

out and about

Royal Tea Service at Powel Crosley Estate

Simply Gourmet, a Sarasota-based catering company will feature a traditional **Royal English Tea Service** from **2-4 p.m.** on select Tuesday/Wednesday afternoons on **February 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 27 & 28** and **March 13 & 14, and 20 & 21** at the Powel Crosley Estate in Sarasota.

Tea will be served in the upstairs living area of the mansion

Moser Jewelers), Emily Walsh (The Observer Media Group), and special guest "Joan Rivers" (impersonator).

Guests can walk the red carpet, strike a pose for the paparazzi, snag some bling ring raffle entries and score a few deals at the SPARCC Treasure Chest pop-up fashion boutique. Doors open at **9:30 a.m.** The ballroom opens at **11:30 a.m.** for a gourmet lunch and fashion show.

For tickets, visit www.sparcc.net or call 941-365-0208 ext. 110. All proceeds benefit SPARCC's programs and services.

by theatricality, athleticism and passion. **February 23-25** at FSU Center for the Performing Arts.

■ **Program 6 - Dreams of Nature**, featuring Sir Frederick Ashton's triumphant masterpiece *The Dream* and David Bintley's incredible 'Still Life' at the Penguin Café. Performing **March 2-3** at the Van Wezel and accompanied by a full orchestra. Choreographed on the greatest British male classical dancer, Sir Anthony Dowell, the renowned ballet historian David Vaughan wrote that 'It has come to be seen as one of Ashton's masterpieces,

Michael Lewis is on March 5. Financial journalist and New York Times best-selling author Michael Lewis has published 16 books on subjects ranging from politics to Wall Street. Among his most noteworthy works are *Flash Boys*, *The Big Short*, *The Blind Side*, and *Moneyball*. A sharp observer of politics, finance, and the evolution of American culture, Lewis combines keen insight with wit, making him one of today's leading social commentators. He takes a fresh, hard look at the ever-changing value systems that drive our economic markets, political landscapes, and cultural norms.

Lewis is a columnist for Bloomberg News and a contributing writer to Vanity Fair. His articles have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Gourmet*, *Slate*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Foreign Affairs* and others. He has served as editor and columnist for the British weekly *The Spectator* and as Senior Editor and campaign correspondent for *The New Republic*.

Morning Lecture at 10:30 a.m.; evening Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: www.rclassociation.org.

New Market at Lakewood Ranch

► **The Market at Lakewood Ranch** is a fun-filled community event happening each week at the Sarasota Polo Club. This farmers market has quality vendors like Maggie's Seafood, Grove Ladder Farm, Sunshine Canning, along with many more. Offering wine tastings, fitness demos, culinary demos, kids activities and live music.

Some of the items available at The Market: Seafood, eggs, chicken, duck, turkey, milk, cheese, bread, butter, cold pressed juices, jams and pickled deliciousness, fresh pasta, ready-to-eat foods, honey, soap, truffle oils, mushrooms, popcorn, gulf sea salt and knife sharpening.

The Market, in partnership with Worden Farm, is held at The Sarasota Polo Club, surrounded by open space. Held **each Wednesday through April 18, 3-7 p.m.** Sarasota Polo Club is located at 8201 Polo Club Lane, Lakewood Ranch. Info: 941-556-8300. Well-behaved leashed dogs are welcome.

Selby Gardens

► **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** has these offerings:

• **WARHOL: flowers in the factory.** Explore a combination of stunning horticultural interpretations of Warhol's nature-based work with an exhibition that includes six original Warhol botanical pieces. Runs **February 11-June 2018**.

For tickets, additional classes and updated event details, visit www.selby.org.

Lectures

► **Designing Women Boutique** has its 2018 Salon Series of "lunch & learn" events. Consisting of a

WCV PICK WBTT has The Mountaintop through Feb. 18

After giving a prophetic speech during the Memphis sanitation workers' strike, **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** returns to his hotel room. He orders from room service that is delivered by a mysterious woman.

With vivid theatrical imagination and powerful, often humorous dialogue, the playwright fictionalizes the last night of Dr. King's life and gives us a window into his hopes, vulnerabilities, and fears. WBTT founding member and 2016 Handy Award-winner **Apphia Campbell** star in the production. **Runs to February 18.** Call the Box Office at 941-366-1505 or visit westcoastblacktheatre.org.

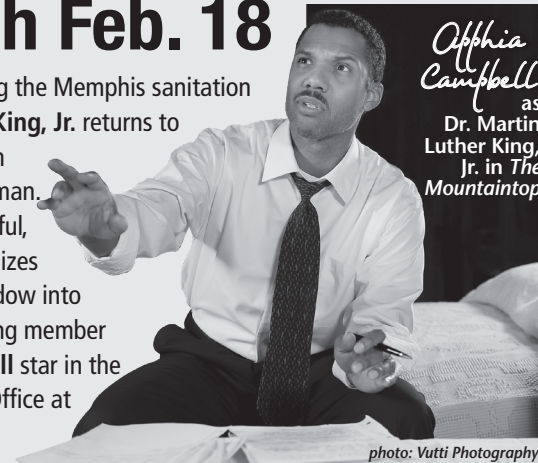


photo: Vutti Photography

overlooking the bay. Tickets: \$35. The afternoon includes an array of sweet and savory offerings and unlimited tea served in an eclectic collection of old-fashioned tea sets. Guests are welcome to enjoy the view or stroll around the grounds. To reserve, call 941-225-9122.

At Mote Marine

► **Greta the Great White Shark**, **Natasha the Turtle** and their oceanic friends are at **SatMote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium** as part of Mote's exhibit, "**Sea Debris: Awareness through Art**," featuring "**Washed Ashore**."

"Sea Debris" will be on display through early June 2018 and include larger-than-life, marine-inspired sculptures made entirely out of plastic gathered from the Oregon coastline. These handmade pieces will range from 15 feet long and 10 feet wide to seven feet long and eight feet high. More than seven of these realistic but whimsical sculptures at Mote will be on display.

During the exhibit's stay, visitors can enjoy marine debris related events such as a beach clean up, science cafes, a film festival and special lectures. Visit www.mote.org/seadebris. Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota.

Fun Raisers

► **Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center** (SPARCC) has its annual **fashion show** on **February 15** at the Ritz-Carlton Sarasota. This year's event, **Fashion Police**, will debut SPARCC Treasure Chest haute fashions and entertain with good-spirited banter from local "celeb" panel: Coral Pleas (Cutting Loose Salons), Nati Shabat (McCarver &

The Choral Artists of Sarasota

► **Choral Artists of Sarasota** present **Carmina Burana in Motion** on **Saturday, February 3 at 4 p.m.** and **Sunday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m.**

Fickleness of fortune and wealth, the ephemeral nature of life, and the pleasures and perils of drinking, gluttony, gambling and lust – this dramatic cantata has it all. With new and dynamic choreography created for this production by Leymis Bolaños Wilmott, the bawdy and raucous score surges to life featuring Sarasota Contemporary Dance, the Sarasota Young Voices, the Choral Artists of Sarasota and a two-piano, percussion ensemble.

Soloists: Catherine Wethington, soprano; Timur Bekbosunov, tenor; Jason Stearns, baritone; Sarasota Contemporary Dance, Leymis Bolaños Wilmott, Artistic Director and choreographer and Sarasota Young Voices, Geneviève Beauchamp, Artistic Director.

Held at Church of the Palms, 3224 Bee Ridge Rd. Info: www.ChoralArtistsSarasota.org or call 941-387-4900.

Sarasota Ballet

► **Program 5 - The Sarasota Ballet Presents Ballet Hispánico** with Ballet Hispánico's first visit to Sarasota. Founded in 1970 by Venezuelan American dancer and choreographer Tina Ramirez, the company is now directed by Cuban-American Eduardo Vilaro, a former dancer with Ballet Hispánico. This Manhattan based company explores the diversity of Latino culture through a fusion of Classical, Latin, and Contemporary dance powered

another of the great ballets of his maturity on the subject of human nature." Ashton created the ballet as a part of a special Royal Ballet celebration to commemorate the quarter centenary of Shakespeare's birth and as Maxim Boon wrote for *Lime-light Magazine*, "Ashton's astonishing power to transmute movement into music is all the more impressive as he expertly communicates Shakespeare's narrative, achieving a blissful synergy between choreography, musicality and story telling." 'Still Life' at the Penguin Café, choreographed by Birmingham Royal Ballet Director David Bintley, is set to the music of composer Simon Jeffes, founder of the Penguin Café Orchestra, and features a colorful host of animals seeking shelter from a storm at the Penguin Café. The animals portrayed are all endangered species which act as the key behind the ballet's quite prophetic message of environmental awareness. Tickets: www.sarasotaballet.org.

Ringling College Library Association Town Hall Lecture Series

► **Next up: Jon Meacham** on **February 12**. Presidential historian, Pulitzer Prizewinner, and contributor to *TIME* and *The New York Times Book Review*, Meacham is one of America's most prominent public intellectuals. A regular guest on *Morning Joe*, he understands how issues and events impact our lives and why historical context matters. A contributing editor at *TIME*, Meacham writes for the magazine's Ideas section. He served as *Newsweek's* managing editor from 1998 to 2006 and editor from 2006-2010.

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catered boxed lunch, fashion show and mini-lecture, this series is one of DWB's most popular events, with proceeds used to fund their grants program to benefit local arts and human services organizations.

The 2018 Salon Series calendar:

- **February 22 – Barbara Glanz** (Hall of Fame speaker)
- **March 29 – Charlotte Perret** (author)
- **April 26 – Nate Jacobs** (founder and artistic director, Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe)
- **September 27– Thomas Baugher** (Supervisory Special Agent, FBI)
- **October 25 – Linda Watterworth** (development manager, Goodwill Manasota)

Salon Series tickets are \$20 and may be purchased via PayPal at DesigningWomenSRQ.org. DWB is located at 1226 North Tamiami Trail. For information, call 941-366-5293 or go to DesigningWomenSRQ.org.

📍 **The Sarasota Ballet** has **Inside The Studio**, a series of unique opportunities to step behind the curtain of The Sarasota Ballet, with demonstrations, coaching and talks from répétiteurs, choreographers and directors. The events take place in Studio 1, offering audience members a rare glimpse at the inner works backstage at the ballet.

• **Roland Petit: Defining a New French Chic** on **February 12** at **6 p.m.** The creative figure in France's post-war ballet, Roland Petit was responsible for defining a new French chic and erotic frankness in dance, typified above all by his wife, the glamorous star Zizi Jeanmaire. Held at FSU Center for the Performing Arts, Studio 1. For information, visit www.SarasotaBallet.org or call the box office at 941.359.0099.

📍 **New Topics** is a collaboration of the **New College Foundation** and **New College of Florida**. This community series features national speakers on relevant topics of our time. All programs are complimentary and will be held in the Mildred Sainer Auditorium, 5313 Bay Shore Road. For reservations and information, call 941-487-4888 or go to donate.ncf.edu/events.

Coming up:

■ **February 15, 5:30 p.m.** **Scientific, Legal, and Regulatory Challenges in Investigating and Addressing Health Threats From “Unregulated” Drinking Water Contaminants: The Case of Perfluorochemicals** New College graduate '83 and attorney Rob Bilott will provide insights into the various scientific, legal, and regulatory challenges facing communities exposed to “emerging” or currently “unregulated” contaminants in their drinking water.

Bilott will draw upon his more than 17 years of experience handling issues involving perfluorochemical contamination of drinking water supplies across the country to highlight and explain the ways in which these various challenges im-

part our ability to fully understand the nature of the chemicals we are exposed to in our water and our ability to address any health risks associated with those exposures.

■ **March 1, 5:30 p.m.** **Art, Math and Orange Peels: The Legacy of Dr. William Thurston on Math & Fashion.** Dr. William Thurston 67' was a world-renowned expert in the mathematical field of topology and a New College of Florida graduate. Join New College President Donal O'Shea and Anne-Marie Russell, executive director, of the Sarasota Museum of Art, as they tease out the beauty and complexity of math and fashion using Dr. Thurston's collaboration with the House of Miyake as a point of departure.

Celebrate the interdisciplinary thinking that lay at the heart of New College and find out how peeling an orange can lead to revelations about the shape of the universe.

📍 There's a new **Florida Humanities Speaker Series** at **Manatee Village Historical Park**. [Here's the schedule:](#)

- **“Lighthouses of the Sunshine State”** presented by Brendan Burke on **Thursday, February 8, 5:30 p.m.**
- **“Doc Anna: Swamp Doctor of Florida”** presented by Carrie Sue Ayvar on **Thursday, March 22, 5:30 p.m.**

Lectures will be held at Manatee Village Historical Park, 1404 Manatee Avenue East (State Road 64) in Bradenton.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call 941-749-7165 or visit: www.manatee-village.org.

At The Ringling

📍 Continuing Exhibitions:

■ **Circle of Animals / Zodiac Heads** to **June 1, 2018**. Bayfront Gardens. A sculptor, photographer, installation artist, architect, and social activist, Ai is one of the most renowned artists working today. Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads was inspired by the fabled fountain-clock of the Yuanming Yuan, an 18th-century imperial retreat just outside Beijing. Designed in the 18th century by two European Jesuits at the behest of the Manchu Emperor Qianlong, the fountain-clock featured the animals of the Chinese zodiac, each spouting water at two-hour intervals. In 1860, the Yuanming Yuan was ransacked by French and British troops, and the heads were pillaged.

Seven out of the 12 animal heads in Ai's piece are based on the original fountain works that have been discovered—rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, horse, monkey, and boar. The remaining five are the artist's reimagining of the currently missing artifacts—dragon, snake, goat, rooster, and dog. The dual title of the work addresses the artist's desire that the piece be relatable on many different levels and to people who may not know the original sculpture's history.

■ **Alfred Eisenstaedt** was one of the luminaries of American

photojournalism. The German-born Eisenstaedt learned his craft in Europe in the 1920s and 30s, pioneering the use of the small Leica 35mm camera to get closer to his subjects and create more candid pictures.

Fleeing the rise of fascism in the 1930s, Eisenstaedt came to the US where he became one of the first photojournalists of LIFE Magazine, the weekly newsmagazine that chronicled the twentieth century in pictures. His career at LIFE photographing the notable and newsworthy, spanned nearly 40 years and resulted in some of the most iconic images of the era.

The photographs on exhibition, part of The Ringling's permanent collection, present subjects both notable and obscure. While only a fraction of the thousands of images Eisenstaedt created in his lifetime, they offer a glimpse into the work of one of the most celebrated photojournalists. **Runs to March 18.**

Info: 941-359-5700.
The Ringling is at 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota.

Art Exhibits

📍 Local Color:

■ artists Denise Cail, Susan Coyne, Lynn Hagen Grow, Elizabeth Jeness Burge and Mary Louise O'Connell present **More Local Color**, an exhibit of oil paintings **through March** at The Golden Image, 30 South Palm Ave., Sarasota.

Local Color is a group of Sarasota painters who work, learn, teach and have a blast painting together. The group show will be part of the Palm Avenue Art Walk on the first Friday of each month, 6-9 p.m. More Local Color is also available to the public daily, 10-5 p.m. and by appointment; call The Golden Image at 941-364-8439.

📍 Island Gallery West:

■ **Joanna Karpay's** oil and pastel paintings will be featured in a month-long exhibit entitled **“The Color of Sunlight”** this February at Island Gallery West. As part of the monthly Holmes Beach Art District ArtWalks, a highlight of the exhibit will be a public reception on **February 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** Follow the sweet sounds of live bluegrass music performed by a trio of musicians, enjoy complimentary refreshments, meet the artists and see all the latest local art at Island Gallery West.

A Tampa native, Joanna has spent a lifetime developing her award-winning style as a Florida landscape artist. Joanna's latest paintings still use nature for inspiration while they push into the realm of fantasy and surrealism, exciting the mind's eye with bold color, and capturing sunlight in a way that brings a fresh and fun approach to ordinary landscapes.

Island Gallery West is located at 5368 Gulf Dr., Holmes Beach, Trolley Stop 15 on Anna Maria Island. The exhibit runs through February 28. Info: call 941-778-6648.

📍 Upcoming Events at **ART Inside:**

■ **Judy Kramer – Photographer** presents **“Cuba – Past, Present, Future.”** Kramer's recent trip to Cuba presented her with an eye-opening view of a country holding onto its glorious and challenging past, trying to exist in the present and yet searching for a brighter and more benevolent future. Her photographs capture the unique and often crumbling architecture, street scenes and portraits of the populace trying to exist under patriarchal rule...and yet there is a calm in the daily existence which gives one a sense of patient understanding and hope. **Runs through February.**

■ **Susan Hurwitch - Mixed Media/Collage Artist** has **“Painting With Paper: A Collage Technique.”** Hurwitch's Mixed Media art works incorporate a variety of painting and collage techniques. Her love of color and texture underpins her creative process and allows her to convey a happy, joyful spirit to the subject of her work. Susan creates hand painted papers that are used in many of her pieces. Each one-of-a-kind patterned paper brings a unique element to her final art piece. Susan approaches her mixed media work as an experimental and intuitive process that yields her signature style.

Susan will be demonstrating **“Painting With Hand-painted Paper: A Collage Technique”** at the **March 2** at the Palm Avenue Art Walk, **6-9 p.m.**

ART Inside is a collaborative gallery featuring the artwork of six artists: Karin Billings, Joanna Coke, Susan Hurwitch, Dircce Kennedy, Judy Kramer and Dalia Shyevitch. They share a gallery space that is co-located within Express Oak SRQ at 32 Palm Avenue in Sarasota. Each month one artist is featured as the “Spotlight Artist” and their art is showcased in the center of the gallery and in the storefront window. ART Inside Gallery, 32 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota.

Sarasota Museum of Art

📍 **Upcoming Events: Sarasota Museum of Art** has a series of events across varied subjects.

• **February 8 at 6 p.m. ART ON FILM: Brillo Box (3¢ off).** Directed by Lisanne Skyler, special guest Barrett White and held at The Works 891 South Tamiami Trail. \$10 admission; Free for Museum donors, Cross College Alliance students, Ringling College faculty & staff.

In 1969, film director Lisanne Skyler's parents bought an Andy Warhol Brillo Box for \$1,000. Inspired by the popular Brillo soap pad product package, Warhol's Brillo Boxes were not initially embraced by the market. Forty years later, the same sculpture once owned by Skyler's parents sold for over \$3,000,000 at a record-breaking Christie's auction. Blending humorous family narrative with anecdotes from the

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Pop Art era, Brillo Box (3¢ Off), follows the sculpture as it makes its way from the Skyler's living room to the contemporary global art market, exploring the ephemeral nature of art, value and the decisions that shape family history.

Lisanne Skyler and Barrett White, Executive Deputy Chairman, Post-War and Contemporary Art at Christie's, will do a Q&A session following the film. Skyler is a writer and director of numerous, award-winning fiction and documentary films exploring economic systems and their impact on our lives. In addition to the HBO Documentary Film, Brillo Box (3¢ Off), her films include the critically acclaimed Joyce Carol Oates adaptation *Getting To Know You*, and the South Central, Los Angeles documentary *No Loans Today*.

Barrett White is an Executive Deputy Chairman for the Post-War & Contemporary Art Department at Christie's, focusing on business development and private sales. Since joining Christie's in 1999, White has held senior positions in the Post-War and Contemporary Art Department and Christie's subsidiary *Haunch of Venison*. He was also formerly the Senior Director at L+M Arts in New York.

• **March 1 at 5:30 p.m. ART & SCIENCE: Art, Math & Orange Peels: The Legacy of Dr. William Thurston.** In partnership with New College of Florida, will be held at Mildred Sainer Auditorium, New College 5313 Bay Shore Road. Free; RSVP required.

Dr. William Thurston was a world-renowned expert in the mathematical field of topology and one of New College of Florida's most renowned graduates. In 2010, Dr. Thurston's unlikely collaboration with the fashion House of Miyake demonstrated that the most abstract math can have gorgeous practical applications.

Join New College of Florida President Donal O'Shea and Anne-Marie Russell, Executive Director of the Sarasota Museum of Art, as they tease out the beauty and complexity of math and fashion using Dr. Thurston's studies as a point of departure. Celebrate interdisciplinary thinking, and find out how peeling an orange can lead to revelations about the shape of the universe.

Info: visit: www.ringling.edu/museum.

Theatre

• **Asolo Rep has Shakespeare In Love running to March 28.** Directed by Rachel Rockwell.

Shakespeare In Love, the sweeping adaptation of Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard's Academy Award winning film that starred Gwyneth Paltrow, Joseph Fiennes, and Dame Judi Dench. *Shakespeare In Love* presents an imagined tale of Will Shakespeare, his greatest muse, and the extraordinary romance that inspired one of the world's most enduring love stories.

■ **Morning After Grace runs to March 4.** By Carey Crim Direct-

ed by Peter Amster. Hilarious and heart-warming, this unconventional new comedy tackles love, loss, and coming to terms with growing old. After hooking up at a funeral, Angus and Abigail find themselves waking up the next morning wrapped in sheets on his sofa. Strangers just the day before, Abigail thinks she may finally be ready to take another chance on love, but Angus has a few issues to work through first. Enter neighbor Ollie, formerly a baseball player for the Detroit Tigers who now enjoys golf and yoga. Nothing is as it seems with this trio and every disclosure reveals a new perspective. Set in a nearby Florida retirement community, this comedy takes you on an unexpected journey toward a new lease on life.

■ **Rhinoceros runs February 9-April 14.** By Eugène Ionesco Translated By Derek Prouse. Directed By Frank Galati. A farce. A tragedy. A brilliant experiment for the mind. Brace yourself for an exhilarating experience staged by two time Tony Award winner Frank Galati. Berenger is a simple man with a simple life. He has a regular job, drinks too much, and has a flirtatious relationship with his coworker Daisy. But his day is interrupted by a rhinoceros charging through town – then another and another. Berenger begins to ponder the ramifications of literally following the herd. Written just after World War II, RHINOCEROS is still considered a masterpiece of absurdist theatre, where the world is incomprehensible and anything a writer can imagine can happen.

At FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training:

■ **The Rehearsal runs February 21-March 11.** By Jean Anouilh. A group of very wealthy socialites gather to present a production of a Marivaux play and enlist the help of Lucile, a poor young girl hired as nanny for the household. Love blossoms quickly, but is soon ruthlessly destroyed by those who feel their barely adequate existence is threatened. At once a brilliant boulevard farce and a dark, disturbing morality play, penned by one of the great writers of contemporary European theatre.

Tickets are available by calling or visiting Asolo Rep's Box Office, located in the lobby of the theatre, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail in Sarasota; 941-351-8000, or at www.asolorep.org.

• **Urbanite Theatre has:**

■ **northside hollow** by Jonathan Fielding & Brenda Withers. Directed by Summer Wallace. Regional premiere. Runs **through March 11.** Trapped underground after a deadly collapse, a coal miner finds his salvation in the arrival of a young and inexperienced first responder. While they wait for additional rescue assistance, they discover they have a curious amount in common. As the men confront mortality, their

connection may unearth a deeper revelation about acceptance and spiritual refuge. Approximately 90 minutes, no intermission.

Urbanite Theatre is at 1487 2nd St, Sarasota. Info: 941-321-1397.

• **The Players Centre has:**

■ **Singin' In The Rain.** Set in Hollywood in the days of the silent screen, comes the mega-hit musical based on the 1952 classic film by the same name. Escape to a different time with Don Lockwood, Cosmo Brown and Kathy Seldon who will have you singing right along with this amazing score. Featuring such classics as: "Make 'em Laugh," "Good Mornin'," and "Singin' in the Rain." Runs **to February 4.**

■ Next up is **Bullets Over Broadway** which runs **February 22-March 11.** Loaded with big laughs, colorful characters and the songs that made the '20s roar, this show brings musical comedy back with a bang. Based on the screenplay of the acclaimed 1994 film by Woody Allen, this musical is a love letter to the Golden Age of Broadway. A straight-arrow playwright plans to stand firm against compromising his work, but quickly abandons that stance when his producer finds a backer to mount his show on Broadway.

■ **Shirley Valentine** runs **February 8-18** in Backstage At The Players at **2 p.m.** Shirley Valentine is a one-character play by Willy Russell. Taking the form of a monologue by a middle-aged, working class Liverpool housewife, it focuses on her life before and after a transforming holiday abroad.

■ **Smitten Gala** is on **February 10, 6-9 p.m.** at Lakewood Ranch Country Club. Enjoy an evening of romantic dining and dancing with the song stylings of the Players' own Eve Caballero and Cassandra Santiso. Cocktails, dinner, silent auction and a live orchestra/band. Tickets: \$100.

■ **The Love Letters fundraiser** is on **February 14 at 7:30 p.m.** on the Players Centre Main Stage. A unique and imaginative theatre piece comprised of letters exchanged over a lifetime between two people who grew up together, went their separate ways, but continued to share confidences. Starring Sarasota's own John Scalzi and Linda Larsen. Tickets: \$25.

The Players Centre, 838 N. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota. Info: 941-365-2494. Tickets: www.theplayers.org

• **At Manatee Players Presented in Stone Hall:**

■ **Hunchback of Notre Dame — February 15-March 4.** From the Academy Award-winning team comes a lushly scored retelling of Victor Hugo's epic story of love, acceptance and what it means to be a hero.

Presented in Bradenton Kiwanis Theater:

■ **Driving Miss Daisy — to February 11.** Driving Miss Daisy follows the relationship of an

elderly white Southern Jewish woman, Daisy Werthan, and her African-American chauffeur, Hoke Colburn, from 1948 to 1973.

For more information contact the Box Office at 941-748-5875.

• **Florida Studio Theatre Mainstage has:**

■ The gripping storytelling of **Heisenberg**, by Simon Stephens. Heisenberg runs **through March 4** in the Keating Theatre. From the playwright who brought you *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Simon Stephens presents Heisenberg. Amidst the bustle of a crowded London train station, Georgie spots Alex, a much older man, and she plants a kiss on his neck. This electric encounter thrusts these two strangers into a fascinating and life-changing game. Heisenberg brings to theatrical life the uncertain and often comical sparring match that is human connection.

■ The culture clash comedy **Native Gardens** by Karen Zacarias is about friendly neighbors who turn into feuding adversaries. Pablo, a high powered lawyer, and doctoral candidate Tania, his very pregnant wife, are realizing the American dream when they purchase the house next door to community stalwarts, Virginia and Frank. But a disagreement over a longstanding fence soon spirals into an all-out comic battle of taste, privilege, and entitlement. In this battle of the backyard, no one comes out smelling like a rose. *Timeout Chicago* describes *Native Gardens* as a "Carefully pruned comedy" that "Really blooms." Runs **to March 25.**

■ The Cabaret has **Blue Suede Shoes**, taking audiences back to the birth of rock and roll with legendary greats such as Chuck Berry, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley. In the 1950s, Rock 'N' Roll took America by storm. With its roots in rhythm and blues, country western, swing, and doo-wop, this new sound would forever change the world of music. From the father of Rock 'N' Roll, Chuck Berry, to The King himself, Elvis Presley, this revue celebrates the birth of rock and roll with such great hits as "Rock Around the Clock," "Blue Suede Shoes," "Mustang Sally," and "Johnny B. Goode." Runs **to April 1.**

Tickets may be purchased at FloridaStudioTheatre.org, by calling 366-9000, or by visiting the Box Office.

• **Venice Theatre's Main-Stage Series has:**

■ **Smokey Joe's Café**, The longest-running musical revue ever, Smokey Joe's Café features nine powerful performers and nearly 40 of the greatest rock 'n' roll and R & B songs ever recorded, including "Love Potion #9," "On Broadway," "I'm a Woman," "Yakety Yak," and more. Runs **to February 4.**

Call 941-488-1115 or visiting the box office at 140 W. Tampa Ave. in Venice. 📞