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CONTACT: Danae DeShazer
PR/Marketing Associate
(941) 366 – 9017 ext. 338
ddeshazer@floridastudiotheatre.org

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The Keating Mainstage
The Goldstein Cabaret
The Gompertz Theatre
1241 North Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
Administration: (941) 366-9017
Box Office: (941) 366-9000
Fax: (941) 955-4137
E-mail: info@floridastudiotheatre.org
Website: www.floridastudiotheatre.org/media.php

“SYLVIA” AT FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE *Canine comedy closes out Summerfest 2010*

(Sarasota, FL) - Florida Studio Theatre presents *Sylvia*, a comedy about a middle-aged man and the two women in his life, his wife and his dog. The final production of FST’s Summerfest Series, A.R. Gurney’s funny and stirring *Sylvia* opens July 28.

Sylvia opened off-Broadway to critical acclaim in 1995, with Sarah Jessica Parker in the title role. The New York Times declared it critic-proof, “at least for anyone who has ever owned a dog, loved a dog, wanted to wring a dog’s neck or wished the dog would take a long weekend.” Greg finds stray labradoodle Sylvia in Central Park and brings her home as a way of coping with his midlife crisis. His wife Kate, who has found empty-nest stability through her new career as a teacher, is annoyed by the chaos brought on by the new pet.

Playwright A.R. Gurney is renowned for his explorations of middle-class life and the American Protestant psyche. His works include *Scenes from American Life*, *The Dining Room*, and *Love Letters*. He has received numerous accolades, including a Drama Desk Award in 1971.

This is the second time Florida Studio Theatre has presented *Sylvia*; it was previously produced in 1996.

New York actor Jeffrey Plunkett will play multiple roles in *Sylvia*; his previous FST credits include *Opus*, *Permanent Collection*, *The Gambol of Love* and *Pure Confidence*. Also returning is Broadway actress Rita Rehn as Kate. She previously appeared in the title role of the FST production *Always, Patsy Cline*. Her Broadway credits include *Allergist’s Wife*, *Nine* and *A Chorus Line*.

Sylvia features returning actress Katharine Abbruzzese in the title role; she previously appeared at FST in the children’s production of *Rumpelstiltskin*. Other credits include Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* at the Powerhouse Theatre. New York actor Warren Kelley joins the cast as Greg in his first FST production. His off-Broadway credits include George Bernard Shaw in the New York premiere of *Engaging Shaw*, Trenchard Voysey in *The Voysey Inheritance* and Owen Heathcliff Jones in *Elvis and Juliet*.

Associate Director Kate Alexander directs the production. She has directed numerous FST shows, including *Shirley Valentine*, *Pure Confidence*, *Proof*, *The Exonerated*, *Brooklyn Boy* and last season's *Shotgun* and *Bridge & Tunnel*. She has also performed leading roles in *Golda's Balcony*, *Master Class* and *The Occupant*, among many others.

The production design team includes Lauren Feldman as Scenic Designer, Nicole Wee as Costume Designer and Michael Foster as Lighting Designer.

Sylvia opens July 28 and runs through August 29 at the Keating Theatre. Tickets are \$19-\$34 and may be purchased from the FST Box Office in person, by phone (941) 366-9000 or online at www.floridastudiotheatre.org.

Known as Sarasota's Contemporary Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre was founded in 1973 by Jon Spelman. Starting out as a small touring company, FST traveled to places such as migrant camps and prisons. The company eventually settled down into a permanent home, acquiring the former Woman's Club building – now renamed the Keating Theatre. In the years that followed, Florida Studio Theatre established itself as a major force in American Theatre, presenting contemporary theatre in its three theatre venues: the Keating Theatre, the Goldstein Cabaret and its newest space, the Gompertz Theatre.

Even with its growth, Florida Studio Theatre remains firmly committed to making the arts accessible and affordable to a broad-based audience. Under Richard Hopkins, Artistic Director and CEO, FST develops theatre that speaks to our living, evolving, and dynamically changing world. As FST grows and expands, it continues to provide audiences with challenging, contemporary drama and innovative programs.

Florida Studio Theatre is grateful to Dennis and Graci McGillicuddy and Jules and Sheila Rose for underwriting the 2010 Summerfest Season and to Co-producer Mildred Stein, the Sarasota Arts Council, Tourist Development Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Interviews are available with the cast and/or director based on availability.

Schedule follows on the next page.

Production photos are now available upon request.

SYLVIA
The Keating Theatre
\$19-\$34
Performance schedule
July 28 - August 29

Wednesday	July 28	8 PM
Thursday	July 29	8 PM
Friday	July 30	8 PM
Saturday	July 31	2 PM & 8 PM
Sunday	August 1	3 PM & 7 PM
Tuesday	August 3	8 PM
Wednesday	August 4	8 PM
Thursday	August 5	8 PM
Friday	August 6	8 PM
Saturday	August 7	2 PM & 8 PM
Sunday	August 8	3 PM & 7 PM
Tuesday	August 10	8 PM
Wednesday	August 11	8 PM
Thursday	August 12	8 PM
Friday	August 13	8 PM
Saturday	August 14	2 PM & 8 PM
Sunday	August 15	3 PM & 7 PM
Tuesday	August 17	8 PM
Wednesday	August 18	8 PM
Thursday	August 19	8 PM
Friday	August 20	8 PM
Saturday	August 21	2 PM & 8 PM
Sunday	August 22	3 PM & 7 PM
Tuesday	August 24	8 PM
Wednesday	August 25	8 PM
Thursday	August 26	8 PM
Sunday	August 29	3 PM

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