

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF DECEMBER 8-14, 2022

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SECTION C

HOPE *in* THE MIDST of HELL

AWARD-WINNING
'HADESTOWN' COMES
TO FLORIDA



T CHARLES ERICKSON / COURTESY PHOTOS

BY NANCY STETSON
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DESPITE BEING A MUSICAL ABOUT Hell, "Hadestown" is a story about hope and perseverance, says Eric Kang, associate music director of the Broadway national touring production.

"There's a line in one of the songs: 'We toast to the world we dream about and the one we live in now,'" he says. "That's the essential message of the show. It's about creating a world that we wish to live in, despite obstacles and hardships."

Written and composed by Anais Mitchell, the show won eight Tony

SEE HADESTOWN, C12 ►

▲
TOP: Nathan Lee Graham in "Hadestown."

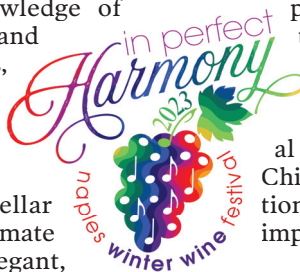
ABOVE:
"Hadestown" North American Tour 2022.

Esteemed sommeliers participating in Naples Winter Wine Festival

The Naples Winter Wine Festival has unveiled its lineup of featured sommeliers headlining the 2023 festival. With the theme "In Perfect Harmony," the NWWF returns to The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, Naples on Feb. 3-5, 2023, showcasing the finest wines, exquisite cuisine and amazing auction lots benefiting local children.

These featured sommeliers will

share their intimate knowledge of wine vintage, terroir and styles with festival patrons, enhancing appreciation for the unique and rare wines that will be tasted at Thursday's special pre-Festival Vintage Cellar event, Friday night's intimate Vintner Dinners in elegant,



private homes and settings throughout Naples, and at Saturday's signature Live Auction.

The NWWF, the annual fundraiser of the Naples Children & Education Foundation, marks its 23rd anniversary, impacting over 50 of the most

SEE NWWF, C13 ►

INSIDE



A Little Night Music

TheatreZone kicks off 2023 season with a favorite Sondheim production. C4 ►



Top Picks

Plenty of great things to see and do this week, including Reba McEntire, above. C6-8 ►



Society

Southwest Florida Music Education Center celebrates grand opening in Naples. C18 ►



Mark your calendar

Things to do at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. C15

Premier | Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Marco Island | 239.642.2222
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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

TheatreZone Kicks off 2023 with Sondheim's A Little Night Music

TheatreZone kicks off 2023 with the six-time Tony Award-winning Stephen Sondheim musical *A Little Night Music*. The production opens on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. and runs for two weeks.

"A Little Night Music is a musical celebration and lament of romance and regret, perfectly expressed in the song at the heart of the show, Sondheim's haunting 'Send in the Clowns,'" said TheatreZone's founder and artistic director, Mark Danni.

With lyrics and music by Sondheim and book by Hugh Wheeler, *A Little Night Music* is based on Ingmar Bergman's 1955 film, *Smiles of a Summer Night*. Set in early 20th century Sweden, the story depicts an evening of sexual musical chairs on the longest night of the year. The original production debuted on Broadway in 1973, ran for more than 600 performances and won the 1973 Tony Award for best musical. Sondheim won a record-setting fourth consecutive Tony Award in 1973 for the season's best score.

A Little Night Music is the seventh Sondheim musical Mark Danni has directed at TheatreZone. The show will be choreographed by TheatreZone co-founder Karen Molar Danni, with music direction by Charles Fornara. Mark Danni conducted *A Little Night Music* at the Signature Theatre in Arlington, Va., in 1998.

The cast features Larry Alexander as the successful, widowed, middle-aged lawyer Fredrik Egerman, married to 18-year-old Anne who doesn't want to press his sexual advances, but is growing restless. TheatreZone co-founder, "triple threat" singer/actress/dancer Karen



COURTESY PHOTOS
ABOVE: Mark Danni, right, directs Larry Alexander in the Stephen Sondheim musical, *A Little Night Music*.

RIGHT: Karen Danni as the female lead, *Desiree Armfeldt*.

Danni, will play the female lead *Desiree Armfeldt* — the most complicated person in the play.

"The character of *Desiree* lets an actress explore the mindset and feelings of a woman trying to grasp the fact that time is passing her by. Not only is she concerned about her career as she ages, but also about the choices she made in her personal life, her relationships, companionship, and love," commented Karen Danni.

The production reunites actors Larry Alexander and Karen Danni for a seventh TheatreZone production. In *A Little Night Music*, they are paired as a couple who try to reignite a long-ago romance

world I'd rather work with on stage than Larry. He is so giving as an actor and is always open to new ideas and trying new things. It's always a pleasure having him as my leading man," said Karen Danni.

Longtime TheatreZone music director, Charles Fornara, will conduct an eight-piece orchestra featuring viola, piano, cello, clarinet, bassoon, flute, oboe, English horn, bass clarinet, piccolo, and alto flute.

TheatreZone's 12 performances of *A Little Night Music* are staged at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 12-15 and 19-22, and at 2 p.m. on Jan. 14-15 and 21-22.

Tickets range from \$50 to \$85, depending on choice of seat.

For tickets and information, visit www.TheatreZone.org or call the box office at 888-966-3352.

TheatreZone, celebrating its 18th season in 2022-2023, stages its musical productions in the 250-seat G&L Theatre located in Naples at 13275 Livingston Road, between Pine Ridge and Vanderbilt Beach Roads, in a dedicated building nestled within the campus of the Community School of Naples.

TheatreZone's contract with the Actors' Equity Association ensures access to the best actors, singers, dancers, musicians, and stage management professionals from throughout the country. The nonprofit, 501(c)(3) was established in 2005 by Mark Danni and Karen Molnar Danni, who have both enjoyed successful careers on Broadway and Off-Broadway.

For the lineup of shows and concerts and to book tickets, visit www.TheatreZone.org or call the box office at 888-966-3352, ext. 1. ■



despite their current partnerships.
 "There's not another person in the

Holiday Festivities at Mercato

~~~~ HOLIDAY ~~~~

### HAND & HARVEST

ARTISAN MARKET

**December 15<sup>th</sup> | 6PM - 9PM**  
**December 17<sup>th</sup> | 12PM - 4PM**

25+ Vendors | Gift Wrapping  
 Prosecco Bar | Live Music | & SANTA!

Suite 3135 (across from Tommy Bahama and J.Crew)

### SANTA PAWS

AT

### ROCK THE BLOCK

**December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**6PM - 9PM**

Pet photos with Santa | Live Music  
 Outdoor Bar | Artisan Market

VISIT [EXPERIENC MERCATO.COM](http://EXPERIENC MERCATO.COM) FOR DETAILS

# WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

— Submit calendar listings and high-resolution photos to [events@floridaweekly.com](mailto:events@floridaweekly.com). Email text, jpegs or Word documents are accepted. No pdfs or photos of fliers. The deadline for calendar submissions is noon Saturday.

## SYMPHONY

**Holiday Pops** - By Southwest Florida Symphony Holiday Pops Dec. 11-13 at various locations: 4 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Gulf Theater; Punta Gorda; 7 p.m. Dec. 12 at The Village Church, Shell Point; and 7 p.m. Dec. 13 at First Presbyterian, Bonita Springs. Ticket prices vary. [www.swflslo.org](http://www.swflslo.org) or 239-418-1500.

## THEATER

**Home for the Holidays** - By TheatreZone Dec. 9-11 at the G&L Theatre at the Community School of Naples. Show times vary. \$50-\$65. 13275 Livingston Road, Naples. 888-966-3352, ext. 1, or <https://theatre.zone/shows/>.

**A Christmas Carol** - By The Naples Players through Dec. 18 in Blackburn Hall. Show times vary. \$37 for season ticket holders; \$55 for others. 701 Fifth Ave. S., Naples. 239-263-7990 or <https://naplesplayers.org>.

**Disney's Newsies Teen** - By The Naples Players KidzAct Dec. 10-12 in Blackburn Hall. "Disney's Newsie JR." plays Dec 17-19. Show times vary. \$30. 701 Fifth Ave. S., Naples. 239-263-7990 or <https://naplesplayers.org>.

**Pippin** - By Naples Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16 and 17 and 2 p.m. Dec. 17 at the NPAC Theater at Community School of Naples. \$20-\$30. 13275 Livingston Road, Naples. [naplesperformingartscenter.com](http://naplesperformingartscenter.com) or 239-325-8789.

**Snowbird Follies The Musical** - At the Music & Arts Community Center, and featuring Gulf Coast Symphony, through Dec. 18. "Snowbird Follies" is a whimsical musical yuletide celebration with a winking nod to Fort Myers' original snowbirds, Thomas Edison and

Henry Ford. \$39-\$50. 13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers. [www.GulfCoastSymphony.org](http://www.GulfCoastSymphony.org) or 239-277-1700.

**Southern Comforts** - By The Naples Players on select dates through Dec. 23 in the Tobye Studio Theatre. Show times vary. \$37 for season ticket holders; \$47 for the public. 701 Fifth Ave. S., Naples. 239-263-7990 or <https://naplesplayers.org>.

**Other Desert Cities** - By The Studio Players on select dates through Dec. 18 at the Golden Gate Community Center's Joan Jenks Auditorium. Show times vary. \$30 adults; \$15 youth. 4701 Golden Gate Pkwy., Naples. [www.thestudioplayers.org](http://www.thestudioplayers.org) or 239-398-9192.

**Ha! Ha! Ho! The Holiday Show** - At Off Broadway Palm Theatre through Dec. 25. Show times and ticket prices vary. 1380 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-278-4422 or <https://broadwaypalm.com>.

**The Sound of Music** - By Fort Myers Theatre on select dates Dec. 9-24. Show times vary. \$25-\$35. 16120 San Carlos Blvd., #5, Fort Myers. 239-323-6570 or <https://ftmyerstheatre.com>.

**Steel Magnolias** - By Gulfshore Playhouse through Dec. 14 at The Norris Center. Show times and ticket prices vary. 755 8th Ave. S., Naples. 239-261-7529 or <https://www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org/>.

**The Odd Couple (female version)** - By Arts Center Theatre at Marco Island Town Center through Dec. 18. \$35 members; \$40 non-members. 1089 N. Collier Blvd., Suite 432, Marco Island. 239-394-4221 or <https://www.marcoislandart.org/arts-center-theater/>.

## THURSDAY 12.8

**Block Party** - An immersive multi-cultural Block Party Festival runs from 5-8 p.m. at the Shoppes at Vanderbilt. The event showcases different cultural winter traditions and includes singing, dance, poems, a drum circle, photos with Santa, a giant Menorah and Gingerbread Man, free axe throwing, tree lighting, a full open bar, food trucks, bounce houses and snow stations. 2343 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples. 239-537-6437 or [Falon@thehealthyearth.org](mailto:Falon@thehealthyearth.org).

**Music Legend** - A Special Evening with the Original Jersey Boy Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. \$73.89-\$180.39. 13350 FSW Pkwy., Fort Myers. 239-481-4849 or [www.bbmannpah.com](http://www.bbmannpah.com).

**Christian Music** - For King & Country: A Drummer Boy Christmas starts at 7 p.m. at Hertz Arena. Tickets start at \$28.99; parking is \$25. 11000 Everblades Pkwy., Estero. <https://hertzarena.com>.

**FGCU Exhibit** - An opening for the "Senior Projects, Fall 2022" exhibit runs from 5-7 p.m. at the FGCU Wasmer Art Gallery. Free and open to the public. The exhibit runs through Dec. 16. 10501 FGCU Blvd. S., Fort Myers. 239-590-7199 or [fgcu.edu/artgalleries](http://fgcu.edu/artgalleries).

**Piano Concert** - Piano Ensembles perform at 7:30 p.m. in the FGCU U. Tobe Recital Hall. Free and open to the public. 10501 FGCU Blvd. S., Fort Myers. [www.fgcu.edu/bsma](http://www.fgcu.edu/bsma), 239-745-4268 or [jhoch@fgcu.edu](mailto:jhoch@fgcu.edu).

**Renowned Vocalist** - Sandi Patty is featured among a trio of festive performances celebrating the holiday season at 7 p.m. at The Village Church at Shell Point. \$47. 15100 Shell Point Blvd., Fort Myers. 239-415-5667 or [TribbyArtsCenter.com](http://TribbyArtsCenter.com).

**Holiday Music** - A Holiday Concerto featuring Miami musicians Maylu Hernandez (soprano), Pedro de los Rios (tenor) and Isaac Rodriguez (piano) starts at 7 p.m. at Iona Hall at St. Columbkille Catholic Church. The trio performs holiday songs, opera, Broadway show tunes and more. \$30; proceeds go to hurricane relief. 12171 Iona Road, Fort Myers. 239-489-3973.

**Christmas Show** - GOLD Entertainment presents John Tesh in "A Jazzy Swingin' Christmas" at 8 p.m. at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee. Tickets start at \$69. 506 South 1st St., Immokalee. [www.moreinparadise.com](http://www.moreinparadise.com) or 800-514-ETIX.

**At The Stage** - The Stage presents a Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young and a Great Bee Gees Tribute Show at 7:30 p.m. 9144 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs. 239-405-8566 or [www.stagebonita.com](http://www.stagebonita.com).

**At the Zig Zag** - Vintage performs from 6-10 p.m. at the Zig Zag Lounge at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee. 506 South 1st St., Immokalee. 800-218-0007, [moreinparadise.com](http://moreinparadise.com) or [facebook.com/SeminoleCasinoHotel/](https://facebook.com/SeminoleCasinoHotel/).

**Live Music** - Sol Real performs from 6-9 p.m. at The Center Bar at the Promenade at Bonita Bay. 26811 S. Bay Dr., Bonita Springs. Free. [www.thecenterbar.com](http://www.thecenterbar.com).

**Comedy Show** - Comedian ISMO performs tonight through Sunday at the Off The Hook Comedy Club. Show times vary. \$25 general admission; \$35 VIP. 2500 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 239-389-6901 or [www.offthehookcomedy.com](http://www.offthehookcomedy.com).

**Studios & Galleries** - Art studios and galleries are open every Thursday from 1-5 p.m. in Artisans Plaza. See the work of more than 20 local professional artists in one location with easy parking. Artwork includes paintings in a variety of techniques and subject matter, plus handcrafted jewelry and glass work. 5760 Shirley St., Naples. 239-572-3386.

**At Miromar** - Tommie D. & Dee perform oldies from 4-7 p.m. near COACH at Miromar Outlets. 10801 Corkscrew Road, Estero. 239-948-3766 or [www.miromaroutlets.com](http://www.miromaroutlets.com).

**A Capella Music** - The Paradise Coastmen Chorus offers participants a chance to learn to sing a cappella music in four-part harmony from 6:30-9 p.m. on Thursdays at Our Savior Lutheran Church. 1955 Curling Ave., Naples. 239-352-6366.

## FRIDAY 12.9

**Tribute Show** - The Fab Four: The Ultimate Beatles Tribute starts at 8 p.m. at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. \$36.61-\$66.43. 13350 FSW Pkwy., Fort Myers. 239-481-4849 or [www.bbmannpah.com](http://www.bbmannpah.com).

**Benefit Event** - "Brews for the Birds" runs from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Wonder Gardens. The adults-only event includes food trucks, beer from local and national breweries, wine and mixed-drink tastings, local business vendors, raffles and live music. \$50 for Wonder Gardens members \$55 for non-members. Tickets include unlimited beer and wine tastings, access to the park, live entertainment and a take-home cup. 27180 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs or 239-992-2591.

**Pet Party** - A HOWLiday Yappy Hour & Pet Photos with Santa run from 6-8 p.m. in Center Court at the Bell Tower. The event benefits Gulf Coast Humane Society. Selfies with Santa are free of charge; donations to the shelter are requested. 13499 S. Cleveland Ave., Fort Myer. 239-489-1221 or [www.belltowerFL.com](http://www.belltowerFL.com).

**Holiday Film** - The City of Bonita Springs hosts a holiday-themed Movies in the Park event at dusk at Riverside Park. Tonight's film is "The Polar Express" (2004)(G). The park is lit with holiday lights; bring blankets or chairs for seating. Free admission. 10450 Reynolds St., Bonita Springs. 239-949-6262 or <https://www.cityofbonitasprings.org>.

**Human Form** - "Figuratively Speaking: Works from the Center's Figure Study Classes" runs today through Jan. 10 at the Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs Hinman Gallery in the Round. The exhibition features artwork highlighting the artists' skill of capturing both the personality of the model and the beauty of the human form. Buy select works directly from the artists; a portion of the proceeds benefit the Centers. 10150 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs. 239-495-8989 or [www.artcenterbonita.org](http://www.artcenterbonita.org).

**Two Exhibits** - The Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs hosts an opening reception for the "Black & White" exhibit and "Summer Solitude: Art by Andy Owen & Chandra Jamieson" from 6-8 p.m. at the Visual Arts Center. The exhibits are on display through Jan. 17. Free admission from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. 26100 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs. 239-495-8989 or [www.artcenterbonita.org](http://www.artcenterbonita.org).

**Short Plays** - The Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs presents Funny Shorts Live... For The Holidays at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, Moe Auditorium. The event features amusing short plays; wear funny shorts or an ugly sweater and earn a chance at free tickets. \$30. 10150 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs. 239-495-8989 or [www.artcenterbonita.org](http://www.artcenterbonita.org).

**Live Music** - Johnny Caribe and the Hurricanes performs from 7-10 p.m. at The Center Bar at the Promenade at Bonita Bay. Free. 26811 S. Bay Dr., Bonita Springs. [www.thecenterbar.com](http://www.thecenterbar.com).

**At the Zig Zag** - Phase 1 Live performs from 8 p.m.-midnight tonight and Saturday at the Zig Zag Lounge at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee. 506 South 1st St., Immokalee. 800-218-0007, [moreinparadise.com](http://moreinparadise.com) or [facebook.com/SeminoleCasinoHotel/](https://facebook.com/SeminoleCasinoHotel/).

**At The Stage** - The Stage presents a James Taylor/America/Simon & Garfunkel/Doobie Brothers Tribute Show at 7:30 p.m. 9144 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs. 239-405-8566 or [www.stagebonita.com](http://www.stagebonita.com).

**At Miromar** - David Lynn performs classic rock from 4-7 p.m. near Saks OFF 5th at Miromar Outlets. Jimmy K. performs classic soft rock from 4-7 p.m. near Ford's Garage. The Friday Night Concert Series features the Thunder Beach Band from 6-8 p.m. in the Restaurant Piazza. Bring chairs for seating. 10801 Corkscrew Road, Estero. 239-948-3766 or [www.miromaroutlets.com](http://www.miromaroutlets.com).

**Live Music** - The Dazzling Delrays perform their history of Rock 'N' Roll show with a Christmas theme at Dogtooth Sports and Music Bar starting at 7 p.m. 5310 Shirley St., Naples. For reservations: 239-431-7004.

## SATURDAY 12.10

**Country Legend** - Reba McEntire performs in concert at 7:30 p.m. at Hertz Arena. Tickets start at \$49.75; parking is \$30. 11000 Everblades Pkwy., Estero. <https://hertzarena.com>.

**Art Fest** - Paragon Festivals presents the Bonita Springs Holiday of the Arts Festival from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. today

## Worth the TRIP



LEWIS BLACK

### Hot tickets across the state

- » **Blue October** — Dec. 8, Jannus Live, St. Petersburg. [www.jannuslive.com](http://www.jannuslive.com).
- » **Ozuna** — Dec. 9, FTX Arena, Miami. [www.ftxarena.com](http://www.ftxarena.com).
- » **Maneskin: The Loud Kids Tour** — Dec. 9, Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Hollywood. [www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com).
- » **Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons** — Dec. 10, Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Hollywood. [www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://www.seminolehardrockhollywood.com).
- » **Lewis Black: Off the Rails Tour** — Dec. 11, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, Sarasota. [www.vanwezel.org](http://www.vanwezel.org).
- » **Kenny Loggins** — Dec. 15, Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater. [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com).
- » **Andrea Bocelli** — Dec. 18, FTX Arena, Miami. [www.ftxarena.com](http://www.ftxarena.com).