

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

■ **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.

■ **Maternal Spirits - Theatre Conspiracy**, a Southwest Florida theatre company presents "Maternal 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. "Maternal 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. "Maternal 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 boatload 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.

■ **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.

■ **Cabaret - Welcome to the "Cabaret"** says the Emcee. The musical is presented by The Naples Players' 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.

■ **Lucky stiff - Don't miss "Lucky Stiff"** at The Schoolhouse Theater on Sanibel playing through March 29. Come see why something funny's going on. For tickets and information, contact the box office at 239-472-6862.

This week's symphony

>>Tito Puente Jr. performs at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall March 7 and 8.



■ **Tito Puene Jr.** - The high energy and festive sounds of the "King of Latin Dance," Tito Puente, will fill the stage at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. Tito Puente Jr.** and his fivepiece band will perform with the **Southwest Florida Symphony** at 8 p.m. on March 7 and 8. Music Director Michael Hall and conductor Frank Fiore will conduct. Puente has dedicated his life's work to nurturing the musical legend of his father. "There was magic in the music my father made," he said. "It made people happy all over the world. My goal is to keep it alive ... and expose it to a whole new generation." Single tickets are \$15-\$50. Call the box office at 418-1500 or visit www.swflso.org to order tickets.

Thursday, March 6

■ **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 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 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.

■ **Art - Fans of artist Ikki Matsumoto** are in for a rare treat. Matsumoto will be ensconced on the comfortable back porch of the **McGregor Blvd. Art Gallery** from 6 to 9 p.m. to meet and greet collectors of his avian-inspired paintings. Inside the gallery, thirty new works will be on display. Matsumoto closed his own Sanibel gallery in 2006 and now lives in Ohio where he has been adding northern birds to his repertoire. The event marks the artist's first reception at the recently opened gallery owned by Leoma Lovegrove and Teri Causey. The gallery will continue to represent Matsumoto locally.



>>Michael Pohlman's "Baseball Art" at the Arts for ACT Gallery March 7.

Friday, March 7

■ **Art - Arts for ACT Gallery**, located at 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers, will hold its artful evening opening artist's reception from 7-10 p.m. **The work of Tracie, Doug and Oscar Thompson** will be featured. The Thompsons, father, son and daughter, each possess unique styles and subject matters, including a mixture of painting, photography and mixed media using found objects. Michael Pohlman will also be exhibiting his mixed media baseball art. Arts for ACT Gallery provides a quality, contemporary exhibition gallery featuring original art, limited edition prints, giclees, hand-crafted fine crafts, tee shirts, silver and glass bead jewelry, gourd art, raku, clay, and art cards. Highlighting the art of the current featured artist, the front gallery, reminiscent of galleries in SoHo, has high ceilings, distressed brick walls, and warm wooden floors. Come out to meet the gallery's featured artists, enjoy some local food and wine, and engage in lively artful discussions.

■ **Art - The Sanibel-Captiva Art League's 32nd Annual Juried Exhibition** will hold an artist's reception from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. featuring the member artists of the **Art League BIG Arts, 900 Dunlop Rd., Sanibel Island**. Exhibition consists of tropical scenes, native wildlife, still life, figures and abstracts in oil, acrylic, pastel, pencil, mixed media, prints and silk screen are among the large number of paintings the Sanibel-Captiva Art League's 31st Annual Juried Exhibit. These all original works are on view and for sale at BIG Arts through March 31.

■ **Art - Arts for ACT Gallery** located at 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers will hold an opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m. for **Michael Pohlman's "Baseball Art."** Coach Michael Pohlman will be exhibiting his mixed media baseball art. He is an artist and pitching coach for Bishop Verot High School. He was one of the players to play against the last Cuban team to play in the United States. This exhibit includes collages of baseball positions and teams as well as action paintings. Baseball lovers will delight in Pohlman's series.

■ **Art - Harbour View Gallery in Cape Harbour** in Cape Coral is holding its March Visiting Artists' reception from 6-8 p.m. at the gallery at 5789 Cape Harbour Drive #104, Cape Coral. Meet and greet our visiting artists for the month: Manfred Behr - Photography; Petra Keiser - Glass Fusion. For information call 540-5789

Saturday, March 8

■ **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 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 char-

acters 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.

■ **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.

■ **Lecture - You'll never approach a beach lazily again. Blair and Dawn Witherington** combed Florida's 1,200 miles of coastline to compile their comprehensive guide to all things alive at the beach. "Florida's Living Beaches: A Guide for the Curious Beachcomber" will be the touch point for their special lecture starting at 1 p.m. at the "Ding" Darling Education Center on Sanibel Island. Professional naturalists, the Witheringtons overlap their biological research and graphic-scientific design experience to create an illustrated compendium of shore life. They have also written "Florida's Seashells: A Beachcomber's Guide." Admission is free to the event, which is sponsored by the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, the refuge's non-profit "friends" organization, as part of its 12-week Thursday Afternoon Lecture Series. Seating is limited and available on a first-come basis. Future events are listed below. For more information, or to become a friend of the refuge, call 472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to www.dingdarlingsociety.org

■ **Art fair - Creativity and uniqueness** abound when over 50 area crafters, vendors, and artisans display and sell their wares at **Gateway Charter High School's 2nd annual Community Arts & Crafts Fair** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featured will be a wide variety of handcrafted and specialty items in all price ranges; custom jewelry, hand painted & embroidered clothing, handbags, quilts, sports coasters, jeweled mirrors, hand decorated ladies' accessories, beauty & health products, home décor, gourmet delights, kitchenware, ceramics, original oil paintings, Chinese watercolors, handcrafted furniture, etched & hand painted glassware, gift baskets and more. Gateway Charter High School is located on the corner of Daniels Parkway and Gateway Boulevard at 12770 Gateway Blvd., Fort Myers. For more information, contact Ginger Paulino, parent volunteer, at 939-3141 or gatewayart-sandcraftsfair@yahoo.com

Sunday, March 9

■ **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**