



**BEST UN-ROAD TRIP**

Key West Express

This ferry service from Fort Myers Beach to the harbor at Key West recently reduced its prices by 15 bucks roundtrip for adults. That's the equivalent to about three more beers you can enjoy in the Conch Republic. Sip them knowing you didn't spend six hours in traffic getting there, either. Once on the stable catamaran, you can take in a flick in air-conditioned comfort or head up to the deck and watch the water change colors from mangrove-muck to a shade of blue that reflects the sky. You arrive at lunchtime and don't have to leave port until dinnertime. Or you can pay extra and sleep over in the southernmost point of the United States. Either way, it's a win as the most relaxing un-road trip around. Did we mention they sell adult beverages aboard?

Details: [www.seakeywestexpress.com](http://www.seakeywestexpress.com)

**BEST PLACE TO MEET YOUR FAVORITE AUTHOR**

Southwest Florida Reading Festival

Sure, local book store chains sometimes have book signings, and local authors generally tend to make the rounds when they publish a new title, but the best place to meet your favorite authors, hear them talk about their work, and get them to sign your books, is the annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival. Held indoors at the Harborside Event Center and outdoors in Centennial Park each March, the one-day festival has hosted authors such as Sue Grafton, Elizabeth Berg, George Pelecanos, Michael Connelly, Dennis Lehane and Joe Hill.

**BEST LOCAL FARMERS MARKET**

GreenMarket at Lee County Alliance of the Arts

Most local markets fade away as the temperature rises, but this up-and-coming enterprise bravely launched in May. Set on the grounds of the Alliance of the Arts, the small but growing Saturday morning market features locally caught seafood, fresh-baked bread and pastries, produce, artisanal cheeses and other wholesome, local fare.

Details: Corner of Colonial and McGregor boulevards, Fort Myers



**BEST THEATRICAL SEASON**

Florida Repertory Theatre

Hands down, the theatrical venue with the best season was Florida Repertory Theatre, with a diverse offering of plays that entertained, intrigued and tickled our funny bone. From the classics ("The Glass Menagerie," "Born Yesterday") to a humorous thriller ("The Art of Murder") to warm family comedy ("Indian Blood," "Alone Together," "The Last Romance"), each and every show connected with its audience. In January, *Wall Street Journal* critic Terry Teachout reviewed "Dancing at Lughnasa" and urged that "...anyone unlucky enough not to have seen this modern masterpiece should make haste to Fort Myers, where the weather is warm and the theater fine."

**BEST ACTRESS**

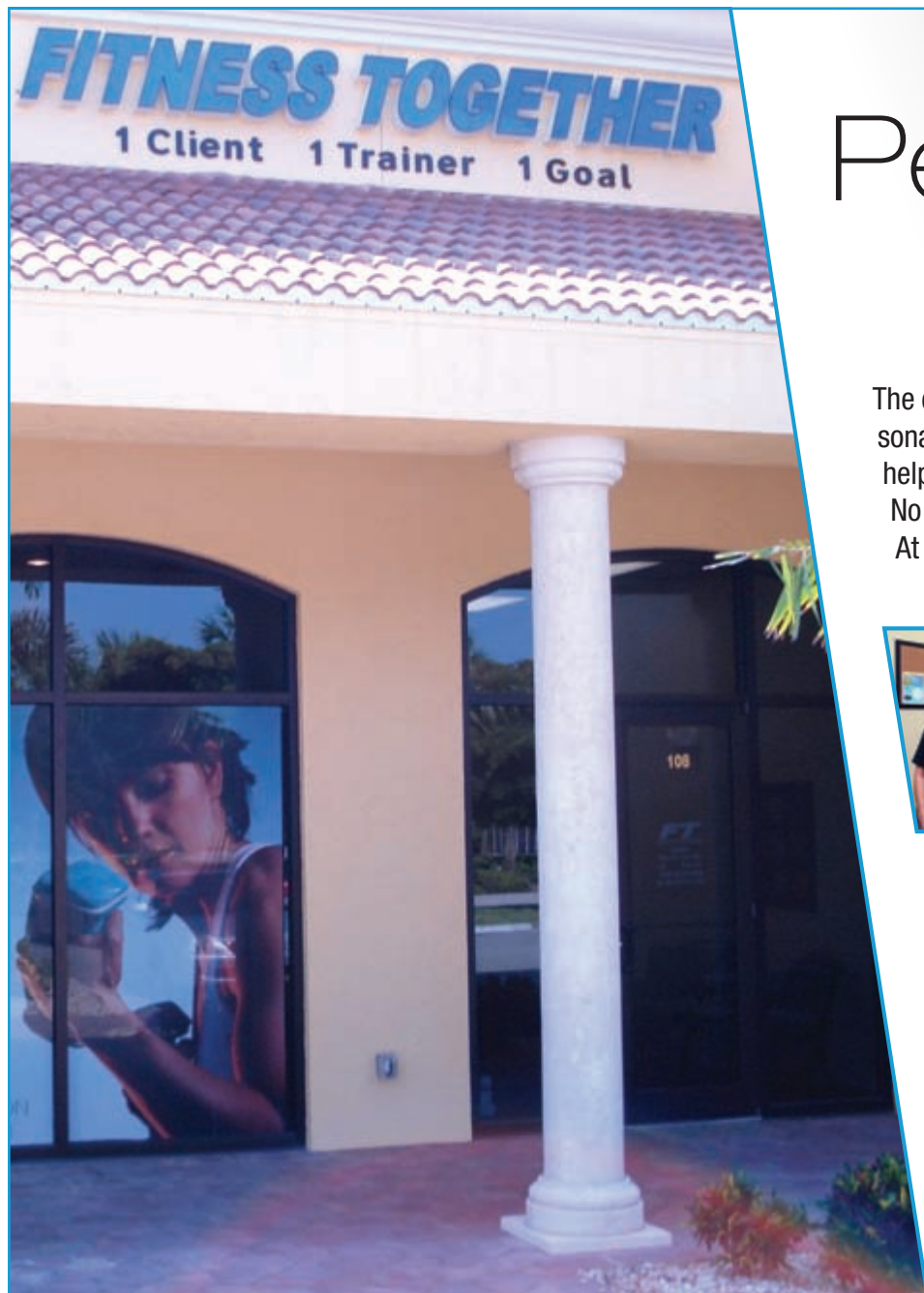
Lisa Morgan

Earlier this month, actress Lisa Morgan gave a nightly class in *How It's Done* at the Florida Repertory Theatre when she performed in the one-woman show, "Shirley Valentine." While audiences came to be entertained, fellow actors also attended, some multiple times, to see what they could learn from watching her onstage. Equally adept in comedy and drama, Ms. Morgan was both hilarious and poignantly moving as a British housewife who rediscovers herself mid-life. Each night, audiences jumped to their feet to cheer and give her a rousing standing ovation. Word of mouth about the show and Ms. Morgan spread, causing the Rep to extend the run. And the shows themselves ran longer because audiences were laughing so much. Known for disappearing into her roles and possessing a vast range, the chameleon-like Ms. Morgan, who played the formidable Sister Aloysius in "Doubt" last season at the Rep, also portrayed the bawdy Maggie in "Dancing at Lughnasa" (also at the Rep) earlier this year.

**BEST ACTOR**

David S. Howard

He makes it look so easy. David S. Howard acts with the grace and ease of Fred Astaire dancing. This season he reprised his role as a crotchety widower in "Visiting Mr. Green" at Sanibel's BIG Arts (directed by Robert Cacioppo, producing artistic director of Florida Repertory Theatre). Mr. Howard also appeared in two plays at the Florida Rep this year: A.R. Gurney's "Indian Blood" and Joe DiPietro's "The Last Romance." It was pretty cool to watch onstage someone we'd seen on the big screen in "Moonstruck," "Meet Joe Black," "Deconstructing Harry" and "Crimes and Misdemeanors."



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