



CENTERS FOR THE ARTS BONITA SPRINGS

2 CENTERS | 1 MISSION | ARTS FOR ALL

VISUAL ARTS CENTER, 26100 OLD 41 RD

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 10150 BONITA BEACH RD

ARTCENTERBONITA.ORG

[MEDIA DROPBOX](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Popular Demand Left No Choice...

A Cracker at The Ritz

Held Over through June in Bonita Springs

New Dates: April 4, 11, and 25; May 2, 16, and 30; June 13, and 27

[Photos in DROPBOX](#)

After selling out all but one show in its three-month run, *A Cracker at The Ritz*, the social satire about life in Florida, is extending its Bonita Springs run through June. It is performed at 7pm on select Tuesdays at the Performing Arts Center, Moe Auditorium on Bonita Beach. **The new dates are April 4, 11, and 25; May 2, 16, and 30; June 13, and 27.**

“Reservations started to stack up weeks in advance,” said Betsy Bennett, co-author, and star of the show. “CFABS’s management saw that, and we all agreed to continue.”

“The extension past the end of season shows a confidence that the show appeals to locals,” agreed Rick Compton. He is co-author and plays the piano as Bennett’s straight man.

In *A Cracker at The Ritz*, Earlene is the Queen of the Florida Crackers. She narrates her family’s four generations in Florida. Each generation has prospered on everything from cattle to citrus, and rum to real estate. Don’t confuse Earlene’s “Cracker” with the cultural slur. She and her Cracker ancestors are proud of their heritage.

“Who,” she might point out, “do you think sold Disney World to Disney?”

A Cracker at The Ritz is a 75-minute roasting of Florida in song and sketch comedy. Songs include “Snowbird Come (and He Won’t Go Home),” “Swampland Scam,” and “Florida Man.”

“Red Tide and Dead Water” lists the mother lode of chemicals in the water run-off. There is a realtor’s solution to ocean rise. And John Morgan shows up with a lawsuit that’s sure to suit everyone.

A Cracker at The Ritz is performed in Bonita on select Tuesdays to allow Compton & Bennett time to continue their rigorous schedule of weekend performances elsewhere. The duo is best known outside Southwest Florida for *Assisted Living: The Musical*®. They perform about 60 shows each year, all around the country.



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Compton & Bennett are no strangers to satire. Prior to *Cracker*, they wrote and produced more than two dozen regional satirical shows about Southwest Florida. Titles include *Trouble In Paradise*, *The History of Collier County...According to Us* and *How to Succeed in Naples Without Really Trying*.

A Cracker at The Ritz / Bonita Springs show dates are April 4, 11, and 25; May 2, 16, and 30; June 13, and 27. For tickets go to artcenterbonita.org or call 239-495-8989.

Better get your tickets today! They're going faster than bottled water in a hurricane watch.

ABOUT THE CENTERS FOR THE ARTS BONITA SPRINGS:

Founded in 1959, the Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs (CFABS) is committed to enriching the lives of the community by providing opportunities for artistic expression, education, and appreciation. **CFABS has two locations—each dedicated to the visual or performing arts.**

The Visual Arts Center, 26100 Old 41 Road, is a 10-acre, four-building campus, which consists of multiple fine art galleries, fully equipped art studios, a gift shop, an art resource library, beautiful sculpture gardens, and a nature preserve. A variety of classes are offered at this center including painting, drawing, clay, sculpture, glass, mixed media, and more. This center offers unique, year-round art exhibitions and other special events.

The Performing Arts Center, 10150 Bonita Beach Road, is a 4-acre, two-building campus, which is home to the 400-seat Hinman Auditorium and Gallery in the Round; the 200-seat Moe Auditorium & Film Center/Dance Studio; fully equipped art studios; and edible garden/teaching kitchen. At this diverse center, patrons can enjoy an ongoing array of live concerts, theatre, comedy, film, lectures, youth and adult dance classes, music lessons, and art classes, as well as multicultural events featuring visual and performing arts from around the world.

ARTS FOR ALL—Seeking to serve the educational and cultural needs of the diverse community, CFABS offers year-round programming, plus, three top-rated Art Festivals in January, February, and March, which draw hundreds of remarkable artists from around the world to beautiful, historic Downtown Bonita Springs, Florida.

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