



Richard Hopkins  
Producing Artistic Director

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**FST ANNOUNCES ITS 2021-2022 CHILDREN'S THEATRE SERIES**

(Sarasota, FL)— Florida Studio Theatre (FST) is pleased to announce its four-show weekend Children's Theatre Series, bringing families together to explore the exciting and engaging world of theatre arts at an affordable price. From an all-new adaptation of *Cinderella* to award-winning plays written by elementary school students from all over the world, this year's season has something for children of all ages...and their favorite grownups. Subscriptions for the four-show Children's Series are now on sale for ONLY \$20—that's just \$5 per show. Single tickets are also available for \$10 per ticket. Subscriptions and single tickets are now on sale at FloridaStudioTheatre.org and at 941-366-9000.

"This year, families can expect shows that are enjoyable for both children *and* adults," said **Caroline Saldivar**, FST's Director of Children's Theatre. "Whether it's getting the audience to help encourage Cinderella to go to the ball or reminding adults of their favorite Aesop's fable, this year's lineup is sure to create memorable experiences for the whole family."

"This Series is more than just entertainment—it is an opportunity for families to come together and experience stories that teach us all about what it means to be human," shared Caroline Kaiser, FST's Director of Children's Theatre. "When young audience members watch characters like Pinocchio make difficult decisions and wrestle with the effects of their actions, they are able to explore their own emotions and discover their own humanity."

The Series kicks off with an all-new adaptation of *Cinderella* by **Sarah Durham**, bringing the classic fairy tale to life with a contemporary twist. Featuring a soundtrack of contemporary pop hits, audience interaction, and slapstick humor, this music-filled re-imagining of the timeless tale begins October 9 in FST's Keating Theatre.

Just in time for the holiday season is FST's *Deck the Halls* by Sarah Durham and Caroline Saldivar, a brand-new rendition of everything that makes the holidays in Sarasota special. An annual tradition for many families, *Deck the Halls* celebrates the holidays in ways that only Floridians can—with decorated palm trees, swimming in the winter, and sand snowmen. Featuring all-new songs and sketches, *Deck the Halls* is a fun-filled interactive family show beginning November 27 in FST's Bowne's Lab.

Following *Deck the Halls* is *Hare & Tortoise*, a whimsical retelling of one of Aesop's best-known fables. In this imaginative play, Hare wants nothing more than to speed through everyday life, while Tortoise prefers to take her time and celebrate each season of life. Performed in special agreement with **Plays for New Audiences**, this imaginative play by

**Brendan Murray** tells the timeless story of friendship, change, and the excitement of growing up. ***Hare & Tortoise*** begins playing in FST's Bowne's Lab on January 8.

Bringing the 2021-2022 Children's Theatre Series to a close is ***The Grandma That Eats Everything & Other Winning Plays***, a collection of award-winning plays written by elementary school students from around the world during the 2021-2021 school year. For over 30 years, this beloved annual production has shined a light on the magic of children's creativity. Celebrating the stories that young writers will imagine this school year, ***The Grandma That Eats Everything & Other Winning Plays*** begins playing in FST's Keating Theatre on March 26. Winning plays submitted to this year's youth playwriting competition will be announced in March 2022.

The health and safety of FST's patrons, staff, volunteers, and artists are of the greatest importance to FST. Therefore, FST will be following all CDC guidelines. Children's Theatre performances will be socially distanced and masks are required when indoors at FST. The most up-to-date list of safety measures can be found at [FloridaStudioTheatre.org](http://FloridaStudioTheatre.org).

Families can enjoy FST's Children's Theatre Series on select weekends throughout the year, starting October 9, 2021, with *Cinderella*. Subscriptions to the four-show Children's Theatre Series are available for ONLY \$20—just \$5 per show per person. Single tickets are also available for just \$10 per person. Subscriptions and single tickets are now on sale at [FloridaStudioTheatre.org](http://FloridaStudioTheatre.org), and at 941-366-9000.

#### CHILDREN'S THEATRE SCHEDULE\*

***Cinderella***: October 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, and 31

***Deck the Halls***: November 27, 28 and December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, and 24

***Hare & Tortoise***: January 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 and February 5, 6, 12, 19, and 26

***The Grandma That Eats Everything & Other Winning Plays***: March 26, 27, and April 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, and 17

*\*Additional performance dates may be added later in the season*

#### **ABOUT FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE**

Florida Studio Theatre (FST) is Sarasota's contemporary theatre. Founded in 1973, FST has grown to a village of five theatres located in the heart of Downtown, Sarasota. Each theatre is small in size and large in impact— providing intimate and engaging settings for high-quality, professional performances.

Today, FST has established itself as a major force in American Theatre. FST is the largest subscription theatre in the state of Florida and among the largest in the country, serving more than 230,000 live attendees each year across its diverse programs: Mainstage, Cabaret, Stage III, Children's Theatre, The FST School, FST Improv, and New Play Development.

Even with its growth, Florida Studio Theatre remains firmly committed to making the arts accessible and affordable to as many people as possible. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins, FST develops theatre that speaks to our living, evolving, and dynamically changing world. Hip and historical, entertaining and challenging, we are the theatre where the street meets the elite — where everyone is welcome to engage in the art of theatre.

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