



The Keating Mainstage
The Goldstein Cabaret
The Gompertz Theatre

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Florida Studio Theatre Receives Historic Preservation Grant.

(Sarasota, FL) –Florida Studio Theatre has received a \$5,000 Historic Preservation Award from the John Ringling Towers Fund to complete the hurricane protection project on its Keating Theatre. Built in 1914 as a meeting house for the Sarasota Woman’s Club, the Keating Theatre is the oldest cultural facility in Sarasota and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In the midst of extremely active storm seasons, hurricane protection is critical to sustain the future of the organization and preserve a cherished landmark.

Funding from the John Ringling Towers Fund allowed FST to purchase and install new, hurricane resistant doors on the main entrance to the Keating Theatre. Along with providing protection, these doors are a beautiful addition to this historic building, constructed of Mahogany and etched glass by Doors Galore. Garry McCulloch, owner of Doors Galore, in addition to installing the new doors, lent his support to the project by contributing \$1,000.00 towards the purchase.

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.

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