

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF NOV. 29-DEC. 5, 2007

A GUIDE TO THE GREATER FORT MYERS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

almost, maine

Magic realism and romance lights up Florida Rep's latest production

☰ If you go ☑ ☰

- >> **What:** "Almost, Maine"
- >> **When:** Nov. 30 through Dec. 23
- >> **Where:** Florida Repertory Theatre
- >> **Cost:** \$34-38
- >> **Information:** Call 332-4488.

BY NANCY STETSON
Florida Weekly Correspondent

John Cariani's a New York actor. He lives in New York, he works in New York. He's performed in the ultimate New York theatrical venue: Broadway. (He did so well, he received a Tony nomination for his role as Motel in "Fiddler on the Roof.") He's done Shakespeare in the Park in Central Park, performing in Kathleen Marshall's "Two Gentlemen of Verona." And he's played forensics technician Beck, a recurring role, on TV's "Law & Order," a quintessential New York show that shoots on its gritty streets and even gives you exact addresses before each scene.



CARIANI

But when John Cariani set out to write a play, he didn't set it in New York. "Everything I saw [on the stage] in New York was about writers, artists, art," he says. "I feel that the form is imploding.

There are too many stories about our stories as entertainers, and I don't feel that's very interesting. I think there's got to be room [for other things.] There are so many stories in New York about New York and New Yorkers, I don't think those play as well in the rest

SEE ALMOST, C4 ►



Rachael Endrizzi & Rob Hagle in *Almost Maine*

PHOTOS COURTESY FLORIDA REPERTORY THEATRE

WEEK at-a-glance



Christmas Sax

Dave Koz and Friends perform "A Smooth Jazz Christmas" at The Philharmonic Center for the Arts in Naples. **C6** ►



Fabulous Fabio's

Fabio's in North Fort Myers cooks up food and hospitality that's hard to beat. **C23** ►



Fred Claus

Don't need to waste your time or money on this abomination, says film critic D.N.A. Smith. **C11** ►

Documentary chronicles aviation in SW Florida

WCGU's "Untold Stories" series is a glimpse into Southwest Florida's history

BY JEFF CULL
jcull@florida-weekly.com

Some of aviation's greatest achievements have ties to Southwest Florida. Know what they are? Well, you'll have to tune in to WCGU TV Friday, Nov. 30 at 8:30 p.m. for "Barnstormers to Blue Angels," the documentary's writer and producer won't tell.

"I want everyone to watch," said Libby Boren McMillan, a popular travel and features writer who spent two months researching and writing the history of

☰ Watch ☑ ☰

>> **What:** Untold Stories "Barnstormers to Blue Angels"

>> **Where:** WCGU TV (Channel 30, Comcast channel 3)

>> **When:** Friday, Nov. 30 at 8:30 p.m.



civilian aviation in Southwest Florida.

Prodding couldn't convince McMillan to even hint at what the news was. She would only offer a tease; "One of the most significant events in aviation history has ties to our area."

The half-hour documentary is part of

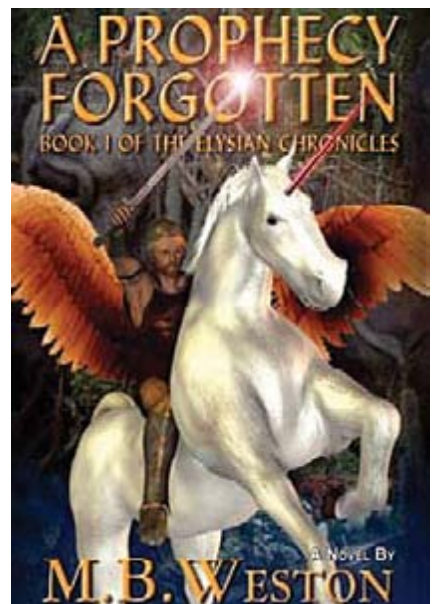
WCGU's "Untold Stories" series that chronicles the history of Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties.

One of the significant aviation events happened just north of Southwest Florida in St. Petersburg, McMillan said. It was 1914 when pilot Tony Janus took off in a Benoist Flying Boat and flew the first scheduled air route in the U.S., to neighboring Tampa.

But there's lots more, said McMillan, who has a communications degree in radio, TV and film from the University of Texas.

"There were some big surprises in how Southwest Florida affected aviation," she said. "Some of aviation's luminaries are tied to this area, such as Henry Ford."

SEE UNTOLD STORIES, C12 ►



Guardian Angel tale

"A Prophecy Forgotten" is part Naples author M.B. Weston's series The Elysian Chronicles. **C11** ►