

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Ongoing events

■ **Art - Florida Gulf Coast University's Arts Complex Gallery** has an exhibition of paintings and constructions entitled **"Every X Marks Somewhere"** by FGCU Associate Professor of Art, Morgan T. Paine. The show features works created during Paine's 2006-2007 sabbatical, as well as a large walk-able ramp in the shape of an X that will commemorate the first ten years of the University's life as an educational institution. He will also show his "Life Painting and Drawing," a 24-foot-wide painting that contains a series of panels that represent each of the days of a year, and on which he has worked virtually every day since 1979. The exhibition continues through Dec. 15. The Arts Complex Gallery is located at 10501 FGCU Blvd S. Admission is free. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For additional information contact the Art Gallery at 590-7199.

■ **Art- Harborside Event Center and ArtFest Fort Myers'** next exhibit is the **"Fabric of Life"**, a display of 30 spectacular contemporary art quilts created by the members of Art Quilters 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. 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 open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information email info@ArtFestFortMyers.com or call 768-3602.

■ **Art - The Arts in Healthcare Program at Lee Memorial Health System** will exhibit artist **Tony Ryals**, who paints with his mouth, at the Lee Memorial Health System. A rare birth defect called Arthrogryposis, left Ryals's arms and legs virtually useless. But being raised with great parents, understanding friends, and very special teachers, Ryals has learned to adapt and use the attributes that he has. His message to people of all ages is that anything is possible and "Never Give Up." Ryals will be showing his art at Southwest Regional Medical Center Dec. 12 through 14. His art exhibit will be open from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. Come meet Ryals, ask questions, watch him paint, and purchase that special piece of art for a Holiday gift.

■ **Art- The Cape Coral Arts Studio** exhibit: the work of the late **Jean Inman in a "Memorial Tribute"** runs through Dec. 28. For information call 574-0802. The Cape Coral Arts Studio is located at 4533 Coronado Parkway, Cape Coral.

■ **Art - The Art League of Fort Myers'** current exhibit is **"Small Packages"** at the Gallery, 1451 Monroe Street in the heart of the River District. "Small Packages" contains only original art at affordable prices created by local artists. For information call 275-3970 or online at www.artleagueoffortmyers.org

■ **Art - The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Edison College** has an exhibition of paintings by Florida State University Painting and Drawing instructor Mark Messersmith. The exhibition, titled **"A Southern Landscape,"** runs through Dec. 8. The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The gallery is closed Sundays and holidays. For additional information please call the gallery at 489-9313.

■ **Art - the Naples Art Association's "46th Founders Juried Awards Exhibition"** is on display at The **von Liebig Art Center**. The exhibition, that runs through Jan. 13, honors the artists who in 1954 joined together to form the NAA, including Grace Lake, Elsie Dorey Upham and George Rogers. The NAA received 455 entries from 244 member artists. Internationally-acclaimed American abstract painter Sam Gilliam, a pre-eminent artist based in Washington, DC, served as juror. He selected 179 works by 149 artists for the exhibition as well as the 23 award winners. The top three award winners will participate in a three-person exhibition at The von Liebig Art Center next year. The von Liebig Art Center is located at 585 Park Street in downtown Naples and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. with free admission daily.

■ **Art - Communication: The imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions or information by speech, writing, or signs. "Transmissions: A Juried Competition"** is the next exhibit at the **Alliance for the Arts**. Categories are sculpture, painting (including oil, acrylic, collage, watercolor, mixed media), photography, prints and drawings. The exhibit runs through Jan. 9. For information call the Alliance at 939-2787 or online at www.artinlee.org. The Alliance is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard just south of Colonial Boulevard. Visit www.artinlee.org for more details.

■ **Art- The Group of Four** exhibit, featuring **Paul Rodino, Richard Rosen, Anica Sturdivant, and Kathleen Walsh**, is at **BIG ARTS Founders Gallery** through Dec. 31. Paul Rodino's photography offers a glimpse into life's unappreciated, sometimes unseen everyday beauty. Richard Rosen's stimulating sculpture and painting combinations exemplify the intuitive evolution from natural to abstract. Anica Sturdivant's Bubble Wrap series explores self-control, while her Earth Pod series is an integration of the sacred and earthly; both require the viewer to delve beneath superficial judgment. Kathleen Walsh's experience as a psychiatric nurse lends itself to her spontaneous, open-to-interpretation mixed-media pieces. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information about this exhibit and other upcoming events and workshops at BIG ARTS, to purchase tickets, or to sign up for workshops, stop by BIG ARTS, 900 Dunlop Road Sanibel, call (239) 395-0900, e-mail info@bigarts.org, or log on to www.BIGARTS.org.

Upcoming events

■ **Willie Nelson - Country legend Willie Nelson** returns to the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** Wednesday, Jan. 16. The iconic Texan is the creative genius behind historic recordings like "Crazy," "Hello Walls," "Red Headed Stranger" and "Stardust." His career has spanned six decades, his catalog boasts more than 200 albums and he's earned every conceivable award and honor to be bestowed a person in his profession. He has also amassed reputable credentials as an author, actor and activist. Tickets are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmannpah.com.

Upcoming events



>>> **Doc Severinsen and the Naples Philharmonic at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts Dec. 20.**

■ **Moscow Ballet - The Moscow Ballet** will perform the **Great Russian Nutcracker** at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** on Wednesday and Thursday Dec. 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. The Moscow Ballet is performing in 80 cities during its 15th annual holiday tour of the United States. Artistic Director Anatoli Emelianov, a ten-year veteran of the Moscow Ballet and its chief choreographer, will star as the Enchanted Nutcracker Prince. Moscow Ballet's all Russian casts have won rave reviews for exquisite dancing and finely honed classical technique. Ticket are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmannpah.com.

■ **Foreigner - The rock group Foreigner** will perform at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** on Friday Dec. 28 at 8 p.m. The hard rock band formed in New York City in 1976 by veteran musicians Mick Jones and ex-King Crimson member Ian McDonald, along with then-unknown vocalist Lou Gramm. Foreigner has sold more than 50 million albums worldwide. Their hits include *Hot Blooded*, *Cold as Ice* and *Urgent*. Ticket are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmannpah.com.

■ **Salute to Vienna - The once a year excitement of New Year's** comes to life on stage in this unique re-creation of Vienna's World Famous New Year's Concert - **Salute to Vienna!** at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** on Monday, Dec. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Salute to Vienna's musical magic features a cast of over 70 musicians, International singers and dancers adorned in beautiful traditional costumes. The new program will feature waltzes (such as the Blue Danube Waltz), polkas and Operetta excerpts from Die Fledermaus and The Merry Widow sung by our outstanding European sopranos and tenors. The musical classics of Johann Strauss Jr. and other famous Viennese composers will be interpreted by an array of engaging Maestros all with that charming 'Viennese flare.' The entire performance will have you clapping and dancing in your seats. Ticket are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmannpah.com.

■ **Art - Art League of Fort Myers** will sponsor **"Highlights of the Brooklyn Museum"**, a PowerPoint slideshow presented by Mr. Peter Downes on Thursday, Jan. 3. Downes will discuss and illustrate the second largest art collection in the U.S. He will outline the process that an artist needs to follow to have art exhibited in or donated to the Brooklyn Museum. The program will be held at noon at the ALFM Gallery, 1451 Monroe Street, in the River District. For information call 275-3970 or online at www.artleagueoffortmyers.org

■ **A Christmas Carol - A Christmas Carol** is onstage at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** Thursday, Dec. 20. With all the warmth and comfort of a cup of Christmas cheer, A Christmas Carol is packed with laughter, pageantry and gorgeous costumes. Every memorable detail of Dickens' A Christmas Carol springs to life, spine-chilling ghosts, heartfelt renditions of traditional British carols; and all the fascinating characters that audiences have come to love. Ticket prices are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmannpah.com.

■ **Cats - Andrew Lloyd Webber's timeless Cats** is onstage at the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** Wednesday, Dec. 26 through Saturday, Dec. 29 at 8 p.m. There's no better way to introduce your family to the wonders of live theater than with the magic, the mystery, the memory of Cats. What began as a musical about cats after Webber picked up a book of poems in an airport bookshop has become one of the longest-running shows in Broadway's history. Winner of seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, Cats features 20 of Andrew Lloyd Webber's timeless melodies, including the hit song Memory. For information or tickets call (239) 597-1900 or online at www.thephil.org.

■ **Lewis Black - Comedian Lewis Black** will perform at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** on Saturday Dec. 29. If you missed him last year; make your plans now for a chance to catch one of the funniest people in America. Appearances on "The Late Show with David Letterman" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" proved fertile ground for Black, and as a contributor to "The Daily Show," his two-minute political and pop culture rants made him a national hero. Fittingly, his one man HBO specials have become popular favorites and have elevated his stature as one of the most relevant as well as hilarious comedians today. Ticket are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at www.bbmannpah.com.

■ **Brass Blast - Doc Severinsen and the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra** perform *El Ritmo de la Vida* (The Rhythm of Life) at the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** Thursday, Dec. 20, at 8 p.m. Hayes Hall. Last year, legendary trumpeter Doc Severinsen announced his retirement from touring after a long and storied career. But Doc has agreed to return to Naples for this exciting new Brass Blast! program, exclusively at the Phil. *El Ritmo de la Vida*, will feature the former Tonight Show band leader, joined by three Mexican virtuoso musicians, presenting music from Spain, traditional Mexican music and gypsy jazz - along with some light classical favorites. The program will showcase special arrangements created specifically for this concert. For information or tickets call (239) 597-1900 or online at www.thephil.org.

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