

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF APRIL 12-18, 2007

A GUIDE TO THE GREATER FORT MYERS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

Power failure doesn't stop intrepid troupe

"Spelling Bee" cast presses on amid power failure

BY NANCY STETSON
Correspondent

The show must go on. Everybody knows that. Audiences expect it and actors live it. Call it the theatrical work ethic or the actor's mantra. Irving Berlin refers to it in, "There's No Business Like Show Business," talking about performing even when you've just learned your favorite uncle's died, or your parents are splitting up. He doesn't say "the show must go on" in those precise words, but the sentiment's there.

A fellow cast member forgets his lines? A set falls down? The supposedly dead body on the parlor floor suddenly sneezes? That's live theater. The show must go on. Except, of course, on those rare occasions when it doesn't - like last Tuesday, when "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" opened at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. About 10 minutes into the show, right after the opening number, the power went out, and



COURTESY PHOTO

The cast of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" performed last week at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall — for awhile.

the show was eventually cancelled. In all my years of reviewing theater, that's the first time I ever recall that happening. I did attend a Kenny Chesney concert at the Germain Arena a few years ago, back when it was still called TECO Arena. Due to an electrical problem the show was postponed. People milled around, and many made multiple beer runs to the lobby. After an hour and a half, the show finally continued.

But this is the first time I've seen a musical stopped after it began. Prior to the show I was admiring Beowulf Boritt's set design; it instantly transported me back to PS 104 in Brooklyn, New York with its clunky wooden chairs and tables that must have been around since George Washington's time. The gym bleachers. The basketball hoop and backboard seen from the distorted

SEE SPELLING, C5 ▶

WEEKEND at-a-glance



Theatre

Tony-nominated "Swing!" opens at the Broadway Palm Theatre on April 19. C6 ▶

THEATRE



Review

Florida Weekly reviews "Midlife The Crisis Musical." C4 ▶

Theater Conspiracy unFoulds



COURTESY PHOTO

Bill Taylor, the artistic director of the Theater Conspiracy, told a crowd of about 40 supporters on Monday, April, 2 that the troupe will not be operating out of the Foulds Theater after May 5.

Group looking for new venue

BY CARL-JOHN X VERAJA
Correspondent

Last week, Bill Taylor, the artistic director of the Theater Conspiracy, gave a presentation in the Foulds Theater, delivering the bad news first. "I'm going to just drop the bomb," Taylor said. "We will not be renewing our contract...we'll be shutting down as of May 5."

About 40 people were there to listen

SEE CONSPIRACY, C5 ▶

OUTDOORS



Biking

Hit Lee County's top mountain bike trail. C15 ▶



HENRICKS
DIAMOND SUPERSTORE
BONITA SPRINGS - NAPLES



Selection you deserve at prices you expect.
It's why everyone shops at Henricks.