

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF MARCH 9-15, 2023

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| SECTION C

PHOTOS BY EVAN ZIMMERMAN FOR MURPHYMEDIA



TOOT, TOOT, 'TOOTSIE,' HELLO!

Broadway
musical
version of
1982 film
comes to
Florida

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

Actors prepare for roles in various ways. Drew Becker prepared for his most recent one by buying a pair of high heels. “I’d never walked in heels before,” he says, “and the summer before heading into rehearsals for the first time, I would wear them around the house. First it was 30 minutes a day, then an hour, then an hour and a half, until I got up to the time of the show, which is 2½ hours, so it wouldn’t hurt as much.”

SEE TOOTSIE, C3 ►



TOP: The cast of the National Tour of “Tootsie.”
ABOVE: Payton Reilly as Sandy Lester and Drew Becker as Michael Dorsey in the National Tour of “Tootsie.”

TheatreZone’s musical lineup for 2023-2024 celebrates love stories

Love stories from the comic to the edgy with music ranging from rockabilly to show tunes are in the lineup of TheatreZone’s musicals for 2023-2024.

According to Mark Danni, TheatreZone’s founding artistic director, “We are staging lighthearted stories such as Neil Simon’s Little Me and Million Dollar Quartet, and darker dramas like Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical, Heathers: The Musical, and Carrie: The Musical, and finding hilarity in horror, and comedy in tragedy.”

TheatreZone’s concerts include a tribute to Linda Ronstadt; the Mersey Beat-



COURTESY PHOTO

les; John Ford Coley from the famed England Dan & John Ford Coley, and a concert of love songs with Larry Alexander and Adolpho Blaire.

“For our 19th season, I selected memorable musicals with scores ranging from rhythm ‘n blues to gospel to Broadway

show tunes by famed composers and lyricists,” says Mr. Danni. “The concerts round out the season with musical styles as diverse as those in the main stage productions.”

Now entering its 19th season as a Naples’ professional musical theatre, TheatreZone’s 2023-2024 musicals will kick off with Heathers: The Musical, a joint production with Florida Gulf Coast University’s Bower School of Music, to be staged at the FGCU Theatre Lab, October 12-15.

SEE THEATERZONE, C12 ►

INSIDE



“Barefoot in the Park”

Gulfshore Playhouse produces Neil Simon comedy. **C8** ►



“We Built This City”

Starship to headline in the Rockin’ on the River Concert Series. **C13** ►



Things to Do

Plan your week with our calendar for things to do in town, which includes seeing comedian Kevin Nealon at the Off the Hook Comedy Club. **C4-7** ►



Wine

Find out how to start your wine collection. **C26** ►

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THEATER-ZONE

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2023-2024 THEATREZONE MUSICALS

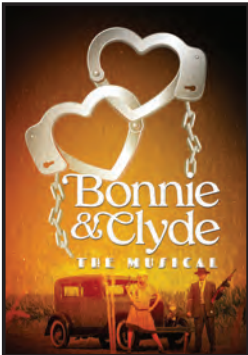
Heathers: The Musical
Heathers: The Musical, is based on the classic 1989 film. The setting is West-erberg High, ruled by the shoulder-pad-ded, scrunchie-wearing Heather and Heather, the hottest and cru-est girls in all of Ohio. Misfit Veronica Saw-er rejects their evil regime for a new boyfriend, the dark and sexy stran-ger J.D., who plans to put the Heathers in their place — six feet under. Brought to you by the award-winning creative team of Kevin Murphy (Reefer Madness, “Des-perate Housewives”), Laurence O’Keefe (Bat Boy, Legally Blonde) and Andy Fick-man (Reefer Madness, She’s the Man), Heathers: The Musical is a hilarious, heartfelt, and homicidal new show based on the greatest teen comedy of all time.
A joint production of TheatreZone and Florida Gulf Coast University’s Bow-er School of Music
Presented at the FGCU Theatre Lab
10501 FGCU Boulevard South, Fort Myers
Oct. 12-14, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 14-15, 2 p.m.

Home for the Holidays
Welcome the festive holiday season with TheatreZone’s annual Home for the Holidays musical production, a feast for the senses and a joyful start to a new year. Uplifting enter-tainment is of-fered by mem-orable songs, exuberant and unique chore-ography, and extravagantly colorful cos-tumes illumi-nated for a daz-zling effect. Performed by a professional cast and a live orchestra, Home for the



Holidays reminds audiences of the uni-versal power of music, song and dance celebrated by audiences the world over. Conceived and directed by Mark Dan-ni with choreography by Karen Molnar Danni.
Dec. 15-16, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 16-17, 2 p.m.

Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical
Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical is an electrifying and sexy story of love, adven-ture and crime with a score combining blues, gospel and rockabil-ly music. The musical cen-ters on Bon-nie Parker and Clyde Barrow, the ill-fated lovers and outlaws whose story has been infamous since they achieved folk hero status during the Great Depression. From two small-town nobodies to Texas law enforcement’s worst nightmares, the pair’s bold and reckless behavior turns their thrilling adventure into a down-ward spiral. Forced to stay on the run, the infamous duo’s fame grows, and their inevitable ends draws nearer. The Tony Award-nominated show’s music is by the legendary Frank Wildhorn (Jekyll & Hyde, Civil War, Dracula), with lyrics by Don Black and book by Ivan Menchell.
Jan. 11-14, 18-21, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 13-14, 20-21, 2024, 2 p.m.



Million Dollar Quartet
In December 1956, at the legendary Sun Records in Memphis, an extraordi-nary twist of fate brought Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Per-kins, and Elvis Presley together for one of the greatest jam ses-sions ever at the studio where they all launched their careers. The Tony Award-nomi-nated musical Million Dollar Quartet brings the night to life with performanc-es by world-class actors and musicians. The tale of broken promises, secrets, be-trayals, and celebrations includes smash hits such as “Blue Suede Shoes,” “Fever,” “Walk the Line,” “Great Balls of Fire,”

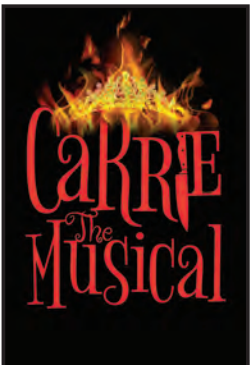


“Folsom Prison Blues,” “Hound Dog,” and much more. The jam session is the only performance of the quartet’s, called “a cultural flashpoint that caught rock ‘n roll at the moment of creation.” Written by Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux.
Feb. 8-10, 15-18, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 10-11, 17-18, 2024, 2 p.m.

Neil Simon’s Little Me
Little Me, a musical comedy written by Neil Simon with music by legendary composer Cy Coleman, re-lates the in-credible story of Belle Poitrine, born in humble circumstanc-es but deter-mined to gain wealth, culture and social position. She achieves diva statu-s through advantageous marriages and love affairs, bringing her the stature she seeks when the men meet unfortunate and comic ends at opportune moments. The story is based on a novel by Patrick Dennis (Auntie Mame). The show de-buted on Broadway in 1962 starring Sid Caesar with choreography by Bob Fosse. Its ongoing appeal and success inspired several revivals and multiple Tony Award nominations. The 1998 revival starred Martin Short who won the Tony Award for best actor in a musical.
March 7-10, 14-17, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
March 9-10, 16-17, 2024, 2 p.m.



Carrie: The Musical
Stephen King’s block-buster 1974 debut novel, “Carrie,” and the classic 1976 film are the ba-sis for Carrie: The Musical. The story por-trays the hor-rifying conse-quences when highschooler Carrie White is bullied by the popular crowd and is vir-tually invisible to everyone else. What no one knows is that she has special powers, and if pushed too far, is not afraid to use them. The 1988 musical adaptation was revived off-Broadway in 2012, receiving multiple award nominations and the Best Off-Broadway Musical award from



the Off-Broadway Alliance. Carrie: The Musical features a book by Lawrence D. Cohen (screenwriter of the film), music by Academy Award winner Michael Gore (Fame, Terms of Endearment), and lyrics by Academy Award winner Dean Pitch-ford (Fame, Footloose).
April 25-28, May 2-5, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
April 27-28, May 5, 2024, 2 p.m.

2023-2024 THEATREZONE CONCERTS

Elizabeth Ward Land’s Tribute to Linda Ronstadt:
Still Within the Sound of My Voice
Broadway veteran and national tour-ing star Elizabeth Ward Land brings her award-winning Linda Ronstadt tribute to TheatreZone in Still Within the Sound of my Voice. Soaring vocals, gorgeous ar-rangements and sumptuous harmonies.
January 15, 2024, 4 and 7:30 p.m.

The Mersey Beatles: Four Lads from Liverpool
The Mersey Beatles are back at The-atreZone on the 60th anniversary of the British invasion. Book soon for the en-tire “Hard Day’s Night” album and a new “Beatlemania” song lineup.
February 20, 2024, 4 and 7:30 p.m.

John Ford Coley (Formerly of En-gland Dan & John Ford Coley)
John Ford Coley brings multiple tal-ents to TheatreZone as a singer, song-writer, guitarist, classically trained pia-nist, actor, and author. He entertains with heart and humor, and a unique smooth rock sound.
February 22, 2024, 4 and 7:30 p.m.

Larry & Adolpho: The Dummy’s Guide to Love Songs
TheatreZone favorites, Larry Alex-ander and Adolpho Blaire, take you on a musical journey through the greatest songs ever written about that crazy little thing called love. A touching and funny show with tunes from your favorite com-posers.
March 12, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

About TheatreZone
Tickets range from \$50 to \$85, de-pending on choice of seat.
For tickets and information, visit www.Theatre.Zone or call the box office at 888-966-3352, ext. 1.
TheatreZone, celebrating its 19th sea-son in 2023-2024, stages its musical pro-ductions in the 250-seat G&L Theatre located in Naples at 13275 Livingston Road, between Pine Ridge and Vander-bilt Beach Roads, in a dedicated building nestled within the campus of the Com-munity School of Naples. ■

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