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Jamie Shane on the art and science of yoga **2D**

NEAPOLITAN

**Living & The Arts
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MY LIFE SO FAR

“If you ask me a question, I’m going to tell you what I think.”



Courtesy April Masini

APRIL MASINI, columnist, businesswoman and television writer

As told to CHAD GILLIS

April Masini is an advice columnist, owner of askapril.com and author of “Date Out Of Your League.” She wouldn’t tell me her age because, “you never ask a woman her age.” Masini’s mother is 65, so do the math. She’s lived in New York, Los Angeles, Georgia and Europe. She now splits times between being on the road and her home at Mediterra, a gated community near the Lee/Collier county border along Livingston Road. A self-admitted “college dropout,” Masini studied business at Hofstra University in New York before starting a career in modeling and television.

I’m an Army brat. I was born in Fort Bragg, N.C. We moved from Fort Bragg over to Europe, lived in Amsterdam, and then we went down to Miami, and then Georgia. My parents owned a school for retarded children in Clarksville (Georgia), so I grew up with about a hundred retarded brothers and sisters.

When I was living in Georgia, there was a big house, the biggest house in Georgia. It was this place called the Charm House. It used to be a Civil War hospital that they converted and made into a restaurant. It sat on this big corner and when I was 12, I told my mom that I had to go into that house. I wanted to live in that house. So I went up to their door one day and convinced them that they should have tours of the upstairs where the hospital was and I would be their tour guide. So I got to work in

that house. I’ve always been someone who, once I set down a path to do something, I’m going to do it. One way or another.

I packed up my car one day when I was in college, and I said to my mom, “Enough with school.” And I moved to New York and waited tables and that led to modeling and modeling led to acting and acting led to my ex-husband (television producer Al Masini) and that led to television and film and writing and producing.

He asked me to model on “Star Search,” and I said, “I’m interested in modeling but if you let me run your company, then we can talk.” I was president of Al Masini Productions for 12 years.

I studied business and marketing and merchandising. I moved to New York City, and my mother about had a heart attack. She writes books and has a PhD. With that kind of background, the last thing you want to her from your kid is they’re dropping out of college.

I write and create shows. I probably have 20 television shows I’m working on. I’m in the middle of pitching some of them right now in Los Angeles. It’s addictive: Taking a germ of an idea and creating it and nurturing it. Going from an idea and making it a pilot and making the pilot

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**HOLIDAY
COUNTDOWN**

HANUKKAH

THIS WEEK

Hanukkah celebration sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Collier County, community synagogues and organizations with greetings from Mayor Bill Barnett, candle-lighting and Naples Klezmer band, 5:45 p.m. today, Sugden Theatre Plaza, 701 Fifth Ave S., Naples.

Hanukkah celebration, 3 p.m. Sunday, Bell Tower Shoppes, U.S. 41 and Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers. Free.

Hanukkah party sponsored by the Naples Jewish Center with dinner, lighting the menorah, songs and game at 6 p.m. Monday at the Longshore Lake Country Club, Naples. \$25, members, \$30, others. 352-0287.

Women’s Hanukkah celebration sponsored by Brandeis, Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, Ort and the Sisterhoods of Temple Shalom Naples Jewish Center, Beth Tikvah and Chabad of Naples will present its Women’s Hanukkah celebration at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at 4630 Pine Ridge Road, Naples. \$5. 304-5963.

CHRISTMAS

THIS WEEK

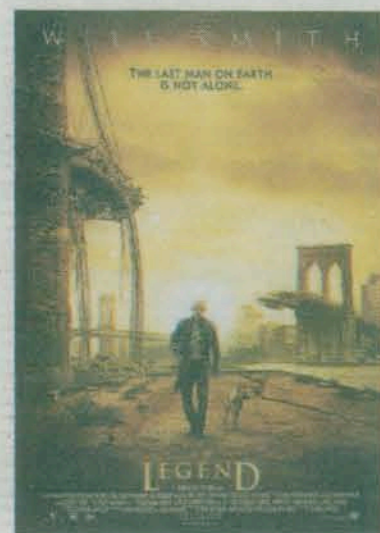
Christmas trees and trains, decorated trees and miniature trains, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 31, Naples Depot Museum, 1051 Fifth Ave S., Naples. Free. 262-6525.

Jingle Bell Special, a Christmas excursion with holiday punch and sweets that goes across the Caloosahatchee and back, 9:30 and 11:45 a.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays and 11:45 a.m. on Sundays through Sunday; then daily Monday-Dec. 23 and Dec. 26, 29 and 30, Seminole Gulf Railway, Fort Myers. Reservations required. \$19.95, adults; \$11.95, children 3-12. (239) 275-8487.

“Holly Jolly Christmas,” song and dance extravaganza, through Dec. 25, Tuesday-Sunday evenings with selected matinees, Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, 1380 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers. \$25-\$52; adults; \$21, children under 12. (239) 278-4422. 566-8872.

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**INTHEATERS
FRIDAY**



“GOLDEN COMPASS,” starring Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, Dakota Blue Richards. **TAGLINE:** “It is the Alethiometer. It tells the truth. As for how to read it, you’ll have to learn by yourself.” Rated PG-13 for sequences of fantasy violence. 113 minutes

“WRISTCUTTERS: A LOVE STORY,” starring Patrick Fugit, Tom Waits, Shannyn Sossamon. **TAGLINE:** “Life is a trip, but the afterlife is one hell of a ride.” Rated R for foul language and disturbing content involving suicide. 91 minutes

SNEAK PEAK THURSDAY

“I AM LEGEND,” starring Will Smith, Alice Braga, Dash Mihok. **TAGLINE:** “The last man on earth is not alone.” No rating or running time available.

IN & OUT

IN The past few years have been littered with by-the-numbers film biopics. Director Todd Haynes’ “I’m Not There” aims more for the heart of Bob Dylan than the truth in vignettes, with six actors playing the elusive singer — including Cate Blanchett, Christian Bale and Heath Ledger. Today could be the last day to see it at Bonita Springs 12, 25251 S. Tamiami Trail, 949-2600.



OUT

Good moving water on the morning incoming tide, and sun-ups not until 7 a.m. nowadays so you can sleep — for an angler anyway. Temps are cooling a bit, making hiking a good choice today as well. Solid beach weather, too. Water temps are a very comfy 75 degrees, perfect for a swim in the Gulf. Sunset is at 5:35 p.m.

