

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

This week's theatre

■ **Forum** - "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" runs at the Historic Arcade Theatre through March 16. The zany streets of Ancient Rome come alive in this musical farce, which features some of Stephen Sondheim's most memorable songs including "Comedy Tonight" and "Everybody Ought to Have a Maid." With its unforgettable characters and witty book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" has been delighting audiences for more than forty years. Artistic Director Robert Cacioppo is directing the production and leading another expert team of designers including set designer Richard Crowell ("Rainmaker," "To Kill a Mockingbird") and "Stones in His Pockets" Graham Kindred is back again this season to design the lighting. Florida Rep resident costume designer, Roberta Malcolm will oversee the costumes that were worn on Broadway in the 1996 revival starring Nathan Lane and Whoopi Goldberg. Florida Repertory Theatre is located on Bay Street between Jackson and Hendry in the Historic Arcade Theatre in the Fort Myers River District. Subscriptions and single tickets are available through the Box Office (239.332.4488), or visit Florida Rep online at www.floridarep.org

■ **Spamalot** - "Monty Python's SPAMALOT," winner of the 2005 Tony Award for Best Musical, runs through Sunday, March 2 the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall**. "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.bbmanna.com.

■ **Moonlight and Magnolias** - Stage 88 Community Theatre presents "Moonlight and Magnolias" at the Bonita Springs Community Hall through March 8. The comedy by Ron Hutchinson takes place in Hollywood in 1939. Legendary producer David O. Selznick has shut down production of his new epic, "Gone with the Wind," a film adaptation of Margaret Mitchell's novel. The screenplay, you see, just doesn't work. So what's an all-powerful movie mogul to do? Tickets are \$20 at the door. For reservations call (239) 513-8600 or visit www.Stage88.com for more information.

■ **Material Spirits - Theatre Conspiracy**, a Southwest Florida theatre company presents "Material Spirits." Under the direction of Artistic 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.

■ **Anything Goes** - Cole Porter's hit musical "Anything Goes" is on stage

at the **Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre** through April 5. The fun-filled trip aboard the SS American is packed with Porter classics, lively tap dancing and a boat-load of laughs. 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, or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

■ **The Goat...or who is Sylvia?**

- The Naples Players are running the award-winning Edward Albee comedy/drama, "The Goat...or Who is Sylvia?" through March 1 at the **Sugden Community Theatre in Naples**. Albee's play won the 2002 Tony Award as well as a Pulitzer Prize. Reviewers have called "The Goat..." funny, shocking, disturbing, sad and tragic. And also, very literate and entertaining." This avant-garde, cutting edge production is not for everyone. "The Goat..." takes a controversial look at how we treat those who are outside the norm. Anna Segreto will direct. The cast includes Charles Brown, Erin Laughlin, Brad Goetz and Mikhail Spector. "The Goat...or Who is Sylvia" will be performed in the Toby Theatre at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday, through March 1. Tickets are \$20, and may be obtained at The Naples Players Box Office, 701 5th Avenue South in downtown Naples, by phone at (239) 434-7340, or online at www.naplesplayers.org

■ **Monky Business** - The musical comedy "Monky Business" is running at the **Off Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre** through March 15. The show features some fun-loving monks who hold a fundraiser to save their monastery. The Monks have a divine plan with plenty of singing, dancing and vaudeville routines. For information and tickets call (239) 278-4422 or online at www.broadwaypalm.com.

■ **Tuxedo Junction** - The cabaret-style revue, "Tuxedo Junction" of the swingin' sounds of the '30s and '40s is on stage now at the **Schoolhouse Theatre** on Sanibel. Performers will get your blood pumpin' and your hearts thumpin' to the swingin'-est music these incredible decades have to offer. The show features jazz vocals and swing dancing by Adam Cooley ("You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"), Kate Phillips ("The Holiday Follies"), Reid Robinson ("Caught in the Net") and newcomer, Mary Elizabeth Milton. The show runs through March 1, Monday through Saturday at 8 p.m. For tickets and information call the box office at 472-6862 or on the Web at www.the-schoolhousetheater.com

■ **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.

This week's symphony

■ **Youth Orchestra** - The **Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra**, led by conductor Michael Simpson, presents "Pictures in Music" Monday, March 3 at **Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts** at 7 p.m. The Youth Orchestra will perform Delibes' "March and Procession of Bacchus" from the ballet "Sylvia" and Ravel's "Promenade" and "Great Gate of Kiev" from "Pictures at an Exhibition." The second place Concerto Competition winner, Courtney Renfro, will perform the first movement of Elgar's "Cello Concerto." The brass quintet, the woodwind quintet, the string quartet and the Sinfonietta, conducted by Nanette Grant, will also perform. Tickets for the concert are \$7 and may be purchased by calling the Symphony Box Office at 418-1500. Tickets may also be purchased at the door the night of the performance.

■ **Mannheim Steamroller** - Grammy Award-winner **Mannheim Steamroller** plays at the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** Thursday, Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. The wondrous music of Mannheim Steamroller blends classical, pop and electronic sounds to create what group founder Chip Davis calls "18th century classical rock." Mannheim Steamroller's sophisticated instrumental compositions and spirited stage show have won an international following over the past 30 years. Named for an 18th-century musical technique we now call the crescendo, Mannheim Steamroller is celebrated for its innovative takes on Christmas music and its beautiful "Fresh Aire" programs, which are inspired by nature, science and ancient mythology. For information or tickets call (239) 597-1900 or online at www.thephil.org.

■ **Philharmonic** - The **Naples Philharmonic Orchestra** will perform as part of **Shell Point Retirement Community's** sixth annual Fine and Performing Arts Concert Series. The presentation will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28 at the Auditorium on the Island at Shell Point. The orchestra is recognized as one of the top regional orchestras in the United States. Under the baton of Jorge Mester, music director/conductor, this concert will include Respighi's "The Birds," Vaughn William's "Concerto in A Minor for Oboe and Strings" (with soloist Judy Christy, principal oboist), and Beethoven's "Symphony No. 4 in B Flat Major, Opus 60." Tickets for this concert are \$25. To purchase tickets or receive additional information about this concert or payment information, please call (239) 454-2067.

Friday, Feb. 29

■ **Art** - The **Art League of Fort Myers** will host an opening night celebration for its new show, "Odd Objects," from 6-7 p.m. in the gallery at 1451 Monroe Street in the downtown River District. Admission is free. "Odd Objects" is a juried and judged fine arts show featuring the multi-media work of the Art League of Fort Myers member artists. The show will continue during gallery hours until March 29. The gallery and gift shop are open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Call (239) 275-3970 for more information or visit the league's Web site at www.artleagueoffortmyers.org.

Saturday, Mar. 1

■ **Lord of the Dance** - "Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance," the most popular touring dance production in history, returns to the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** Friday, Saturday and Sunday Feb. 29, March 1-2. However, tickets are only available for the Saturday 2 p.m. matinee. The international Irish dance phenomenon has played sold-out shows to more than 50 million people in 67 countries and features precision dancing, dramatic music, colorful costumes and state-of-the-art staging and lighting. For information or tickets call (239) 597-1900 or online at www.thephil.org.

■ **Toga party** - The **Florida Repertory Theatre's** 10th annual fund-raising event, **Roman Forum 2008**, will be held from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the Fort Myers River District. The theme is derived from the theatre's musical event of the season "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." Bay Street, between Jackson and Hendry Streets, will be transformed into the Ancient Roman Festival of Matronalia and guests are encouraged, but not required, to dress in classic Roman wear. The event will also feature silent and live auctions. On one end of Bay Street guests will sample wine and spirits, party at the frat house with the boys of Delta Theta on the other end, and right in the center of it all, dance under torchlight in the Roman Coliseum. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, call Amiee Turner at (239) 332-4665, ext.16.

■ **Art Festival** - The **Bonita Springs National Art Festival**, hosted by the Art League of Bonita Springs welcomes thou-

sands of visitors to view and purchase artwork from over 200 artists. Participating artists come from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, South America, and Europe. Known for high quality artwork and a very pleasing venue, the festival continues to grow in popularity. The festival is scheduled for 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Art League volunteers man entrance gates handing out programs and gathering donations that benefit the Art League's many programs and its beautiful Center for the Arts campus. A \$3 donation is greatly appreciated



>>>Florida Repertory Theatre's Lunchbox Theatre Series presents "The Mischief Makers" Saturday, March 1.

■ **Mischief Makers** - Florida Repertory Theatre's Lunchbox Theatre Series presents "The Mischief Makers" by Lowell Swartzell, a funny and exciting play for children of all ages, at 11 a.m. in the New Brick Bar Theatre at 2226 Bay Street in the Fort Myers River District, and plays March 8, 29, April 19 and May 10. A lesson in world mythology and folklore, "The Mischief Makers" shows audiences what happens when three of the world's most famous and mischievous characters find themselves mysteriously thrown together on the same totem pole. Tickets to Lunchbox Theatre are \$12, and admission includes the performance, a boxed lunch provided by McAlister's Deli and an interactive workshop with the actors. Tickets are available through the Florida Rep's box office at 332-4488. Please do not call the Brick Bar for ticket information.

Sunday, Mar. 2

■ **Art** - The 13th annual **Artists' Studio Tour**, presented by the **Friends of Art at the Naples Museum of Art**, will present a delicious feast of fine art - along with food and conversation - featuring the work of eight internationally recognized artists. The tour includes visits to the artists' homes and studios and will be held over two days - Sunday, March 2, from 1 to 5 p.m., and Monday, March 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for Sunday (includes refreshments) and \$50 for Monday (includes lunch). A Patron's ticket is \$100 for either day with special recognition given to these contributors. Carpooling is encouraged - as are comfortable walking shoes. To purchase tickets, visit www.thephil.org or call 597-1900 or (800) 597-1900.

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