

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.BroadwayPalm.com), call 278-4422 or stop by the box office at 1380 Colonial Blvd.

■ **Born Yesterday** - "Born Yesterday," by Garson Kanin, runs at the **Florida Repertory Theatre** 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](http://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," "Steppin' 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](http://www.TheSchoolhouseTheater.com). The Schoolhouse Theater is located at 2200 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel.

■ **Women of Lockerbie - "The Women of Lockerbie"** opens at the **Toby Studio at Sugden Community Theatre** on Oct. 29. The Naples Players' poetic drama by Deborah Brevoort runs through Nov. 22. The Sugden Community Theatre is located at 701 5th Avenue South in downtown Naples. Shows are at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, Sunday matinees, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$10 for students 18 and younger. For information and tickets, call The Naples Players Box Office at (239) 263-7990 or online at [www.naplesplayers.org](http://www.naplesplayers.org)

## This week's symphony

■ **Opening Night Gala** - A spectacular, star-studded gala opens the **Phil's 2008-09 season**, featuring Broadway and concert hall star **Brian Stokes Mitchell**, renowned opera diva **Measha Brueggergosman** and the **Naples Philharmonic Orchestra**, at the Opening Night Gala, Saturday, Nov. 1, beginning with a buffet reception at 7 p.m. followed by the performance at 8 p.m. Tickets to the Opening Night Gala are \$135. For more information or to order tickets, contact Customer Service at 597-1900 or toll-free at (800) 597-1900 or visit [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org).

■ **SWF Symphony** - Conductor Michael Hall leads the Southwest Florida Symphony in a performance called "The Prodigies." Celebrate the genius of three prodigies and the musical treasures left behind. Featuring Mozart's last completed work, an early Beethoven Symphony, and a masterful piece by Arriaga, a short-lived young composer hailed as "The Spanish Mozart." In Fort Myers, Oct. 31 at 7:30 p.m. at The Village

>>The Phil's 2008-09 season features renowned opera diva Measha Brueggergosman at the Opening Night Gala.



Church at Shell Point, 15100 Shell Point Blvd. and in Bonita Springs Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Bonita, 9751 Bonita Beach Road SE. Tickets are \$25 and can be had by calling 418-1500 or visit the Symphony Offices during box office hours.

## Friday, Oct. 31

■ **Spookacular** - Prepare to be scared at Spookacular, a free event in downtown Fort Myers on Halloween night. The fiendish festivities start at 7 p.m. at locations throughout the River District. The headline event is a free performance by Juliette and the Licks, featuring Academy Award-nominated actress Juliette Lewis. Lewis has starred in dozens of movies, including "Cape Fear," "Natural Born Killers," "From Dusk Till Dawn" and "Old School." Juliette takes the stage at 9 p.m., following local band Patrick Jerome and the Jam.

## Saturday, Nov. 1

■ **The Wizard of Arts** - Grab your ruby slippers and travel the yellow brick road to the Emerald City at **The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center**. Broadway performances by stars from the show "Wicked," a delicious seated dinner and a silent art auction featuring fine art from around

the world will create an event you won't want to miss. This year's Gala is dedicated to Robert Rauschenberg (1925-2008), our very own "Wizard" of Southwest Florida arts. The money raised will help continue the final phases of construction to the historic art center in downtown Fort Myers. Visit [www.Wizard2008.com](http://www.Wizard2008.com) or call 333-1933 for details and tickets. Individual tickets are \$250. Seating is limited. Evening attire; costumes are encouraged.

■ **Art in the Park** - Naples' oldest outdoor art festival in 2008-09 celebrates its 52nd anniversary season of showcasing artwork by **Naples Art Association** members the first Saturday of the month from November through April. The free, juried shows, on Park Street, alongside the von Liebig Art Center, feature a variety of media, including paintings, photography, sculpture and jewelry. Refreshments are available.

■ **Birding** - Avian photographer **Eric B. Orkin** will present his remarkable images of **Sanibel Island bird life** in a special exhibition and sale at the Naples Philharmonic Center's Collector's Corner Gallery. The exhibition was brought to Naples on the recommendation of Thomas Hoving, former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and advisor to the Naples Museum of Art.

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