

## WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

## This week's theatre

■ **Cirque Dreams** - A magical jungle will unfold on the stage at the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** when "**Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy**" comes to town beginning Tuesday, Feb. 5. The critically acclaimed theatrical sensation runs through Feb. 10. Because of ticket demand, an additional performance has been added on Thursday, Feb. 7 at 10:30 a.m. Artistic Director Neil Goldberg and his Florida based Cirque Productions have created "Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy," an all new, world class, acrobatic, musical and imaginative adventure that is wowing audiences of all ages throughout the country. Tickets are on sale now and available at the box office, by calling (239) 481-4849 or online at [www.bbmannpah.com](http://www.bbmannpah.com)

■ **Guys and Dolls** - The musical fable of Nathan Detroit, **Guys and Dolls** runs through Feb. 16 at the **Broadway Palm Dinner Theater**. The consummate gambling man, Detroit operates "The World's Largest Floating Crap Game". Songs include Luck Be a Lady, I've Never Been in Love Before, Sue Me and A Bushel and a Peck. This song and dance extravaganza is fantastic entertainment for all ages. It embraces the season with Broadway-style dancing, stunning costumes and the traditional holiday favorites you know and love. Tickets are now on sale and can be reserved by calling 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.

■ **Doubt** - Winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play, "**Doubt, A Parable**" is on stage at the **Florida Repertory Theatre** through Feb. 3. Florida Weekly theater critic Nancy Stetson called Doubt, "as good as theater gets." Doubt is a mesmerizing piece that wrestles with conscience and uncertainty in a 1964 parochial school. John Patrick Shanley, an Academy Award-winning author and playwright, constructs a thrilling and dangerous play that dramatizes issues straight from today's headlines. Performances are Tues. - Sat. at 8 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinees on Wed., Sun. and selected Saturdays. 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](http://www.floridarep.org).

■ **A Perfect Wedding** - Robin Hawdon's "**A Perfect Wedding**" is on stage at the **Sugden Community Theatre** in Naples through Feb. 9. It's a bedroom farce. It's a wedding-day fiasco. It's uninterrupted confusion, comedy and mistaken identity. The script is witty; utterly nonsensical and absolutely charming, and answers the question "Who love who?" For information and tickets go to [www.naplesplayers.com](http://www.naplesplayers.com) or call (239) 263-7990.

■ **Caught in the Net** - Ray Cooney's "**Caught in the Net**" runs at The **Schoolhouse Theater** on Sanibel Island through Feb. 2. The sequel to "Run for Your Wife." 18 years later, modern technology is about to lead John Smith's two families into a head-on collision. His son Gavin (with his mum Barbara) and daughter Vicki (with her mum Mary) are discussing having met in an Internet chat room. They are amazed that they both have fathers named John Leonard Smith who are London taxi drivers, and since romance has blossomed, they are determined to meet in person. And chaos ensues. For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 472-6862 or check out [www.theschoolhousetheater.com](http://www.theschoolhousetheater.com)

■ **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](http://www.broadwaypalm.com).

■ **Defending the Caveman** - The longest running solo play in Broadway history comes to the **Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall** on Friday and Saturday Feb. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. respectively. The wildly popular comedy, written by Rob Becker, has become a peacemaker in the ongoing misunderstandings between men and women. With hilarious insights on contemporary feminism, masculine sensitivity and the erogenous zone, **Defending the Caveman** mines the common themes in relationships that go straight to the funny bone. It has won the hearts of millions in more than thirty countries and is performed in over fifteen different languages. Tickets are on sale at the box office, by calling 481-4849 or online at [www.bbmannpah.com](http://www.bbmannpah.com).

■ **The Drowsy Chaperone** - "**The Drowsy Chaperone**" opens at the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** runs through Sunday, Feb. 3. Get ready to be transported to a magical, wonderful world. A world where the critics are in awe, the audiences are in heaven and the neighborhood is buzzing with excitement. Welcome to "The Drowsy Chaperone," the new musical comedy that is swooping into town with tons of laughs and the most 2006 Tony Awards of any musical on Broadway. It all begins when a die-hard musical fan plays his favorite cast album, a 1928 smash hit called "The Drowsy Chaperone," and the show magically bursts to life. With thrills and surprises that take both the cast (literally) and the audience (metaphorically) soaring into the rafters. For information or tickets call (239) 597-1900 or online at [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org).

## Thursday, Jan. 31

■ **Bluegrass** - Y'all best be gittin' downtown for a night of bluegrass music on the steps of the **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center**. Renowned band **Cadillac Sky**, an International Bluegrass Music Association "Emerging Artist of the Year" nominee, will set downtown on fire beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are free to members of the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center and \$15 for future members. To become a member or purchase tickets visit us online at [www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com), email us at [florida.arts@yahoo.com](mailto:florida.arts@yahoo.com), or call 337-1933. Tickets will be available at the door on a first come first serve basis.

## Friday, Feb. 1

■ **Art** - Join **Arts for ACT Gallery** located at 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers from 7 to 10 p.m. for its artful evening opening artist's reception for February. Three dynamic women artists not to be missed, each with unique styles and subject matters, will give you feelings of nostalgia, happiness, romance, wonder and even sadness.

■ **Rauschenberg** - Work by world renowned artist and gallery name sake **Robert Rauschenberg** will be featured through Feb. 9 at the **Bob Rauschenberg Gallery** on the campus of **Edison College**. There will be a closing ceremony from 6 to 8 p.m. Often cited as the most important artist of his generation, Rauschenberg did



>>Rauschenberg *Signs, Silkscreen Print, 43 x 34*, 1970

more than any other artist to reach beyond contemporary thinking by challenging limits, perceptions, materials and every other boundary in sight. Among those shattered boundaries is an erased de Kooning drawing, one of the most notorious art objects of the century.

## Saturday, Feb. 2

■ **Artfest** - Southwest Florida's premier fine art festival takes place in downtown Fort Myers. Each year Fort Myers' only free, two day celebration of the arts, decorates downtown with exceptional artwork, entertainment and children's art activities. Attendees can enjoy and purchase artwork in a variety of mediums and prices from nationally recognized artists from across the country and around the world. Its better than a gallery - there is lots of variety - you can talk to the artists - you can view the work of over 200 fine artists in a single weekend - you can introduce your children to the magic of original art.

■ **Art** - **Space 39** will hold an opening reception from 6-10 p.m. for "Redline" featuring the works of sculptor, Hal Buckner. This artist is an aluminum sculptor whose works in the last 30 years have been based on the female form. Its' many changes and attitudes reflected are meant to be interpreted by the viewer. His work is sensual and leaves a lot open to the imagination. The exhibit will be on display from Feb. 2 to March 15.

■ **Ms. Courageous** - The children's play **Ms. Courageous**, presented by the Florida Repertory Theatre, is on stage at 11 a.m. at the **Brick Bar** in downtown Fort Myers. It's a collage of scenes from the lives of Elizabeth Blackwell and Marie Curie. Blackwell was the first woman in the United States to become a doctor with a medical degree, and Curie won two Nobel prizes for her work in physics and chemistry. Written by Joanna Halpert Kraus, **Ms. Courageous** explores the difficulties and challenges these two remarkable women faced and overcame. For tickets and more information, contact Florida Rep's box office at 239-332-4488. Please do not call the Brick Bar for ticket information.

■ **Art** - **Harbour View Gallery** announced that **Maru Carreras**, brass and acrylic artist, and **Joanmarie and Emily Lermann** of Radiant Renditions crystal jewelry designs, are the gallery's visiting artists for the month of February. A reception to meet Maru, Joanmarie and Emily is scheduled 6 to 8 p.m. at the gallery located at 5479 Cape Harbour Drive, Unit 104 on the promenade at Cape Harbour Marina South. The work of the seven Harbour View Gallery member-owner artists will also be on display. Refreshments will be served. No reservation necessary. For more information call 540-5789.

## Sunday, Feb. 3

■ **Artfest** - Southwest Florida's premier fine art festival takes place in downtown Fort Myers. Each year Fort Myers' only free, two day celebration of the arts, decorates downtown with exceptional artwork, entertainment and children's art activities. Attendees can enjoy and purchase artwork in a variety of mediums and prices from nationally recognized artists from across the country and around the world. Its better than a gallery - there is lots of variety - you can talk to the artists - you can view the work of over 200 fine artists in a single weekend - you can introduce your children to the magic of original art.

## Monday, Feb 4

■ **Music** - World-renowned soprano **Dame Kiri Te Kanawa** performs at the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** at 8 p.m. Kanawa gained legendary status almost overnight after her sensational debut in 1971 as the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Royal Opera House in London. She has headlined at all of the world's major opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, the San Francisco Opera, the Paris Opera, the Sydney Opera and the Vienna State Opera. In 1981, she was invited to sing at the lavish royal wedding of Britain's Prince Charles and Lady Diana. For information or tickets call (239) 597-1900 or online at [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org).

## Tuesday, Feb 4

■ **Music** - Join in song to celebrate the Edison Festival of Light at First Presbyterian Church, 2438 Second Street, downtown Fort Myers. Two performances - 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. with doors opening 30 minutes earlier. This is the 19th annual presentation of Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing, sponsored by the Galloway Family of Dealerships. A full chorus and symphonic orchestra will accompany the singing of hymns that were among Mrs. Edison's favorites. Local philanthropist Berne Davis also will recollect her remembrances of the Edisons, who were her neighbors. There is no admission, but everyone is asked to bring at least two cans of food and a voluntary donation to benefit The Soup Kitchen.



>>Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme perform at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts

■ **Steve and Eydie** - Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme perform at the **Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts** at 8 p.m. For more than four decades Steve and Eydie have been known as the First Couple of American Popular Music. Their onstage blend of musicianship, style and comedy have made them among the most soughtafter performers in show business. Energizing and innovative, they reflect the finest qualities of American music. As Frank Sinatra said, "Steve and Eydie represent all that is good about performers. They're the best." For information or tickets call (239) 597-1900 or online at [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org).