

## 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.

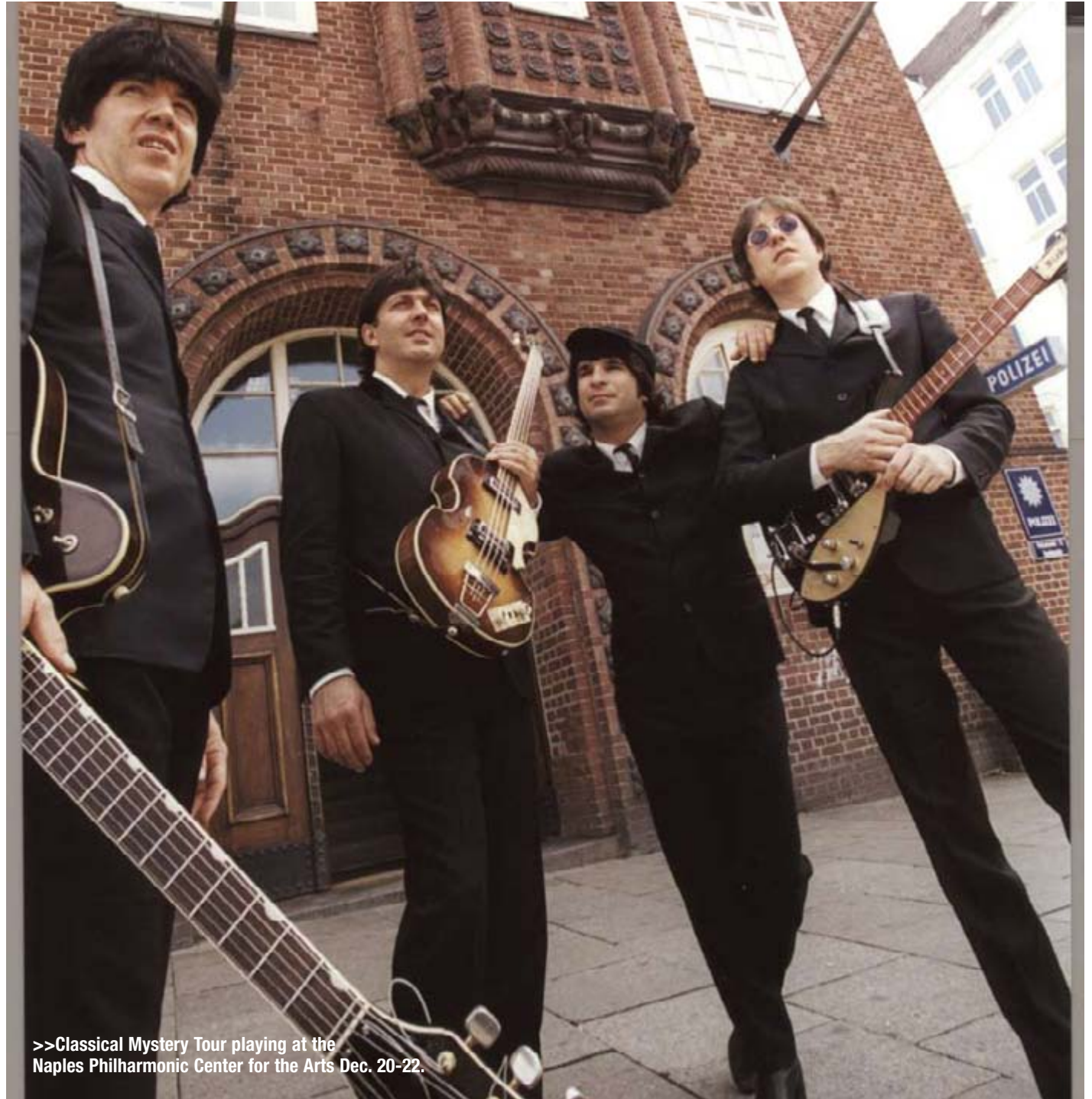
■ **Holly Jolly Christmas** - **Holly Jolly Christmas** runs through Dec. 25 at the **Broadway Palm Dinner Theater**. This song and dance extravaganza is fantastic entertainment for all ages. It embraces the season with Broadway-style dancing, stunning costumes and the traditional holiday favorites you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

■ **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](http://www.theschoolhousetheater.com)

■ **The Nutcracker** - **Broadway Palm Children's Theatre** presents **The Nutcracker** playing Dec. 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](http://www.BroadwayPalm.com), or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard.



>>Classical Mystery Tour playing at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts Dec. 20-22.

■ **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 **Fould's Theater** on the campus of **The Alliance for the Arts**. The play 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 through Saturday at 8 p.m.; and Sunday at 2 p.m. For tickets call (239) 236-1645 or visit the Foulds Theater Box Office. [www.synergyproductions.org](http://www.synergyproductions.org)

## This week's symphony

■ **Classical Mystery Tour** - A **Pops Special: Classical Mystery Tour** plays at the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** Thursday, Dec. 20; Friday, Dec. 21; and Saturday, Dec. 22 at 8 p.m. The concert features the original cast-members of Broadway's Beatlemania and is accompanied by the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra. Four Beatlemania cast-members are joined by the full orchestra to perform some 30 Beatles tunes — sung and played exactly as written. From the acoustic beauty of Yesterday to the classical/hard rock blend of I Am the Walrus, Classical Mystery Tour presents the best of The Beatles as you've never heard them before: totally live.

■ **A Very Merry Pops** - The Southwest Florida Symphony, featuring the the Symphony Chorus, Children's Chorus and guest Tommy O perform **A Very Merry Pops** at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** Saturday, Dec. 22 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. Conducted by Joseph Caulkins, the concert is a heartwarming holiday family favorite. It's a time to enjoy great music, celebrate the

season and help support the community. Toys and food will be collected. Please consider bringing non perishable food or unwrapped toys to the concert. For tickets go online at [www.swflso.org](http://www.swflso.org) or call the box office at 418-1500.

## Thursday, Dec. 20

■ **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** 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 bandleader, 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](http://www.thephil.org).

■ **A Christmas Carol** - **A Christmas Carol** is onstage at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** at 7:30 p.m. 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](http://www.bbmannpah.com).

## Friday, Dec. 21

■ **Alexandrea Tocco** - The HEAR Foundation presents a special holiday performance by **Alexandrea Tocco** at the **Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center** at 8:30 p.m. Alexandria is returning home to Florida from the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Interlochen, Mich. where she is spending her senior year studying music and theater. Her accomplishments include playing "Juliet" in the Gulfshore playhouse production of "Romeo and Juliet Redefined", performing with Nat Chandler and Janelle McCoy at the Barbara B. Mann production of "Andrew Lloyd Webber Unmasked", and performing as an invited soloist with the Spirit of Gulf Sweet Adeline's Choir and Music Makers Show Band. Tickets can be purchased for a minimum donation of \$50 per person. A minimum donation of \$100 or more per person will include tickets to her performance as well as admission to a VIP reception following the event. All donations will be applied to the Alexandria Tocco Scholarship Fund. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 337-1933 or visit [www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com) on line.

## Wednesday, Dec. 26

■ **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](http://www.bbmannpah.com).