

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

This week's theater

■ **Best Little Whorehouse - Broadway Palm Dinner Theater** presents "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" running through Nov. 15. A sizzlin' good time is coming when Miss Mona and her "ladies" from the heart of Texas entertain politicians, cowboys and even a college football team after their victory. When her legendary house of ill-repute is ordered to be closed down by the governor, Miss Mona and her girls take on the establishment in this rip-roaring, high-octane production! Includes the songs "Hard Candy Christmas" and "The Aggie Song." Performances are Wednesday through Sunday with selected matinees. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. and the evening shows begin at 7:30 p.m. For reservations and show information, visit www.BroadwayPalm.com, call 278-4422 or stop by the box office at 1380 Colonial Blvd.

■ **Bad Dates - "Bad Dates,"** the uproarious smash hit comedy that has left audiences in stitches across the country, runs at **Theatre Conspiracy** through Nov. 1. Part "Sex in the City," part "Bridget Jones' Diary" and part "The Perils of Pauline," "Bad Dates" is all good fun. You'll be wiping away tears of laughter and sympathy as Texas transplant, single mother and shoe fanatic Haley Walker struggles to raise her daughter, run a popular restaurant and find her way back into the dating world in modern-day Manhattan. Witty, endearing and laugh-out-loud funny, "Bad Dates" takes a stream-of-consciousness look at modern-day relationships through one woman's search for the perfect date and the perfect pair of shoes. Theatre Conspiracy is located at 2711 Park Windsor Dr., suite 302, Fort Myers.

■ **The Goodbye Girl - The Naples Players** opens its new season at the **Sugden Community Theatre** with Neil Simon's romantic comedy, "The Goodbye Girl." The show runs through Nov. 8. Performances are at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Dallas Dunnagan directs and Meg Pryor choreographs. Music directors are Julie Shaffer and Aurora Wells. Scenic design is by Matt Flynn, and costume design is by Dot Auchmoody. Vergina Restaurant has partnered with the theater again for the season, offering "Dinner and

a Show" for \$58, which includes a three-course dinner before a stroll across 5th Avenue for the show. Tickets to the show only are \$35 for adults and \$10 for students 18 and younger. For information and tickets, stop by The Naples Players box office at 701 5th Avenue South, call (239) 263-7990 or go to www.naplesplayers.org.

■ **Forbidden Broadway - "Forbidden Broadway"** is on stage at the **Broadway Palm Dinner Theater - Off Broadway**, through Dec. 20. "Forbidden Broadway" is the hysterical musical comedy that pokes fun at Broadway productions. For reservations and show information, visit www.BroadwayPalm.com, call 278-4422 or stop by the box office at 1380 Colonial Blvd.

■ **Born Yesterday - "Born Yesterday,"** by Garson Kanin, opens at the **Florida Repertory Theatre** Friday, Oct. 24 and runs through Nov. 16. A perfect play for the heated election season, this play is a classic love story set in the midst of 1940's Washington politics. When Harry Brock, an uncouth & corrupt tycoon, brings his showgirl mistress, Billie, to Washington, her innocence and naivety threaten to undermine his shady business deals. When Harry hires someone to teach Billie the ropes, he gets more than he bargained for. Tickets are on sale through the box office, 332-4488. Visit Florida Rep online at www.floridarep.org

■ **We Love a Piano -** The toe-tapping musical revue, "We Love a Piano," is playing at The Schoolhouse Theater on Sanibel. "We Love a Piano" features classic hits by Irving Berlin. "I Got the Sun in the Morning," "Step-pin' Out With My Baby" and "Cheek to Cheek" are just a few of the many musical numbers in this light-hearted journey. The show runs through Nov. 8. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children and students. Call the box office at 472-6862 for tickets or visit www.TheSchoolhouseTheater.com. The Schoolhouse Theater is located at 2200 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel.

Ongoing events

■ **NASA Art - "NASA Art: 50 Years of Exploration"** opens at the **Art League of Bonita Springs** Saturday, Oct. 25. The show is a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition. In 1958, soon after the inception of the U.S. space program, an art program was created dedicated to the accomplishments, setbacks and excitement of space exploration. More than 200 NASA-commissioned artists experienced a behind-the-scenes look at the agency - the scientists, astronauts, and other personnel who shaped the missions and programs. This fascinating look at our nation's space program will appeal to all ages. The exhibit is open through Jan. 24.

■ **Clyde Butcher - The Southwest Florida Museum of History** is showing renowned photographer Clyde Butcher's new exhibit, "Visions of Florida - A Clyde Butcher Retrospective," through Oct. 31. An award-winning black and white fine art photographer, Butcher's collection will be a combination of 30 pieces comprised of Giclees and

some original silver gelatin photographs that show images of Florida in addition to images from the "America the Beautiful" collection. The exhibit will include a running DVD of Butcher's work and methods and an exclusive display of one of Butcher's trademark photographic cameras: a Deardorf. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call the museum at 321-7430 or visit www.cityftmyers.com/museum.

■ **Animal Magnetism - The Arts for ACT Gallery**, located at 2265 First Street in the River District, Fort Myers, is exhibiting "Animal Magnetism" by **Ken Hoffman** from Peoria, Ill. Hoffman, professor emeritus of art from Bradley University, has had his paintings exhibited in Paris, Germany, Poland, Australia, Ireland, and Argentina. He is currently represented by Walter Wickiser Gallery and Amos Eno Gallery, both in New York City. For the past 15 years, the anthropomorphic subject matter of his animal portrait paint-

This week's symphony

■ **Fall Music Festival - Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** Fall Music Festival on Oct. 25 features the works of **Dvorak, Nielsen and Mozart**. Conducted by Jorge Mester, the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra plays Mozart's 39th Symphony, the first of the three symphonies (his last) that he wrote in the summer of 1788, a graceful, melodic work, and one of Mozart's sunniest symphonies. Also featured will be the witty, warm-hearted flute concerto by Danish composer Carl Nielsen. Performing it will be Principal Flutist Suzanne Kirton. For more information or to order tickets, contact Customer Service at (239)597-1900 or toll-free at (800) 597-1900 or visit www.thephil.org.

Thursday, Oct. 23

■ **East meets West -** Worlds collide when Ferrari Gallery and daas Gallery host "East meets West." Join the galleries from 6 to 10 p.m. for a new and invigorating experience through art and travel. Joining together to explore the balance of opposing forces, Ferrari and daas will feature works from opposite ends of the light spectrum. In the West, guests will be enlightened by predominately white and light artwork, lifting and stretching their spirits at Ferrari Gallery in Cape Coral. In the East, they will be submerged into the deep souls of the artists when viewing the predominately black and dark artwork at the daas Gallery in Fort Myers. For details, call 939-1194.

Friday, Oct. 24

■ **Mamie Holst -** With her ongoing series of black, gray, and white paintings titled "Landscape Before Dying," begun in 1997, Mamie Holst explores the inspiring abstract landscape within her experience of Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome. Her work will be on display at the **Bob Rauschenberg Gallery** on the campus of Edison State College. An opening reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. with a gallery talk at 7 p.m. The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For additional information, call 489-9313 or visit www.bobRauschenberggallery.com

Saturday, Oct. 25

■ **Blood, Sweat & Tears -** Edison State College's sixth annual **Edison POPS @ Sunset** concert features the legendary jazz/rock band **Blood, Sweat & Tears** at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased through the Edison POPS Web site, www.edisonpops.com. General admission tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online up to the day of the event. The event will be held on the grounds of Edison State College. Additional information is available through the Edison POPS Web site or by calling 489-9085.

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■ **Zombies downtown -** The streets of downtown will once again play host to legions of the "Living Dead," as Zombicon returns to Fort Myers. The first Zombie Walk, which is the heart of Zombicon, will officially kick off the event at 6 p.m., as the assembled horde walks the streets of downtown, entering local bars and businesses. Last year more than 1,000 people turned out on the Patio de Leon in full costume to participate in the first Zombicon, a gruesome spectacle at which attendees dressed as zombies and enjoyed live music and performances.

Sunday, Oct. 26

■ **SWF Symphony - "European Tour Part One: American Music in France,"** plays at 4 p.m. at the **The Village Church at Shell Point** with the Symphony Chorus, Sarasota Key Chorale and Reiko Niiya on violin. Be the first to hear the program that will be presented throughout France this summer. For details, call 454-2067.

ings has been the central focus of his work; he strives to convey animal-people expressions, revealing to the viewer how close humans are to animals.

■ **Political issues - The Alliance for the Arts** is showing "Too Hot to Handle: A Political Issues Show" through Nov. 15. The juried show was open to all artists in the categories of sculpture, painting (including oil, acrylic, collage, watercolor, and mixed media), photography, prints and drawings. The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Blvd. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. For a complete prospectus and entry form, visit www.artinlee.org or call 939-2787.

■ **Cele-BRA-tion - "Cele-BRA-tion"** is at the **Art League of Fort Myers** gallery in downtown Fort Myers. The show was open to area artists and features original artwork in various media including oils, watercolors, acrylics, digital prints, collages and photography. A portion of the artists' sales will

be donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. This exhibit will be on view until Oct. 31. The gallery and gift shop are located at 1451 Monroe Street in downtown Fort Myers. The hours are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information about membership and upcoming events, call 275-3970.

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