



Richard Hopkins  
Producing Artistic Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FST ANNOUNCES ITS 2022-2023 CHILDREN'S THEATRE SERIES**

(Sarasota, FL)— **Florida Studio Theatre** (FST) is pleased to announce the lineup for its four-show weekend Children's Theatre Series, bringing families together to explore the exciting and engaging world of the performing arts at an affordable price. From a heartwarming adaptation of *Charlotte's Web* to award-winning plays written by elementary school students from around the world, this year's lineup has something for children of all ages...and their favorite grownups. Subscriptions for FST's four-show weekend 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](http://FloridaStudioTheatre.org) and at 941.366.9000.

"This year is particularly exciting because we have moved all of our productions to the Keating Theatre to accommodate growing demand for programming for local families," said **Caroline Saldivar**, FST's Director of Children's Theatre. "These plays were selected with the whole family in mind—not just the youngest members. Each play explores universal themes and lessons, like the value of true friendship, the power of love, and the importance of courage."

The Series kicks off with a heartfelt adaptation of *Charlotte's Web* by **Joseph Robinette**, which begins playing select Saturdays and Sundays on October 1, 2022. Based on the book by **E.B. White**, this play follows Wilbur, a pig born as the runt of the litter, who captures the heart of his owner's daughter, Fern. Once he grows too big, Wilbur is shipped off to a farm owned by Fern's uncle. Soon, Wilbur discovers his eventual fate: the dinner table! Wilbur's new and kind-hearted spider friend, Charlotte, is determined to not let that happen.

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 Christmas and Hanukkah in Sarasota special. An annual tradition for many local families, *Deck the Halls* is an interactive show that invites audiences to get into the holiday spirit in true Florida style. Featuring all-new songs, characters, and sketches, *Deck the Halls* begins playing select Saturdays and Sundays December 3 in FST's Keating Theatre.

Following *Deck the Halls* is *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, an inventive retelling of C.S. Lewis' classic story of love, courage, and family. In this play, Peter and Lucy travel to Narnia, a magical land that is under a spell cast by The White Witch. Under her curse, it is always winter in Narnia and Christmas will never come. On their journey to battle the forces of evil, Peter and Lucy meet Mr. Tumnus the faun and Aslan the Great Lion, along with other

talking animals of the kingdom. Along the way, the siblings learn that love is the most powerful magic of all. Adapted by **le Clanche du Rand**, *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* plays select Saturdays and Sundays starting January 14, 2023.

Bringing the Children's Theatre Series to a close is ***The Last Acorn & Other Winning Plays***, a collection of award-winning plays written by elementary school students from around the world during the 2022-2023 school year. For 32 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 Last Acorn & Other Winning Plays*** begins playing select Saturdays and Sundays in FST's Keating Theatre on March 25, 2023. Winning plays submitted to this year's youth playwriting competition will be announced in March 2023.

Families can enjoy FST's Children's Theatre Series on select weekends throughout the year, starting October 1, 2022, with *Charlotte's Web*. 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, and at 941-366-9000.

### **CHILDREN'S THEATRE SCHEDULE\***

***Charlotte's Web***: October 1, 9, 15, 23, and 30

***Deck the Halls***: December 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, and 18

***The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe***: January 14, 22, 28, February 5 and 12

***The Last Acorn & Other Winning Plays***: March 25, April 2, 8, 16, and 23

*\*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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