

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF AUGUST 11-17, 2022

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SECTION C



Cool FRONT

SWFL artists counter the summer heat with creative refreshment

COURTESY IMAGE

BY JANICE T. PAINE
Florida Weekly Correspondent

COO L ISN'T JUST A TEMPERATURE; it's an attitude. Those of us who endure the sweltering summers in Southwest Florida know that the ability to chill out in your head is almost as important as being able to turn the A/C down a couple more notches.

SEE COOL, C4 ►

▲ **"Synchronized Shenanigans"** by Marti Koehler, 2018. **FROM THE ARTIST:** "Synchronized Shenanigans" is a fun, lighthearted sketch of eight playful synchronized swimmers. In reaction to a heavy political tone and the ever-present unrest in the world, I wanted to create an uplifting and humorous escape from these realities. "Synchronized Shenanigans" maintains a sense of order while still conveying a playful, mischievous, spirited moment.

You're an actor? TheatreZone to hold auditions in Naples

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Hundreds of actors are expected to travel to Southwest Florida to audition for more than 50 roles in the five musicals staged by TheatreZone during its 2022-23 season. Appointments are now being accepted for auditions to be held from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17, and Sunday, Sept. 18, announced TheatreZone's Founding Artistic Director Mark Danni.

TheatreZone's coveted contract with the Actors' Equity Association allows it to attract Equity actors from throughout the coun-

try. "We regularly audition more than 200 actors who travel to Southwest Florida from throughout the country for roles in our main stage productions, which further elevates Naples' national reputation as an important destination for the performing arts,"

SEE AUDITIONS, C12 ►

COURTESY PHOTO

Mark and Karen Danni brought Broadway to Naples in 2005 after they moved from New York City to Southwest Florida.



INSIDE



Music

Dierks Bentley bringing "Beers On Me" tour to Hertz Arena. **C16** ►



"Rockin' on the River"

Caloosa Sound Amphitheater to present free concert series. **C12** ►



Society

America's Military & 1st Responders Museum honors supporters. **C17** ►



Top Picks

Check our calendar for arts and entertainment events this week **C6-8** ►

Premier | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Marco Island | 239.642.2222
S.E. Naples | 239.449.3400
Broad Avenue | 239.434.2424
Fifth Avenue | 239.643.3445
The Village | 239.261.6161
Park Shore | 239.659.0099
Vanderbilt | 239.594.9494
Mercato | 239.594.9400
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa | 239.301.5300
Poinciana | 239.261.3148
Bonita Springs | 239.948.4000
Sanibel Island | 239.472.2735
Captiva | 239.395.5847
Rentals | 239.262.4242

Caloosa Sound Amphitheater to present "Rockin' on the River" free concert series

Located adjacent to Luminary Hotel & Co. in downtown Fort Myers, the new riverfront Caloosa Sound Amphitheater has announced Rockin' on the River, a free concert series that kicks off Tuesday, Sept. 13, with a performance by classic alternative rockers The FIXX. The free concert series runs September through December and includes three other well-known fan favorites: the classic pop rock sounds of Pablo Cruise (Oct. 30); country music legend Lorrie Morgan (Nov. 21); and contemporary swing revivalists Big Bad Voodoo Daddy (Dec. 15). All shows begin at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6 p.m.

"We're excited to officially kick off the concert calendar at Caloosa Sound Amphitheater," said Bob Megazzini, general manager of Luminary Hotel & Co. "We felt a free concert series was the best way to introduce Fort Myers and its neighbors to this wonderful new live events venue."

General admission tickets are free,



COURTESY PHOTO

Classic alternative rockers The FIXX is the first event in the free concert series presented by Luminary Hotel & Co. at Caloosa Sound Amphitheater in downtown Ft Myers.

with no additional service charges, but must be claimed in advance at www.CaloosaSoundAmp.com. A limited number of \$35 VIP tickets will be available and will include a reserved seat directly in front of the stage (within the first five rows),

one complimentary drink and access to VIP restrooms. There will be \$50 Super VIP tickets, as well, which include an exclusive meet-and-greet with the artist.

"The Caloosa Sound Amphitheater is going to provide the soundtrack to

the exciting, ongoing transformation of downtown Fort Myers and the River District," said Joe Collier, president and founder of Mainsail Lodging & Development. "Luminary Hotel & Co., Caloosa Sound Convention Center, and now the amphitheater are a big part of the transformation, and will continue to make the River District a major regional destination."

Located at 2101 Edwards Drive, the 4,000-capacity amphitheater opened this summer along the Caloosahatchee River, adjacent to Luminary Hotel & Co. and the Caloosa Sound Convention Center. Mainsail Lodging & Development has partnered with Tampa-based marketing agency, Mind Stone Marketing Group, LLC, to provide marketing, sales, booking and consultation services for Caloosa Sound Amphitheater.

For more information on Caloosa Sound Amphitheater and Luminary Hotel & Co., visit www.LuminaryHotel.com. ■

AUDITIONS

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said Mr. Danni. "We are proud to bring name actors to Naples stages, and to also offer a valuable venue for Equity actors living in South Florida," he continued.

The available roles include Equity actors and non-Equity performers. To secure an appointment, actors should email Auditions@Theatre.Zone. The auditions will be held at TheatreZone, located at 13275 Livingston Road in Naples, on the campus of the Community School of Naples.

Sides (sheets of dialogue for specific characters) for A Little Night Music; Escape to Margaritaville; The Goodbye Girl, and Rock of Ages are available at www.Theatre.Zone on the "Get Involved" page and will also be emailed in advance of the audition. Actors are asked to prepare a brief cut of a song and have a contrasting selection ready. Sheet music in the correct key is required, and an accompanist will be provided. Actors should also bring a picture and resume, stapled together, and be prepared to dance if asked.

New York area actors may submit a video audition to Auditions@Theatre.Zone for consideration for a call-back audition on Saturday, Sept. 24, in New York City at a time and place to be determined, according to Mark Danni, who will travel to New York with Karen Molnar Danni for the call-back auditions. "About three-quarters of Equity actors in the country live in the New York area, the world capital of musical theater," said Danni.

The 2022-2023 season, TheatreZone's 18th, is themed "romantics and rockers" for musicals with love stories both complex and light-hearted, and modern scores including beloved ballads and iconic eighties rock bands. "I built our new season with a wide audience for musical theater in mind, given the population growth of our region and new appreciation of musical theater among the young at heart," said Danni.

The season kicks off Dec. 9 with Home for the Holidays, followed by four main stage shows that originate from musical luminaries such as Stephen Sondheim, Jimmy Buffett, and Marvin Haml TheatreZone 2022-2023 Season Show Lineup

Home for the Holidays, Dec. 9-11

Home for the Holidays, a festive feast



of the senses, entertains with a selection of memorable songs, exuberant and unique choreography, and extravagantly colorful costumes illuminated for a dazzling effect. Performed by a professional cast and live orchestra, Home for the Holidays reminds audiences of the universal power of music, song and dance celebrated by audiences the world over. Heartwarming holiday classics inspire audiences to sing along. Home for the Holidays, now in its sixth year, is conceived and directed by Mark Danni with choreography by Karen Molnar Danni.

A Little Night Music, Jan. 12-22, 2023

A Little Night Music, Stephen Sondheim's 1973 Broadway musical, is a romantic farce about the lives of several upper-middle-class couples set in early 20th century Sweden. It was suggested by Ingmar Bergman's Smiles of a Summer Night, an evening of sexual musical chairs on the longest night of the year. The couples, mostly mismatched at the start, end up with more desirable partners by the final curtain. Sondheim's score features his best-known song, "Send in the Clowns." A Little Night Music won a Tony Award in 1973 for best musical.

Escape to Margaritaville, Feb. 9-19, 2023

Escape to Margaritaville and step into "island time" in this hilarious, heartwarming musical featuring classic Jimmy Buffett hits. Based on a true story, the musical was written by Emmy award winner Greg Garcia and Emmy

nominee Mike O'Malley and made its debut in 2018. Set in the rundown Margarita hotel on a small Caribbean island, visiting girlfriends mingle with the hotel's resident colorful characters and become romantically involved. The show follows the characters over a three-year time span following the sudden closure of the hotel due to a natural disaster. The group reunites at the reopened hotel for a sweet and satisfying finale. Jimmy Buffett songs include "Come Monday," "Cheeseburger in Paradise" and "Margaritaville," which was inducted into the 2016 Grammy Hall of Fame for its cultural and historic significance.



The Goodbye Girl, March 9-19, 2023

TheatreZone's The Goodbye Girl is Neil Simon's 1993 Broadway adaptation of his Academy Award-nominated 1977 film. The Broadway production starred Martin Short and Bernadette Peters and received Tony Award nominations for best musical, best actress in a musical and best actor in a musical. The plot centers on a struggling actor who has sublet a Manhattan apartment from a friend and the current occupants — his friend's ex-girlfriend and her precocious young daughter. The famed comedy is an adventure about love and commitment, with music scored by Marvin Hamlisch and with lyrics by David Zippel. It is also known for coining the phrase "The Goodbye Girl Syndrome," which describes a woman abandoned by a boyfriend. But in The Goodbye Girl, true love blossoms and the story

ends happily when the curtain falls.

Rock of Ages, April 27-May 7, 2023

Eighties classic rock is a virtual character in Rock of Ages, which has a timeless plot featuring star-crossed lovers and their youthful dramas. The five-time Tony Award-nominated musical originally debuted on Broadway in 2009. It features hits by the most famous glam metal bands of the 80s including Whitesnake, Journey, Bon Jovi, REO Speedwagon, Jefferson Starship, and many more. Set in Los Angeles, aspiring rockers and actresses couple up and break up as they compete and begin to succeed. They unite in their protest of the destruction of the Sunset Strip by developers who want to clean up the Strip's "sex, drugs and rock-n-roll" lifestyle. As the characters mature in the process, the musical ends on a high note with audiences cheering for them.



What to Know

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Matinees at 2 p.m. will be offered on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets range from \$50-65 with premium seats available at \$85. TheatreZone is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), professional Equity theatre located on the Community School of Naples campus, 13275 Livingston Road, Naples. Audiences enjoy an intimate setting in which there is "no bad seat in the house." Book tickets online at www.Theatre.Zone or call the box office at 888-966-3352 ext. 1. ■