

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 heart-warming 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.

■ **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.



>>Gypsy is onstage at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts Dec. 18 and 19.

■ **Gypsy** - From the blast of the first trumpet to the last hot spotlight, it's little wonder why **Gypsy** reigns as one of the greatest Broadway musicals of the 20th century. It's onstage at the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. For information or tickets call (239) 597-1900 or online at www.thephil.org.

■ **Holiday Follies** - **The Schoolhouse Theater** on Sanibel Island presents "**The Holiday Follies**", a musical holiday revue beginning Tuesday, Dec. 18. 'Tis the season to join the cast in singing your favorite holiday songs. Performances will be every evening through Dec. 31 at 8 p.m., Sundays at 6 p.m., and no shows on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Still looking for plans on New Year's Eve? Celebrate with **The Schoolhouse Theater** - catch the show early at 7 p.m. and still have time to ring in the new year. The cast consists of Island favorites Victor Legarreta, Mindy Montavon, and Tammy Truitt - and introducing Kate Phillips and Kay Donovan. For a chance to catch the cast outside of the theater, join them at Sanibel Art Night (Dec. 19), as they sing some of their favorite songs from the show. For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 472-6862 or check out www.theschoolhousetheater.com

■ **The Last Five Years** - Synergy Productions, Southwest Florida's professional musical theater company, in association with the Theater Guild of Southwest Florida, presents the award-winning musical, "**The Last Five Years**," at the Foulds Theater on the campus of the Alliance for the Arts. The play opens Wednesday, Dec. 19 and an Opening Night & Champagne Reception will be held after the show that starts at 8 p.m. It runs through Jan. 27. A fresh and contemporary musical, "**The Last Five Years**" chronicles a young couple's romance in a new and exciting way. Critics have praised the music as creative and groundbreaking. The lyrics evoke Stephen Sondheim. The musical style draws from pop, jazz, folk, Rock and classical. Performances are Wednesday at 8 p.m.; and Sunday through Saturday at 2 p.m. For tickets call (239) 236-1645 or visit the Foulds Theater Box Office. www.synergyproductions.org

This week's symphony

■ **Russian Romantics** - **Russian Romantics** is the season opener for the **Gulf Coast Symphony** on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the **Anderson Theatre — Santini Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of Bishop Verot High School**. Selections feature "Variations on a Rococo Theme" by Tchaikovsky, a concert-piece for solo cellist and orchestra Cellist Ian Maksin; the "Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Pathétique, Op. 74," Tchaikovsky's final symphony; and "Isle of the Dead," a symphonic poem by Sergei Rachmaninoff. Tickets are \$10, \$15 and \$20 and can be purchased online at www.gulfcoastsymphony.org. For information call the symphony at 489-1800.

■ **Holiday Pops** - **Holiday Pops**, conducted by Stuart Malina, and the Philharmonic Center Chorale and Philharmonic Youth Chorale perform at the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** Friday, Dec. 14 at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15 at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. Guest conductor Malina, who won a Tony Award for his orchestration of the Broadway hit *Movin' Out*, has prepared a stirring musical celebration of the season for his Naples debut. Among the highlights of this wide-ranging program will be a musicological journey through the Twelve Days of Christmas, along with traditional Christmas carols — and an appearance by Santa Claus. For information or tickets call (239) 597-1900 or online at www.thephil.org.

■ **Mostly Messiah** - Sounds of rejoicing fill the air as the **Southwest Florida Symphony Chorus and Chamber Orchestra** perform selections from Handel's immortal *Messiah* and Vivaldi's *Gloria* Saturday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Estero United Methodist Church and Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Cape Coral. Soloists will include Jennifer Paulino, soprano; Kathleen Sonnentag, mezzo soprano; and Neil Nelson, baritone. For tickets go online at www.swflso.org or call the box office at 418-1500.



>>Last Comic standing finalists perform at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall Dec. 13.

Thursday, Dec. 13

■ **Comedy** - Enjoy an evening of great stand-up comedy with the finalists from NBC's popular laughfest "**Last Comic Standing**," at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** at 7:30 p.m. Appearing will be Amy Schumer, Gerry Dee, John Reep, Laveil Crawford and Ralph Harris. Tickets are \$21, \$31, \$38, and \$48 and are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmnpah.com.




>>Jethro Tull performs at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall Dec.14.

Friday, Dec. 14

■ **Jethro Tull** - The British band **Jethro Tull** performs at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** at 7:30 p.m. Jethro Tull was formed in February 1968 from the ashes of two unsuccessful blues/rock bands of the era. Ian Anderson brought his unique and innovative style of flute playing to a public raised on the guitar-based British bands who courted acceptance at London's famous Marquee Club. Ticket prices are \$60.50 and \$46 and are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmnpah.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

■ **Jim Brickman** - **Jim Brickman Christmas** is onstage for one performance at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** at 7:30 p.m. The warmth and intimacy of Jim Brickman's holiday concerts have been compared to a gathering of friends and family — a special homecoming — that resonates with the true spirit of Christmas. Ever since Brickman's song, "The Gift," became a huge holiday hit along with "Sending You A Little Christmas," people have made his holiday music as much a part of their Christmas celebration as boughs of holly, festive parties and exchanging gifts. Ticket are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmnpah.com.



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Barrel Room available for private parties.