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New American Theater changes with the season.

New American Theater, a professional company in St. Petersburg, is making some exciting changes for the remainder of their season. What are they doing now? A lot.

NAT has set up a complete series of cabaret shows and adjusted the remainder of their mainstage season. They postponed the show “A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline”, originally set to open this weekend, to February 2012. Their next mainstage production, *Songs for a New World*, has moved up in the line up. The final two shows of the mainstage season have not been announced, as NAT is in the process of securing the rights to these productions. The biggest change is that all shows, cabaret and mainstage, will be presented at their BayWalk location (previously the Ann Taylor store).

Why all the changes? Funding. “It’s a difficult economic time for everyone, and giving is down”, said Brian Becker, Producing Artistic Director. “We are making adjustments to reduce our production costs and use the funds we have more effectively.” NAT knows that not everyone can make financial contributions to the theater, but encourages everyone to support the company, and the performers, by attending their cabaret or mainstage shows.

The new schedule includes a Patsy Cline cabaret on February 11, a Valentines Day love song cabaret that includes dessert, the Great American Songbook Series, and an Aretha Franklin tribute. These cabaret shows include local favorites: Becca McCoy, Michael Raabe, Jayne Trinette and Samantha McKinnon Brown. The second show in their mainstage season, “*Songs for a New World*”, will open the end of March.

NAT Academy, the educational side of the company, starts classes on February 15th. Classes available include Acting, Improvisation, and Directing, all taught by Master level instructors. Private coaching is also available in acting and voice. The Academy will also offer a one-day Stage Combat class this spring.

For details on show and classes, or to make a donation, you can visit the companies website at: www.newamericantheater.org, or by calling 727-575-9241.

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