

Editions: (Fort Myers | ↕)

(July 16, 2014 | ↕)

Search Archives

Follow

2014-07-16 / Arts & Entertainment News

## Laboratory Theater says, 'I do,' 'I do'

ARTS COMMENTARY

nancySTETSON

[nstetson@floridaweekly.com](mailto:nstetson@floridaweekly.com)



When it comes down to it, it's all about love.

The nine short one-act plays at the Laboratory Theater of Florida are full of countless little gestures of affection: holding hands, remembering to pack what the other forgot when going on a trip, how-we-first-met stories, standing side by side in front of the bathroom mirror while getting ready in the morning, knowing how to fight in a healthy way, appreciating the fact that he doesn't snore.

But the plays are also full of other things: pain at being rejected by one's parents and thrown out of the house at 15, being bullied and attacked, being unable to marry the person you love.

"Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays" looks at same-sex marriage through a variety of lenses. Conceived by Brian Shnipper, the nine plays are written by eight of our top contemporary playwrights, including Moises Kaufman, Mo Gaffney, Neil LaBute and Paul Rudnick, whose two offerings get some of the biggest laughs of the evening.

Mr. Rudnick's humor is razor-sharp in "The Gay Agenda," in which Mary Abigail Carstairs-Sweetbuckle of [Ohio](#) (Lori Riti) gives a talk about seeing gays everywhere. She starts out all smiles and Midwestern sweetness, but slowly builds to a public meltdown as she relays her tale. (Her husband, she says, claims that Satan made gay people as a crafts project.)

Ms. Riti is priceless in this short play, revealing how she began hearing a gay voice talk to her. Her comedic timing and delivery are on target and do justice to Mr. Ruddick's lines.



Stacy Stauffer and Kendra Price COURTESY PHOTOS

In "My Husband," Nancy Antonio plays a liberal mother desperate to marry off her gay son (PJ McCready). She sees marriage as a competition, and wants her son to have a wedding that's "bigger and gayer" than any other.



Annette Trossbach and Brenda Kensler

Stacy Stauffer and Kendra Price play a couple in two different plays, "This Flight Tonight" and "A Traditional Wedding." In the first, they're about to fly to [Des Moines, Iowa](#), for their wedding when one starts to have second thoughts. In the latter, Ms. Price's character explains why she didn't want to have a conventional wedding. The two have some tender moments together on stage as they work out their differences.

"Pretty soon we'll be as bad at marriage as the straight folk are.

Then we'll know we've achieved equality," jokes Ms. Stauffer's character.

"On Facebook," a re-enactment of a Facebook conversation performed as a reading, doesn't really work that well as a short play, but does contain some good acting.

Ms. Stauffer plays a no-nonsense lesbian, while Ms. Price's character is a judgmental conservative who doesn't think gays should be allowed to marry, all the while insisting her gay friends love her. A shirtless Josh Russo is eye candy while Ms. Antonio provides laughs as Beth, a woman who's totally clueless about technology.

In "London Mosquitoes," David Yudowitz gives a eulogy for his partner of 46 years. It's moving and

Where's the story?



6 Points Mentioned

poignant, but would've been better served if Mr. sYudowitz had used more dramatic modulations in his delivery.

"London Mosquitoes" is an intimate view of a relationship that lasted almost 50 years, one that got "easier and lovelier" as the years passed. But it's also a tribute to those of an earlier era, the pioneers, a generation we're now losing one by one.

His character stresses the importance of witnessing each other's lives — and their deaths.

But it's "Strange Fruit" that packs the most emotional wallop, with Scott Carpenter and Mr. McCready giving side-by-side monologues as a newlywed couple. Mr. McCready's almost unbearably sweet as he describes coming out later in life and discovering he really does love men. And Mr. Carpenter's character is the lucky recipient; he's charming and wry, in love with the whole world on his wedding day. You can't help but fall in love with both their characters.

"Standing On Ceremony" opens with a couple (Dave Kensler and Mr. Carpenter) grappling with writing their own wedding vows and ends with another couple saying theirs. But the last play of the evening is unfortunately one of the weakest, with Pablo (Joey Bostic) and Andrew (John Klinko) saying their self-penned wedding vows at the altar. (Mr. Bostic performs as Ariana Valentine around the [Lee County](#) area.) So while the show ends on a celebratory note, it also just fizzles out, as the actors seem challenged by the poetic and whimsical dialogue. We're finally presented with an actual wedding scene, but it feels oddly anti-climatic.

Director Brenda Kensler chose to decorate the minimalist set with a wall of white cubes with words such as doubt, fear, sad, bullying and name calling written on them. The actors remove a cube or two after each short play, revealing more of the rainbow flag behind it. But it just feels gimmicky, making the plays seem more like a high-school production. The writing — and some of the acting — is of such a high quality that it doesn't need those cubes. Their presence doesn't enhance the plays at all.

"Standing on Ceremony" doesn't preach like an "After School Special," but it does manage to deliver some nice messages, such as, "It's OK to be who you are."

Forty-five years after Stonewall, that historic pivotal event in [New York City](#) in which gays fought back against police mistreatment, their marriage is now legal in 19 states and [Washington, D.C.](#)

At the rate laws are changing, perhaps "Standing on Ceremony" will soon be a dated piece.

As one character says, "If marriage is about love, why do we want to reduce love in the world?"

A good question, indeed. |

'Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays'

>> When: through July 26

>> Where: Laboratory Theater of Florida, 1634

Woodford Ave., Fort Myers

>> Tickets: \$22 (\$12 for students)

>> Info: 218-0481 or [www.laboratorytheaterflorida.com](http://www.laboratorytheaterflorida.com)

## Return to top

[+](#) Share / Save [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [v](#)

**All About Closets is All About You!**  
*We Create Function and Storage with Style.*

Custom Closets • Home Offices • Garages • Wall Units • Laundry Areas • Walk In Closets

Call for a **FREE** Professional Design Consultation!  
239-303-5829

5006 6th Street West  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971  
Visit our website:  
[www.allaboutclosets.com](http://www.allaboutclosets.com)

**Juvéderm**  
A trademark of Allergan

**VOLUMA<sup>®</sup> XC**

Give your face a more youthful look.

**15% OFF VOLUMA<sup>®</sup> XC**

Ask your BreviShare Specialist for more information.  
1-866-591-0288 | [www.BreviShareDermatology.com](http://www.BreviShareDermatology.com)

SURGICAL EXPERTISE COMBINED WITH VICTUS PRECISION.

**Unparalleled, Customized Cataract Surgery.**

Introducing A REVOLUTION in Cataract Surgery  
**LASER CATARACT SURGERY**  
with Bausch and Lomb **victus**

Dr. Michael J. Collins, MD, FACS (Board Certified Ophthalmologist and Fellowship Trained Eye Surgeon)

Schedule your Cataract Consultation today. **(239) 936-4706** | [www.CollinsVision.com](http://www.CollinsVision.com)

4000 International Center Blvd • Fort Myers | 800 1118 Avenue North • Naples

# RECONSTRUCTIVE ABDOMINAL WALL SURGERY NOW AVAILABLE LOCALLY

NO MORE RECURRING HERNIAS

A hernia may be defined as a fallure in the sidewall of a tube. The tube's inner tube behaves like the organ and the sidewall like the body cavity wall providing the restraint. A weakness in the sidewall allows a bulge to develop, which can become a split, allowing the inner tube to protrude, and leading to the eventual failure of the fit. Hernias may present either with pain at the site, a visible or palpable lump, or in some cases by more vague symptoms resulting from pressure on an organ which has become "stuck" in the hernia, sometimes leading to organ dysfunction. The most common types are:

- Inguinal hernia - the intestine or the bladder protrudes through the abdominal wall or into the inguinal canal in the groin. About 90 percent of all hernias are inguinal.
- Incisional hernia - the intestine passes through the abdominal wall at the site of previous abdominal surgery.
- Femoral hernia - occurs when the intestine enters the canal carrying the femoral artery into the upper thigh.
- Umbilical hernia - part of the small intestine passes through the abdominal wall near the navel.



Also, there is good news for patients with recurring hernias. These patients can now elect to have the abdominal wall reconstructed. Results from this surgery procedure are highly successful at preventing the hernia from recurring. The weak area of the abdominal wall is surgically closed and reconstructed during this type of procedure.

There are few surgeons who accept the challenging recurring hernia cases and perform the reconstructive surgery. Until recently, people suffering from this condition had to be transferred out of the area for this life changing surgery. Fortunately, Charlotte County surgeon, Dr. Alvaro Bada has completed and

received certification from the Comprehensive Solutions in Complex Abdominal Wall Reconstruction Master class in Nevada, and can perform this surgery locally. Dr. Bada has been great success with the reconstructive procedure and his patients are now hernia free.

If you suffer from recurring hernias and other doctors or surgeons have been unsuccessful at keeping them away, abdominal wall reconstruction may be the answer you have so desperately been seeking. For an evaluation to see if you would be a candidate for this procedure, call 255-0066.



ALVARO BADA, M.D.

**CALL NOW! (941) 255-0069**  
[www.badamd.com](http://www.badamd.com) • [www.refluxbadamd.com](http://www.refluxbadamd.com)  
 18308 Murdock Cr #101, Port Charlotte, FL 33988

BOARD CERTIFIED GENERAL SURGEON FELLOW AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

**ON-SITE SALES**

8000 FOREST BLVD  
 FORT MYERS, FL 33908  
 MON - SUN 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
**239-482-1300**  
[www.theforestrealestate.com](http://www.theforestrealestate.com)

**LARGE SPACIOUS VILLA RARELY AVAILABLE!**

THIS BEAUTIFUL 5 BEDROOM FIVE BATH HOME WITH A PRIVATE POOL AND GOLF COURSE VIEW IS A MUST SEE. THE VILLA IS FULLY FURNISHED WITH HIGH END APPLIANCES, STAINLESS STEEL, AND ALL BUILT IN FURNITURE. THIS IS THE PERFECT HOME TO LIVE IN OR TO INVEST IN.

**\$375,000**

**EXQUISITE 3/2/2 2ND FLOOR CONDO**

THIS CONDO IS IN THE BEST LOCATION WITH GOLF COURSE VIEW. THE UNIT IS FULLY FURNISHED WITH HIGH END APPLIANCES, STAINLESS STEEL, AND ALL BUILT IN FURNITURE. THIS IS THE PERFECT HOME TO LIVE IN OR TO INVEST IN.

**\$219,500**

**BETTER THEN A CONDO!**

THIS CONDO IS IN THE BEST LOCATION WITH GOLF COURSE VIEW. THE UNIT IS FULLY FURNISHED WITH HIGH END APPLIANCES, STAINLESS STEEL, AND ALL BUILT IN FURNITURE. THIS IS THE PERFECT HOME TO LIVE IN OR TO INVEST IN.

**\$299,000**

**ADORABLE!**

THIS HOME IS IN THE BEST LOCATION WITH GOLF COURSE VIEW. THE HOME IS FULLY FURNISHED WITH HIGH END APPLIANCES, STAINLESS STEEL, AND ALL BUILT IN FURNITURE. THIS IS THE PERFECT HOME TO LIVE IN OR TO INVEST IN.

**\$149,900**

TWO CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSES - SIX HAR-TRU TENNIS COURTS - FITNESS CENTER

<p><i>The Original Sausage King</i> Fresh Homemade Mozzarella Made Daily</p>				<p>The Finest in Choice Beef, Pork, Veal &amp; Poultry Largest Selection of Italian Specialties</p>	
<p><b>FRESH CUT MEATS</b></p>		<p><b>DELI</b></p>		<p>CHECK OUR DAILY HOT LUNCH SPECIALS!</p>	
<p>USA CHOICE PORKLOIN MARLBOR BEEF <b>\$4.99</b> LB. <small>FOUR BONES, 100% PORK • 175% PIG PEPPER CRUST • GARLIC-BLASS CRUST TOP</small></p>	<p>FRESH SPICED MEATBALL MIX <b>\$3.99</b> LB. <small>BEEF • PORK • VEAL</small></p>	<p>BOARDS HEAD HONEY MAPLE HAM <b>\$7.99</b> LB. </p>	<p>BOARDS HEAD PICANTE SHARP PROVOLONE <b>\$6.99</b> LB. </p>	<p>RONALDO CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS OR ROAST <b>\$3.99</b> LB.</p>	
<p>RONALDO CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS OR ROAST <b>\$3.99</b> LB.</p>		<p>RONALDO CENTER CUT PORK STEAKS <b>\$2.99</b> LB.</p>		<p>MARIO'S OWN "OFF THE BONE" ROASTED TURKEY BREAST <b>\$9.99</b> LB.</p>	
<p>FRESH BRINE "W" CHICKEN WINGS <b>\$2.49</b> LB.</p>		<p>FRESH BRINE "W" WHOLE CHICKENS <b>\$1.39</b> LB.</p>		<p><b>PREPARED FOODS</b> DON'T COOK TONIGHT! WE HAVE A LARGE VARIETY OF MEALS MADE FRESH IN OUR KITCHEN EVERY DAY!</p>	
<p><b>ITALIAN SPECIALTIES</b></p>		<p>4oz MARLBOR MEAT &amp; SAUSAGE EGGPLANT PARMIGIANA <b>\$6.99</b> LB.</p>	<p>4oz MARLBOR MEAT &amp; SAUSAGE BBQ CHICKEN WINGS <b>\$4.99</b> LB.</p>	<p>4oz MARLBOR MEAT &amp; SAUSAGE BAKED ZITI <b>\$4.99</b> LB.</p>	
<p>MARBOR'S PERFECTION STICKS <b>\$4.99</b> LB.</p>	<p>MARIO'S OWN RAVIOLI <b>\$2.99</b> 12 EZ.</p>	<p><b>MARIO'S DINNER FOR TWO PACKAGE</b> YOU CAN ENJOY A QUALITY DINNER AT HOME WITHIN MINUTES AT A FRACTION OF THE COST OF DINING OUT. PACKAGE INCLUDES: CHOICE OF ANY MEAT, CHOICE OF SIDE, SALAD, GARDEN SALAD AND TWO CARROTTI. <b>\$18.95</b> +TAX <small>PLUS HONEY'S DELICIOUS SALADSBY CRISPERS OR CRISPERS MARLBOR'S SPINACH SALAD OR PUMPKIN POTATOES</small></p>			
<p>LAMPONIC PETITE SLICED SCUNGILLI <b>\$7.99</b> 20 EZ.</p>	<p>BELLA PARRICOLA SALSARMO VINEGAR <b>\$2.99</b> 17 EZ.</p>	<p><b>ANTIPASTO PLATTERS</b> PARTY SUBS 3-8 FT. COLD-CUT PLATTERS PIZZA &amp; MEAT ENTRICES CHEESE PLATTERS COMPLETE HOT &amp; COLD BUFFETS</p>			
<p>239-936-7275 • <a href="http://MarioMeatMarket.com">MarioMeatMarket.com</a> 1228 South Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers • Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. SALE TERMS GOOD THRU 8/31 • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS</p>					

If you have any problems, questions, or comments regarding [www.FloridaWeekly.com](http://www.FloridaWeekly.com), please contact our **Webmaster**. For all other comments, please see our contact section to send feedback to Florida Weekly. Users of this site agree to our **Terms and Conditions**.  
Copyright © 2007–2014 Florida Media Group LLC.

Twitter | 
 Facebook | 
 RSS

**Newspaper web site content management software and services**

**DMCA Notices**