

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF JANUARY 24-30, 2008 A GUIDE TO THE GREATER FORT MYERS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

gravity-defying,
imagination-stretching
feats of human
strength, balance
& athleticism
comes to the Barbara B. Mann



Cirque dreams

BY NANCY STETSON
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The building's surprisingly nondescript for a place that houses such magic.

Two-stories tall, snow white with blue trim, it's tucked inside an industrial park on Florida's Southeast coast.

You wouldn't know it was there unless you were looking for it.

But step inside, and you discover that the bland exterior is merely a disguise for a fantasy wonderland.

Even the lobby of Dream Studios, the headquarters for Cirque Productions, is filled with colorful whimsy: a long, blue, curving couch with a life-sized soft sculpture of an elderly woman anchoring one end, a cigarette dangling from her lips; a fountain with running water descending from bowl to bowl; a table surrounded by chairs with triangular seats; a sculpture of a flamingo with a corkscrew neck.

SEE CIRCUE, C4 ▶



Left: Cirque Productions founder, owner and artistic director Neil Goldberg said he's excited to bring Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy home to Southwest Florida. Goldberg maintains a residence in Cape Coral.

if you go

>> **What:** "Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy"

>> **When:** Feb. 5-10

>> **Where:** The Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, 8099 College Parkway

>> **Cost:** \$56, \$41, \$31 and \$21

>> **Information:** Call 481-4849.

WEEK at-a-glance



Art celebration

The 5th Annual Edison Celebration of Art will unfold on the lawns of the Edison & Ford Winter Estates on McGregor Boulevard Saturday. **C12** ▶



The Men in Brown

Good and evil face off in the hit musical "Monky Business" on stage now at the Off Broadway Palm Theatre. **C20** ▶



Reunited

Iconic chef Shannon Yates has a new (and old) restaurant. **C26** ▶

Chamber music: It doesn't get more intimate than this

BY NANCY STETSON
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Chamber music is a very intimate form of music says Janelle McCoy, artistic director of the newly formed Chamber Music Society of Southwest Florida.

Imagine listening to a trio or string quartet perform music in your living room or bedroom. That's what chamber music is like: three instruments or a small ensemble, usually performing in a small setting.

"Imagine yourself, when you hear a jazz trio, in that environment," McCoy says.

if you go

>> **When:** 7:30 p.m., Monday, January 28

>> **Where:** Foulds Theatre at the Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd.

>> **Cost:** \$20

>> **Information:** Call 236-1654 or go to www.chambersociety.org



McCoy

"You're in an intimate space, and everyone is focused on the music, if you're in a real jazz bar. It's like that. When you're close to jazz, the rhythms are so infectious, the

music can go a million different ways. It's the same way with chamber music.

"In the broadest sense, the word chamber is a derivation of the word (ital)chambre (close ital), which is French for room. So chamber

music means room music, or salon music." In chamber music, the instruments share equal importance. If there's a singer, the

SEE CHAMBER, C8 ▶



Vibrant Violins

The Symphony Society is raising funds with painted violins. See how you can get one of these originals. **C18** ▶