

## WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

## Ongoing events

■ **Art - BIG ARTS** of Sanibel presents the **Expressionism Invitational**, featuring three nationally and internationally acclaimed artists: Marcus Antonius Jansen, Joan Brechin Sonnenberg and Robert Cipriani now until March 1 in Phillips Gallery. Phillips Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

■ **Art - "I Am in It: Contemporary Chinese Calligraphic Expressions"** is on display at **Florida Gulf Coast University** at the Arts Complex Gallery through Feb. 16. Guest curator Yiguo Zhang, Director of Nankai University's Art History Center, brings an exhibition of work by five contemporary Chinese artists who have broken from their classical training as calligraphers and applied the discipline to their personal creations. The artists will be conducting talks and demonstrations during the exhibition. For information go to [artgallery.fgcu.edu](http://artgallery.fgcu.edu) or call (239) 590-7199.

■ **Art - A juried art show at the Art League of Fort Myers** runs through Feb. 23. The Art League is located in the City of Palms parking garage building at 1451 Monroe Street, between Bay and First Street in the downtown River District. For information call 275-3970 or online at [www.artleagueoffortmyers.org](http://www.artleagueoffortmyers.org).

■ **Art - Rising Stars Art Studio** in Cape Coral hosts an exhibit by Italian artist **Maria Pia Malerba** beginning Friday, Feb. 15 and running through Sunday Feb. 24. Maria Pia Malerba is an ecliptic artist,

expressing herself in different ways and shapes; in this show, she introduces her own hyperrealism. Regular Studio hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Sunday. The Studio is located at 5781 Cape Harbour Dr., #105 in Cape Coral. Call 541-9992 for information.

■ **Call to artists - The Naples Art Association** at The von Liebig Art Center in Naples, Florida, invites artists residing in the State of Florida to submit up to three entries of current work (created after January 1, 2006) in any media for **ART ENCOUNTER 2008**. The fine art and contemporary craft exhibition will be installed in the art center's six galleries from May 10 to June 29. At least \$3,000 in cash awards will be presented to artists during the Members' Preview Reception and Awards Presentation on May 9. Works appearing in the exhibition as well as the award winners will be selected by guest juror Brian Dursum, director and chief curator of the Lowe Museum of Art at the University of Miami in Coral Gables. Online entries will be accepted at [juriedartservices.com](http://juriedartservices.com) until March 16 with a non-refundable online application fee of \$42 (\$30 for current NAA members), and late entries (extra \$20) will be accepted through March 30. NAA membership is not required. ART ENCOUNTER 2007 featured 68 works by 49 artists from 416 entries submitted by 155 artists. Entries came from as far away as Crystal River and Jupiter. For details, visit [naplesart.org](http://naplesart.org) or call (239) 262-6517 x106.

## Upcoming events

■ **Art Festival - The 29th annual Naples National Art Festival** will be held Feb. 23 and 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Cambier Park in downtown Naples and will feature 300 artists from 40 states and Canada. This flagship Naples Art Association event brings 35,000 guests downtown to see and purchase the fine art, fine crafts, paintings, oils, watercolors, acrylics, prints, lithographs, photography, sculpture, pottery, glass, jewelry and other original works in this high quality juried art show. Many of the artists are returning favorites, but there are also dozens of artists who are participating in their first Naples National. Food vendors and entertainment will be provided. A suggested donation of \$3 benefits education programs at the art center. For more information, call (239) 262-6517 x109.

■ **Art - Painting, drawing, raku, printmaking - whatever the medium, make it a career.** It is possible to generate income while pursuing an artistic passion. Join artist Cheryl Jones Evans at the workshop **"Art: Making a Living and a Life"** on Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and explore exciting options available to live life the way you always wanted to. This full day workshop presents artistic and financial life strategies to turn your art into a career. It will be held at the Alliance for the Arts on McGregor Blvd. The cost is \$75 for non-members and \$60 for members of the Alliance. Seating is limited, and pre-registration is suggested. Call 239-939-2787 to register.

■ **Material Spirits - Theatre Conspiracy**, a Southwest Florida theatre company opens a brand new theatre space on Feb. 21 with the performance of **"Material Spirits"** under the direction of Artist Director Bill Taylor. The comedy revolves around a newly divorced woman whose mother and step-mother have very different and spirited views about her future and love life. The show stars Betty Madonna, Pat Clopton, Annie Wagner and Jesse St. Louis. "Material Spirits" won first place in Theatre Conspiracy's tenth annual new play contest, The Palm Springs International Playwriting Festival and the Ashland (Oregon) New Plays Festival. The new theater is located at 2711 Park Windsor Dr #302, is just north of Southwest Florida Regional Hospital off Evans Ave. It is located in the plaza just behind Sasse's Restaurant. "Material Spirits" runs through March 15 with performances Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and

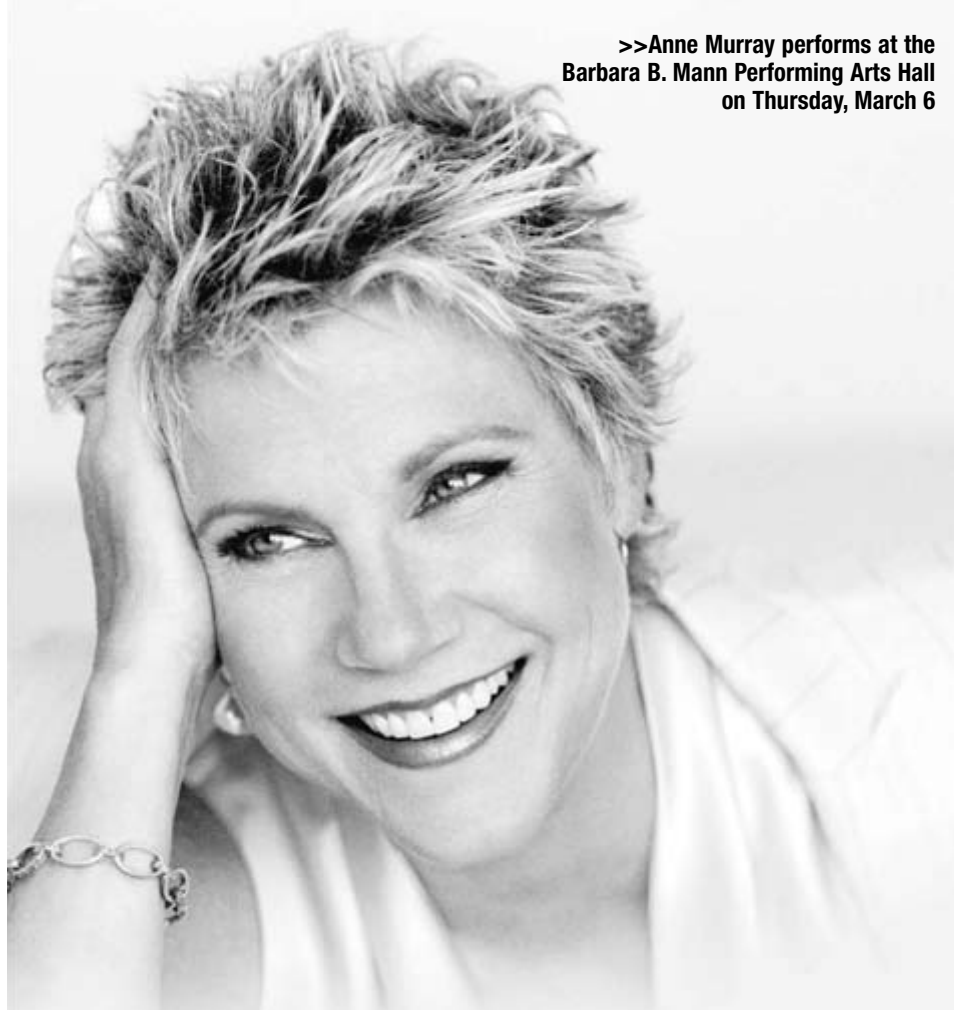
select Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 or \$10 for students with proper I.D. For tickets or more information Theatre Conspiracy can be reached at (239) 936-3239.

■ **Spamalot - Monty Python's SPAMALOT**, winner of the 2005 Tony Award for Best Musical, hits the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** beginning Tuesday, Feb. 26 for six nights. Monty Python's SPAMALOT is the outrageous new musical comedy lovingly ripped off from the film classic "Monty Python and The Holy Grail." Directed by Tony Award-winner Mike Nichols, with a book by Eric Idle and John Du Prez, SPAMALOT tells the tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table as they embark on their quest for the Holy Grail. Flying cows, killer rabbits, taunting Frenchmen and show-stopping musical numbers are just a few of the reasons audiences everywhere are eating up SPAMALOT. Tickets are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at [www.bbmannpah.com](http://www.bbmannpah.com).

■ **Jackson Browne - Jackson Browne's Solo Acoustic Tour** comes to the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** Wednesday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the box office, by calling (239) 481-4849 or online at [www.bbmannpah.com](http://www.bbmannpah.com). Groups of 20 or more, call (239) 489-3033, extension 3122.

■ **Anything Goes - Cole Porter's hit musical "Anything Goes"** sets sail at the **Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre** beginning Thursday, Feb. 21. The fun filled trip aboard the SS American is packed with Porter classics, lively tap dancing and a boatload of laughs. "Anything Goes" runs through April 5. Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings with selected matinees. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$52. Group discounts are available for parties of 20 or more. 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 in Fort Myers.

■ **Cabaret - Welcome to the "Cabaret":** says the Emcee. The musical is presented by The Naples Players' March 5 through April 5. Performances are 8 p.m. Wednesday - Saturday nights, 2 p.m. Sundays, at the **Sugden Community Theatre in Naples**. For reservations, \$35 adults and \$10 students, call the Box Office: 263-7990.



>> Anne Murray performs at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall on Thursday, March 6

■ **Art - An exhibit of William North** oil paintings completed in 2007 during the artist's term as "resident artist" at **Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park**, Naples, will be held Saturday, March 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Paintings will include views of Wiggins Pass and the beach, with an emphasis on morning shadow patterns on the sand. North is a well-known impressionist artist with more than 60 years painting experience. The exhibit is a benefit sponsored by the park's volunteer Citizen Support Organization. It will be held in the Pavilion at Parking Area 5. Admission for non-members is \$5 per vehicle with up to 8 people, \$3 for a single driver and vehicle, \$1 for walkers and bicyclists. For Park information, phone 239-597-6196.

Banff International String Quartet competition. They will perform Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 7 in F# minor, Op. 108, Samuel Barber's Dover Beach, and a regional premiere of a John Zorn's Cat o' Nine Tails. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25 at the Foulds Theatre at the Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd. Tickets are \$20. For information call 236-1654 or go to [www.chambersociety.org](http://www.chambersociety.org)

■ **Anne Murray - Anne Murray's** signature voice has graced the airwaves on recordings since 1968. She will perform at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** on Thursday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. A consummate entertainer, her quick wit and easy sense of humor find their place on stage alongside a string of hits



>> Afiara String Quartet performs at the Foulds Theatre at the Alliance for the Arts on Feb. 25.

■ **Photography - Nature photographer Len Messineo's Exotic Everglades** program explores the unusual features of this vast, complex system, including the mysterious plant life of a cypress swamp and the effect of fires on the ecology. He will present his dramatic Everglades images at a special lecture starting at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 21, at the **"Ding" Darling Education Center**. Admission is free to the event. Seating is limited and available on a first-come basis. For more information, or to become a friend of the refuge, call 472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to [www.dingdarlingsociety.org](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org)

■ **Chamber music - The second performance of the Chamber Music Society of Southwest Florida's** series features the **Afiara String Quartet**, a Canadian group based in San Francisco and finalists at the

such as "Could I Have This Dance", "Danny's Song" and of course, "You Needed Me". With over 50 million career album sales, the legendary singer continues to sell out concert halls throughout North America. Tickets are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at [www.bbmannpah.com](http://www.bbmannpah.com).

■ **Johnny Mathis - Johnny Mathis** is one of a mere handful of performers today who truly deserves the "living legend" status. He will perform at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** on Sunday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. Since his initial impact on the music scene in the mid-1950's, he has maintained a consistently high level of performance both on recordings and on stage. Tickets are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at [www.bbmannpah.com](http://www.bbmannpah.com).