



**July 16-17, 2010**

[www.floridastudiotheatre.org/improv](http://www.floridastudiotheatre.org/improv)  
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**About the Festival:**

The Sarasota Improv Festival celebrates all forms of improv and sketch comedy from throughout the United States, and is hosted by Sarasota's home for improv and sketch comedy—Florida Studio Theatre. The festival will create an environment where performers explore different forms of improvisation through performances, panel discussions, and workshops.

**About Florida Studio Theatre:**

Florida Studio Theatre is Sarasota's contemporary theatre. Located in the heart of the downtown arts district, FST is a nationally recognized LORT theatre with more than 12,000 unduplicated subscribers. According to Theatre Communications Group, this is the largest subscription base of any theatre of comparable size in the country. Overall, Florida Studio Theatre serves over 160,000 attendees per year, through its 6 major programs:

**MAINSTAGE:** Now beginning its 36th season, the MAINSTAGE is FST's flagship program, producing the best in contemporary American theatre by presenting plays that speak to a living, evolving, dynamically changing world. Housed in the Keating Theatre, the Mainstage Series features 7 annual productions that draw from new works, regionally produced works, and the latest Off-Broadway and Broadway plays. As part of supporting FST's goal to "cause the creation of new works," the Mainstage has produced 31 world premieres and 81 regional premieres. Mainstage productions such as *ETHEL WATERS: HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW*, *COWGIRLS* and *HI-HAT HATTIE* have gone on to be mounted in regional theatres around the US. The FST World Premiere production of *THE BULLY PULPIT* recently enjoyed a critically acclaimed run Off-Broadway.

**STAGE III:** FST's newest program, STAGE III is housed in the Gompertz Theatre. Dedicated to the presentation of socially significant productions, Stage III stimulates audiences by presenting challenging content and unique form. Stage III was introduced to answer an increasing demand for edgier plays that show an uncommon human experience, testing the boundaries of previously held beliefs and values. Featuring plays with

bite, verve and drive, Stage III brings provocative work to the Sarasota landscape. Scene Magazine has dubbed FST and Stage III "Sarasota's Razor's Edge theatre."

**CABARET:** Housed in the intimate Goldstein Cabaret Theatre, the CABARET was established to develop new audiences who might not otherwise participate in theatrical events. This series is not a 'chanteuse at a microphone' – at FST, Cabaret harkens back to its 19th Century Parisian origin, as an artistic outlet rebelling against the institution. FST adheres to those roots by making the Cabaret an artist-based series that differs from theatre only in its size. This program celebrates the lyric poets of our time, as well as presenting social and political satire. It is also the home to the award winning FST Improv. The Cabaret is also integral to the creation of new work, and has produced 37 world premieres.

**NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT:** New Play Development is the lifeblood of Florida Studio Theatre. It is a year-round activity that is fully integrated with each of the theatre's other programs. FST's philosophy of new play development is one that goes beyond the World Premiere. This is why, along with developing World Premieres such as *ETHEL WATERS: HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW*, FST frequently provides plays with their 2nd, 3rd or 4th productions. For example, in 2006, *AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS* received an early production at FST before going on to an Off-Broadway run. During the 2008-09 season, FST will produce four new plays (e.g. *BOLEROS FOR THE DISENCHANTED* and *BLACK PEARL SINGS*) on its Mainstage.

**TOURING:** The *WRITE A PLAY* touring program impacts students in grades K-12, with a special emphasis on underserved youth throughout Florida, and has recently traveled internationally in Israel, Russia and Scotland. During the course of a school year, FST's tours inspire 55,000 children and teens to write their own original plays through the *WRITE A PLAY* arts in education initiative each year.

**EDUCATION:** FST's Education program offers children and adults a wealth of opportunities to discover their creativity. Classes are offered each week to students aged 5-95 in theatre, dance and music. Accessibility is ensured through programming for financially disadvantaged, physically and mentally challenged youth, and nursing home residents. FST's "Children's Scholarship Program" provides about 15% of youth with full or partial tuition waivers.

All performances during the Sarasota Improv Festival will take place in the Goldstein Cabaret. Additional workshops and panel discussions will take place throughout the FST campus.



## 2010 Application Instructions

1. Enclose the following in an envelope or e-mail to the above address:
  - 15-20 minutes of unedited footage of your group (DVD or on-line link)
  - Press Materials: Team photo, logo and bio information
  - Your completed registration form. (when you fill out this form save as a new document and send as an attachment)
2. Send postmarked no later than Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to:

The Sarasota Improv Festival  
c/o Florida Studio Theatre  
1241 N. Palm Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34336

Or e-mail to:

[improv@floridastudiotheatre.org](mailto:improv@floridastudiotheatre.org)

### **Accepted improv groups will get:**

- ⊙ A guaranteed 40 minute performance slot.
- ⊙ A percentage of the box office take from their show as well as a portion of the "All Shows" passes sold for the fest.
- ⊙ Free accommodations in FST artist housing.
- ⊙ Advance opportunities to sign up for workshops before the public.
- ⊙ Publicity on our web page and press packets.
- ⊙ A Free T-Shirt for all performers.
- ⊙ A Performer's Pass good for free entry into panel discussions.
- ⊙ A Performer's Pass good for free entry to any two shows.
- ⊙ A discounted Pass Upgrade for entry to all shows.
- ⊙ A Performer's Pass good for free entry into FST's Summerfest Mainstage show.
- ⊙ A Performer's Goody Bag filled with discount offers to Sarasota restaurants and attractions.
- ⊙ A great house of improv savvy audience members.