

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO



This week's theatre

■ **Almost Maine** - All is not what it seems in this magical new off Broadway comedy — **Almost Maine**, is onstage at the **Florida Repertory Theatre** until Dec. 23. When the Northern Lights hang over the mythical town of Almost, Maine, its residents find themselves falling in and out of love - in the most unexpected, unusual and hilarious ways. This play inventively explores the mysteries of the human heart and touches audiences with laughter, heartbreak and hope. Tickets are \$34-\$38, and \$17 for selected seats. For information call 332-4488.

■ **Holly Jolly Christmas** - **Holly Jolly Christmas** runs through Dec. 25 at the **Broadway Palm Dinner Theater**. This song and dance extravaganza is fantastic entertainment for all ages. It embraces the season with Broadway-style dancing, stunning costumes and the traditional holiday favorites you know and love. Tickets are now on sale and can be reserved by calling 278-4422, by visiting www.BroadwayPalm.com, or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

■ **Grandmother** - "Funny, You Don't Look Like a Grandmother!" runs at the **Off Broadway Palm Theater** through Dec. 22. A humorous, yet heartwarming musical comedy that celebrates modern-day grandmothers in a whole new light. Throw away the granny glasses, shapeless black dresses and Red Cross shoes, and replace them with tennis dresses, skis and a condo in Florida. Tickets are on sale and can be reserved by calling 278-4422, by visiting www.BroadwayPalm.com, or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

■ **Arsenic and Old Lace** - This classic comedy **Arsenic and Old Lace** takes a cheery look at an eccentric family who mix murder and mayhem to give a new meaning to the idea of "charity work." The Naples Players rendition of **Arsenic and Old Lace** runs through Dec. 15 at the **Sugden Community Theatre**. For information call the Sugden at (239) 263-7990.

■ **Stage 88** - **The Everything You Don't Know About Christmas Show** an original **Stage 88** musical revue will be on stage Dec. 6-22 at the Bonita Springs theater. Surprise guests, audience participation and laughter that will make your belly jiggle like a bowl full of jelly. The revue by Mark McClellan and Sabrina Sharpe runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be reserved by calling (239) 513-8600 or send your reservation request to Stage88@stage88.com.

■ **The Nutcracker** - **Broadway Palm Children's Theatre** presents **The Nutcracker** playing Dec. 7*, 9, 11*, 14*, 15, 18*, 21* and 23, 2007. The holiday classic is about a young girl who is given a beautiful nutcracker. She dreams that it comes to life and battles against the Mouse King and his army. The nutcracker defeats the mouse king and is transformed into a prince. All performances begin with a buffet at noon and show time at 1 p.m. (except where indicated*, lunch is at 10:30 a.m. and the show is at 11:30 a.m.) The chef's special buffet includes children's favorites like hamburgers, hot dogs, french fries, chicken and more. Ticket prices for lunch and the show are only \$15 for all ages. Tickets are now on sale and can be reserved by calling (239) 278-4422, by visiting www.BroadwayPalm.com, or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard.

This week's symphony

■ **The Genius of B's** - Conducted by Michael Hall, with pianist Christopher O' Riley, **The Southwest Florida Symphony** performs Britten, Beethoven, Barber and Bizet at the **Barbra B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** on Friday, Dec. 7 and Saturday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m.. The genius of four B's features Beethoven's masterful Piano Concerto #4, with O' Riley of NPR's 'From the Top'. United these musical treasures demonstrate four extraordinary composers. For tickets go online at www.swfsls.org or call the box office at 418-1500.

Thursday, Dec. 6

■ **Fabric of Life** - An Opening Reception for "Fabric of Life" runs from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Harborside Event Center in the downtown River District. This special evening will include 3-dimensional art, such as ceramics, glass and fiber. Music and complimentary refreshments will complete the festive evening. Everyone is welcome to explore the artistic and cultural vibrancy of fiber art and give the gift of art to someone on your holiday list. The exhibit is sponsored by the Harborside Event Center and ArtFest Fort Myers. It's a display of 30 spectacular contemporary art quilts created by the members of Art

Quilts Unlimited. This juried show represents a broad array of fiber wall art from a group of artists who compete nationally in their medium and bring the excitement of color and design to this fine craft. For information email info@ArtFestFortMyers.com or call 768-3602.

Friday, Dec. 7

■ **The Ten Tenors** - Australia's Ten Tenors play at the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** at 8 p.m. They have charmed audiences around the world with their dynamic mix of vocal power — featuring a repertoire that ranges from jazz to opera to pop. The Tenors fuse brilliant musicianship with comedy and a flair for performance resulting in an unforgettable show. They've played sold out concerts in Europe, the United States, Canada, Asia and Australia and they sold out at the Phil in their 2005 Southwest Florida debut. For information or tickets call (239) 597-1900 or online at www.thephil.org.

Saturday, Dec. 8

■ **Blake Shelton** - Country music star Blake Shelton will headline the first **"Sam Galloway Ford Lakeside Country Bash"** at **Lakes Park** 1:30 p.m. (gates open at noon), presented by BBL Florida and Lodge Construction. The Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation, Lee County Parks and Recreation and Gator Country 101.9 FM are planning the outdoor concert, which will also include guest performances by American Idol star Josh Gracin, James Otto, Jennifer Hanson and Brad Conner. Tickets are \$20 general admission and are on sale now at all Ticketmaster retail locations and www.ticketmaster.com. Avoid ticket surcharges by purchasing tickets at Gator Country, Lakes Park, Veterans Rec Center or the Estero Community Center. For additional information visit www.LakesideCountryBash.com or call (239) 432-2006.

■ **Art** - An exhibit of Florida landscape paintings by **Frank Sadera** will be held Saturday and Sunday at the **Florida Fine Art Gallery in Gannon's Antiques & Art Center**, 16521 South Tamiami Trail.

>>Australia's Ten Tenors play at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts on Friday, Dec. 7

There will be a "Meet the Artist" reception on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. The artist is known for his large-scale dramatic landscapes, many with soaring sunlit clouds so typical of South West Florida. The exhibit will include new oil paintings shown for the first time. Gallery hours are Mon. to Sat. 10 to 5:30, and Sundays 11 to 4. For information and directions phone (239) 489-2211.

■ **Art Divine** - Members of the **Fort Myers Beach Art Association** open an exhibit of framed and unframed art for sale in an event called **"Art Divine."** All works are priced under \$99. The "Art Divine" sale will be open until Jan. 10 so there will be plenty of time for everyone to purchase holiday gifts or something for their own home. The art association has many award winning artists displaying their fine artwork throughout the year. For information call 463-3909 or online at www.fortmyersbeachart.com

Tuesday, Dec. 11

■ **Wedgwood master** - The Waterford Wedgwood Company store at Miromar welcomes **Waterford Master Artisan Gerry Treacy** for a special appearance and product signing from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. In this rare visit from Ireland, Treacy will discuss Waterford Crystal and sign purchases made at the event. The **Waterford Wedgwood Company Store** is located at Miromar Outlets in Estero. For more information call 992-9216 or email napleo47@wwusa.com.

■ **Holiday Carol Sing** - Celebrate the holidays by joining in song at the **17th Annual Holiday Carol Sing** at the **First Presbyterian Church** in downtown Fort Myers. There are two performances, at 4 and 7 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. Santa Claus will be there along with 150 voices from local choirs. Admission is two cans of food to benefit The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative Ministries. Voluntary donations also will be accepted for The Soup Kitchen Fund. The event is presented as a community service by **the Galloway Family of Dealerships**.