenors – have joined forces to put on a dazzling country music show.

These three singers are each terrific musicians with great voices, but together they are a heavenly choir with harmonies to die for. They have assembled an act that allows each to shine in their solo turns, but also gives full range to their glorious group work. In their slyly chosen opening, "High Lonesome Sound," their sound is plenty high and lonesome only because there is no one in cabaret who sings higher than they do. During the show, the usually soulful Andersen plays the comic card to great effect singing "Blame It on Your Heart," while Coulter brings sobs out of the audience singing "He Stopped Loving Her Today." Di Pasqua's best number is a country song from his own pen called "One Thing."

The first two-thirds of the show consists mostly of less-known but deeply evocative country tunes. Having promised familiar songs, as well, at the end of their act they launch into a long medley of famous country hits that crossed over into mainstream acceptance. With these songs they clinch their argument about the enduring popularity of country music, while also singing the hell out of tunes like "Take Me Home Country Roads," "On the Road Again," "King of the Road," "Make the World Go Away," "I Will Always Love You," and a slew of others.