



The Keating Mainstage
The Goldstein Cabaret
The Gompertz Theatre

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Artistic Director: Richard Hopkins

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: **January 15, 2010**

Florida Studio Theatre Opens the Pulitzer Prize Winning Drama, *Ruined*

(Sarasota, FL) - Florida Studio Theatre continues its Winter Mainstage Season with Lynn Nottage's 2009 Pulitzer Prize Winning Drama *Ruined*. This "Riveting" (Variety Magazine) new drama opens at the Keating Theatre February 3rd and will continue through April 3, 2010.

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

Director and FST Artistic Director Richard Hopkins stated, "*Ruined* -- is, for me, a play that deserved the Pulitzer Prize. It is one of those plays that comes along every 5 or 10 years that is a life changing experience for the theatre - goers. Because I heard the play was set in the war in the Congo and was about the terrible abuse that many of the women had experienced, I expected the play to be 'dark and moody.' What a shock I experienced. It was one of the most life-affirming, uplifting plays I had experienced in years. FST is proud AND lucky to be presenting the South Eastern premiere of this year's Pulitzer Prize winning play, *Ruined*."

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Ruined premiered at Chicago's Goodman Theatre in November 2008. It went on to open at the Manhattan Theatre Club in January 2009, co-produced with the Goodman. Receiving rave reviews, *Ruined* also won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in April 2009. Nottage is a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama. Her most well known work includes the highly acclaimed *Intimate Apparel* and its companion piece and Obie award-winning play *Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine*.

The Southeast premiere at Florida Studio Theatre will include the talents of returning cast members; **Alice M. Gatling** who was in the title role of last seasons *Black Pearl Sings*. Gatling's credits also include the Off-Broadway productions of *Julius Caesar* as Antonia (Samuel Beckett Theater), the one-woman sensation in *Miss Ida B. Wells*, and Nana Bunny in *Sister Rabbit Takes Harlem*. Also returning from last season is **Broadway Actor Ronald H. Siebert** from last seasons *Opus*. Siebert Broadway credits include John Clegg in *The Changing Room* and Chuck Morello in *The Iceman Cometh*.

Joining them on stage is **New York Actors Segun Akande** as Simone, whose regional credits include *Shakespeare in Harlem*, *Breathe*, Neil Labute's *Some Girl(s)* and *a Raisin in the Sun*. **Freddie Bennett** as Kiseembe. His regional credits include Casca in *Julius Caesar*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Laramie Project*. **Ashley Bryant** as Josephine, regional credits includes Eve/Mama in *Children of Eden*, Ruth in *A Raisin in the Sun* and Mary Magdalene in *Godspell*.

New York Actor Lawrence Evens as Osembenga, his New York credits include *Boomerangst*, *Building*, *Willie* and *In a Clean House*. His television credits include *All My Children*, *Law and Order* among others and film credit includes *The Devil Wears Prada*. **Broadway Actor Stanley Wayne Mathis** as Christian. His Broadway credits include *Oh Kay!*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *The Lion King*, *Charlie Brown*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Wonderful Town*. **New York Actors Khalil Muhammad** as Fortune, whose regional credits include *Six Degrees of Separation*, *The Religious Hour*, *A Soldier's Death* and *A Woman's Worth*. **Bianca Sams** as Sophie is a member of Kevin Spacey's acting troupe *Old Vic New Voices* in New York City. Her regional credits include Celopatra in *Antony & Cleopatra*, Ruby in *Dreams of Brixton Butterfly* and appeared in the film *Rent*.

Rounding out the cast is **New York Actors Stephanie Weeks** as Salima, who's New York Credits, include *The Invisible Man*, *Alice in War*, *The Dinner Party*, *Othello* and *Julius Caesar* and **Thomas Williamson II** as a Soldier. His regional credits include *5 Guys Named Moe*, C.C. White in *Dreamgirls*, Agnew in *Once on this Island*. He has several Sarasota credits at the Sarasota Opera and The Players Theater.

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Accompanying the actors on stage is **musicians Kelvyn Bell** on the Guitar and **Julian Christian** on the Drums.

Florida Studio Theatre's Artistic Director, Richard Hopkins directs the production. Hopkins has served as Artistic Director since 1980; his numerous directing credits include *Metamorphoses*, *The Bully Pulpit*, *god's Man in Texas*, *Hysteria*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wild*, *Over the Rainbow*, *Permanent Collection*, *Opus*, *Boleros for the Disenchanted*, *Laughing Matters 2009* and this past seasons *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

The gripping *Ruined* opens February 3 and continues through April 3, 2010 at the Keating Theatre. Tickets are \$19 - \$32 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.

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Ruined
The Keating Theatre
\$19-\$32
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

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