



The Keating Mainstage
The Goldstein Cabaret
The Gompertz Theatre

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FST Announces the 2009 - 2010 Mainstage Season!

(Sarasota, FL) - FST's 2009-2010 Winter Mainstage Season is composed of Tony Award-winning Broadway hits and the 2009 Pulitzer Prize winning drama. This season begins with lovable and hilarious Tony-award winning *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, followed by the Tony-award winning Broadway hit and Regional Theatre Premier of *Bridge & Tunnel*. The season continues with the 2009 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *Ruined*, and ends with the National New Play Network's rolling World Premiere of *Shotgun*. Subscriptions to all 4 shows can be purchased for \$39-\$61 by calling FST's box office at 941-366-9000 or visiting www.floridastudiotheatre.org.

In addition to the Mainstage Season, Florida Studio Theatre announces the Special Event of *Shear Madness*. *Shear Madness* will be produced in the Gompertz Theatre beginning February 18, 2010.

Artistic Director, Richard Hopkins stated, "This season is filled with Broadway hits, award-winning shows and premieres that were crafted with the audience in mind. From the play *Ruined*, a moving story set in the tumultuous world of the African Congo, to *Spelling Bee* the successful musical-comedy; it is a great season to be part of FST."

-More-

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, beginning November 18th in the Keating Theatre and playing through January 15, 2010 won the 2005 Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical. Cleverly entertaining the music and lyrics are by William Finn; Book by Rachel Sheinkin; Conceived by Rebecca Feldman with additional material by Jay Reiss.

In this hilarious new musical comedy, six young people in the throes of puberty are overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves. Together they learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser.

Bridge & Tunnel opens on December 16, 2009 and plays through February 13, 2010 in the Gompertz Theatre. Written by Sarah Jones, *Bridge & Tunnel* is a one-woman *tour de force*.

Fourteen immigrants from diverse backgrounds, in search of liberty, equality and the opportunity for the American Dream, collide in a riotous and endearing tribute to the New York City melting pot.

The 2009 Pulitzer Prize winner for Drama *Ruined*, written by Lynn Nottage opens as the FST's third production, February 3, 2010 and plays through April 3, 2010 in the Keating Theatre.

A glimpse into the Democratic Republic of Congo during a decade of civil unrest. Mama Nadi, owner of the canteen, serves up everything from a cold beer and a warm meal to the company of a woman. The women overcome adversity of war through hope, love and survival.

The 2009-2010 Mainstage Season concludes with the National New Play Networks rolling World Premiere of *Shotgun*, by John Biguenet.

Place: A little shotgun apartment in New Orleans.

Time: Four months, post-Katrina

Action: In the wake of natural disaster, the drama is just beginning. Families clash and racial tensions rise. A play of love, hope and humor in celebration of the human spirit.

Shear Madness written by Paul Portner, adapted by Marilyn Abrams and Bruce Jordan, with original direction by Bruce Jordan, holds the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest-running play in the history of the American Theatre. Now in its 29th year.

-More-

The hilarious whodunit where the audience gets to solve the crime. A mixture of improvisation and up-to-the-minute spontaneous humor. The play is delightfully different every time you see it.

The play is set today in a hairstyling salon in the city in which it plays. The landlady Isabel Czerny who lives above the shop is murdered, and every one of the actors has a reason to do her in. The audience gets involved in the action by questioning the actors and attempting to solve the crime.

All 4 shows of the Mainstage Season – *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Bridge & Tunnel*, *Ruined* and *Shotgun* – will be presented at both FST's Keating Theatre and Gompertz Theatre. The special event *Shear Madness* will be presented at the Gompertz Theatre. Single tickets range from \$19 for previews to the Mainstage Season to \$29-\$34 for regular performances. Single ticket prices to *Shear Madness* range from \$32 - \$34. A subscription to all 4 of the Mainstage Season ranges from \$39-\$61. Both subscription tickets and single tickets may be purchased from the FST Box Office in person or by calling (941) 366-9000 or online at FST's website www.FloridaStudioTheatre.org. FST's website is also an excellent source for videos, articles and information about FST's productions.

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 Women'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.

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Photos available upon request.

A complete performance schedule is attached.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

The Keating Theatre

\$19-\$34

Performance Schedule

November 18, 2009 – January 15, 2010

Wednesday	November 18	8:00 PM
Thursday	November 19	8:00 PM
Friday	November 20	8:00 PM
Saturday	November 21	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	November 22	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Tuesday	November 24	8:00 PM
Wednesday	November 25	8:00 PM
Friday	November 27	8:00 PM
Saturday	November 28	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	November 29	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Tuesday	December 1	8:00 PM
Wednesday	December 2	8:00 PM
Thursday	December 3	8:00 PM
Friday	December 4	8:00 PM
Saturday	December 5	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	December 6	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Tuesday	December 8	8:00 PM
Wednesday	December 9	8:00 PM
Thursday	December 10	8:00 PM
Friday	December 11	8:00 PM
Saturday	December 12	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	December 13	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Tuesday	December 15	8:00 PM
Wednesday	December 16	8:00 PM
Thursday	December 17	8:00 PM
Friday	December 18	8:00 PM
Saturday	December 19	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	December 20	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

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Tuesday	December 22	8:00 PM
Wednesday	December 23	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	December 24	8:00 PM
Saturday	December 26	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	December 27	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday	December 29	8:00 PM
Wednesday	December 30	8:00 PM
Thursday	December 31	8:00 PM
Friday	January 1	8:00 PM
Saturday	January 2	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	January 3	8:00 PM

Tuesday	January 5	8:00 PM
Wednesday	January 6	8:00 PM
Thursday	January 7	8:00 PM
Saturday	January 9	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	January 10	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Wednesday	January 13	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	January 14	8:00 PM
Friday	January 15	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM

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Bridge & Tunnel
The Gompertz Theatre
\$19-\$34
Performance Schedule
December 16 – February 13, 2010

Wednesday	December 16	8:00 PM
Thursday	December 17	8:00 PM
Friday	December 18	8:00 PM
Saturday	December 19	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	December 20	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Tuesday	December 22	8:00 PM
Wednesday	December 23	8:00 PM
Thursday	December 24	8:00 PM
Saturday	December 26	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	December 27	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Tuesday	December 29	8:00 PM
Wednesday	December 30	8:00 PM
Thursday	December 31	8:00 PM
Friday	January 1	8:00 PM
Saturday	January 2	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	January 3	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Tuesday	January 5	8:00 PM
Wednesday	January 6	8:00 PM
Thursday	January 7	8:00 PM
Friday	January 8	8:00 PM
Saturday	January 9	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	January 10	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

-More-

Tuesday	January 12	8:00 PM
Wednesday	January 13	8:00 PM
Thursday	January 14	8:00 PM
Friday	January 15	8:00 PM
Saturday	January 16	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	January 17	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday	January 19	8:00 PM
Wednesday	January 20	8:00 PM
Thursday	January 21	8:00 PM
Friday	January 22	8:00 PM
Saturday	January 23	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	January 24	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday	January 26	8:00 PM
Wednesday	January 27	8:00 PM
Thursday	January 28	8:00 PM
Friday	January 29	8:00 PM
Saturday	January 30	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	January 31	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday	February 2	8:00 PM
Wednesday	February 3	8:00 PM
Thursday	February 4	8:00 PM
Friday	February 5	8:00 PM
Saturday	February 6	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	February 7	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday	February 9	8:00 PM
Wednesday	February 10	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	February 11	8:00 PM
Friday	February 12	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Saturday	February 13	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM

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Ruined
The Keating Theatre
\$19-\$34
Performance Schedule
February 3 – April 3, 2010

Wednesday	February 3	8:00 PM
Thursday	February 4	8:00 PM
Friday	February 5	8:00 PM
Saturday	February 6	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	February 7	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Tuesday	February 9	8:00 PM
Wednesday	February 10	8:00 PM
Thursday	February 11	8:00 PM
Friday	February 12	8:00 PM
Saturday	February 13	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	February 14	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Tuesday	February 16	8:00 PM
Wednesday	February 17	8:00 PM
Thursday	February 18	8:00 PM
Friday	February 19	8:00 PM
Saturday	February 20	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	February 21	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Tuesday	February 23	8:00 PM
Wednesday	February 24	8:00 PM
Thursday	February 25	8:00 PM
Friday	February 26	8:00 PM
Saturday	February 27	8:00 PM
Sunday	February 28	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Wednesday	March 3	8:00 PM
Thursday	March 4	8:00 PM
Friday	March 5	8:00 PM
Saturday	March 6	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	March 7	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

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Tuesday	March 9	8:00 PM
Wednesday	March 10	8:00 PM
Thursday	March 11	8:00 PM
Saturday	March 13	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	March 14	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday	March 16	8:00 PM
Wednesday	March 17	8:00 PM
Friday	March 19	8:00 PM
Saturday	March 20	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	March 21	8:00 PM

Tuesday	March 23	8:00 PM
Thursday	March 25	8:00 PM
Friday	March 26	8:00 PM
Saturday	March 27	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	March 28	3:00 PM

Tuesday	March 30	8:00 PM
Wednesday	March 31	2:00 PM
Thursday	April 1	8:00 PM
Friday	April 2	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Saturday	April 3	2:00 PM

-More-

Shotgun
The Keating Theatre
\$19-\$34
Performance Schedule
April 7 – May 29, 2010

Wednesday	April 7	8:00 PM
Thursday	April 8	8:00 PM
Friday	April 9	8:00 PM
Saturday	April 10	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	April 11	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday	April 13	8:00 PM
Wednesday	April 14	8:00 PM
Thursday	April 15	8:00 PM
Friday	April 16	8:00 PM
Saturday	April 17	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	April 18	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday	April 20	8:00 PM
Wednesday	April 21	8:00 PM
Thursday	April 22	8:00 PM
Friday	April 23	8:00 PM
Saturday	April 24	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	April 25	3:00 PM

Tuesday	April 27	8:00 PM
Wednesday	April 28	8:00 PM
Thursday	April 29	8:00 PM
Friday	April 30	8:00 PM
Saturday	May 1	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	May 2	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday	May 4	8:00 PM
Wednesday	May 5	8:00 PM
Thursday	May 6	8:00 PM
Friday	May 7	8:00 PM
Saturday	May 8	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	May 9	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

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Tuesday	May 11	8:00 PM
Wednesday	May 12	8:00 PM
Thursday	May 13	8:00 PM
Friday	May 14	8:00 PM
Saturday	May 15	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	May 16	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday	May 18	8:00 PM
Wednesday	May 19	8:00 PM
Thursday	May 20	8:00 PM
Friday	May 21	8:00 PM
Saturday	May 22	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	May 23	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

Tuesday	May 25	8:00 PM
Wednesday	May 26	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	May 27	8:00 PM
Friday	May 28	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Saturday	May 29	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM

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Shear Madness
The Gompertz Theatre
\$32-\$34
Performance Schedule
February 18 – March 1, 2010

Thursday	February 18	8:00 PM
Friday	February 19	8:00 PM
Saturday	February 20	8:00 PM
Sunday	February 21	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Wednesday	February 24	8:00 PM
Thursday	February 25	8:00 PM
Friday	February 26	8:00 PM
Saturday	February 27	5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	February 28	3:00 PM & 8:00 PM

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