

Let the Festival Begin

THE UPCOMING FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS AT MIZNER PARK PROMISES AN ARRAY OF PERFORMERS AND SPEAKERS. HERE ARE FIVE OF THE MOST ANTICIPATED HIGHLIGHTS ON THE SCHEDULE.

The arts are reaching a fevered springtime pitch, with exciting events almost daily in the tri-county area. But the month of March continues to mean one thing to Boca's cultural denizens: Festival of the Arts, which returns for its ninth season at Mizner Park (March 6-15). In the February issue of *Boca Raton*, we interviewed banjo superstar Béla Fleck about his tour appearance on March 7; this time, we spotlight five more don't-miss Festival events. (Visit festivaloftheartsboca.org for the complete schedule and ticket information.)



"West Side Story"

1. For the musical-theater nostalgists:

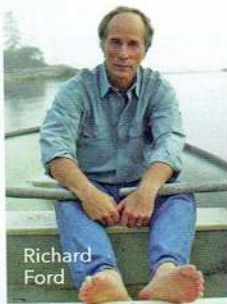
The Festival is bringing back its live-scored movie nights, by popular demand. This year, it'll be "*West Side Story*," Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise's Oscar-winning adaptation of the great Broadway musical, which made stars out of Natalie Wood and Rita Moreno. The Sharks will vie against the Jets in vivid CinemaScope and Technicolor on the Amphitheater's massive video screen, as Jayce Ogren conducts the Festival Orchestra through Leonard Bernstein's iconic music.

When: March 6, 7:30 p.m., Amphitheater

2. For the literati:

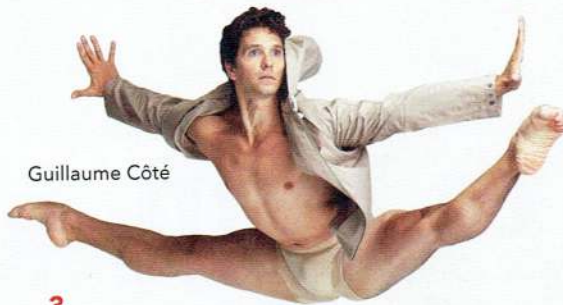
Series mystery and series sci-fi are commonplace in popular publishing, but dramatic literature presented in a series format is less ordinary. This is the approach Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Richard Ford** has taken, on and off, for the past 28 years, with his novels about Frank Bascombe, a novelist-turned-sports-writer-turned-real-estate agent who is navigating the reality of aging. Like Ford himself, his protagonist is nearing his seventh decade, and he is more candid than ever in *Let Me Be Frank With You*. Ford will discuss his latest installment, which finds Frank dealing with a spate of issues in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

When: March 8, 4 p.m., Cultural Arts Center



Richard Ford

Guillaume Côté



3. For the followers of the fleet of foot:

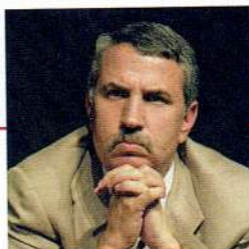
We love to see that the Festival is continuing to cater to lovers of dance, even though its founders have admitted it isn't the best moneymaker. Perhaps this year's stellar dance troupe, the **Stars of the International Ballet**, will have enough jetes and plies to turn this tradition around. Not much has been revealed about the program, other than it will feature dancer/choreographer Guillaume Côté, which is all we need to know: An official Choreographic Associate of the National Ballet of Canada, Côté has been praised for his "lyrical grace" and "dramatic intensity" across a résumé that includes some of the greatest leading roles in ballet history.

When: March 8, 7 p.m., Amphitheater

4. For the flat-Earthers:

Terrorism, climate change, politics and America's stature in the world are all part of **Thomas Friedman's** copious bailiwick. The insightful, twice-weekly *New York Times* columnist, who has thrice captured a Pulitzer Prize, is an outspoken advocate of "radical centrism," a political stance that has, unsurprisingly, earned him enemies on both wings—which is usually a sign that he's doing something right. His books *The World is Flat* and *Hot, Flat and Crowded* have elevated national debates about globalization and energy policy. His latest book, which doubles as his lecture topic, is *That Used to be Us*, an account of U.S. global decline and the possibilities for the nation's comeback.

When: March 11, 7 p.m., Amphitheater



Thomas Friedman

5. For the Amadeus aficionado:

Even if you're familiar with such Mozart compositions as the Violin Concerto in G major, the Piano Concerto in C major and the Flute Concerto in D major, check out the **Mozart Gala** to hear these iconic pieces performed by some of the classical world's brightest luminaries. **James Galway**, aka the "Man With the Golden Flute," has performed his woodwind for everyone from Roger Waters to director Peter Jackson (for the "Lord of the Rings" soundtrack), selling more than 30 million copies in his storied career. Pianist **Conrad Tao** is just 20, but he is already an



James Galway

old musical soul, having won eight consecutive ASCAP Young Composer awards. And **Arnaud Sussman**, a French-born violinist, spent two years as Itzhak Perlman's teaching assistant, and has since performed at venues ranging from Lincoln Center to the Louvre. Expect to hear a collection of seasonal St. Paddy's Day music in addition to the Mozart celebration.

When: March 13, 7:30 p.m., Amphitheater