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**BUYER & CELLAR EXPLORES CELEBRITY
AND FANTASY AT FST**

(Sarasota, FL) —Florida Studio Theatre (FST) proudly presents *Buyer & Cellar* by Jonathan Tolins, a quirky comedy about the price of fame, the cost of things, and the oddest of jobs. The winner of a 2013 Drama Desk Award and a 2014 Lucille Lortel Award, *Buyer & Cellar* was one of the most produced plays in the 2015-16 theatrical season. Called a “Seriously funny slice of absurdist whimsy” by *The New York Times*, *Buyer & Cellar* is a comedic one-man show that depicts how different life is for celebrities and the people who work for them. Tickets are available at (941) 366-9000 or floridastudiotheatre.org.

“*Buyer & Cellar* is a hilarious yet poignant play that explores and contrasts humans’ connection to material items and other humans,” shared Remy Germinario, who plays Alex More (as well as many other characters) in FST’s production of *Buyer & Cellar*. Germinario has played Alex More in Riverside Theatre and Cardinal Stage Company’s productions of *Buyer & Cellar*, and received the FringeNYC Overall Excellence Award for his performance in *Bradley Cole*.

“It’s a truly unique delight!” he continued. “The play takes the audience on a roller coaster ride of emotions, with twists and turns. It has the power to make you guffaw at the humorous antics, only to be surprised, minutes later, by a tender and relatable moment that makes you think. *Buyer & Cellar* balances fast-paced comedic foolishness with more serious topics, like the loneliness that can come with fame, the struggle of an actor who is down on his luck, and how people can change under the influence of glitz and glamour.”

Recently fired from being the Mayor of Toontown in Disneyland, Alex More accepts an even more unusual gig: working in the Malibu basement mini-mall of a celebrated megastar. Soon Alex must tend to the divine diva’s collections of dolls, antiques, and vintage dresses. One day, the Lady Herself comes downstairs to play. It feels like they share a real bond in the basement, but Alex begins to wonder, will their relationship ever make it upstairs? *Buyer & Cellar* explores stardom, materialism, and the power dynamics that exist in professional relationships. “It’s interesting to me what the play says about the class system,” Tolins shared with the *Los Angeles Times*. “They’re both in show business, but she’s at the top of the heap and he’s at the bottom of the barrel. The main house, the cellar.”

The New Yorker calls Jonathan Tolins’ comedy “A fantasy so delightful you wish it were true” and “Charming.” *Entertainment Weekly* writes that *Buyer & Cellar* is “dense with laughs, pathos, and even a little suspense,” while *The New York Times* calls the play “Irresistible.”

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This production is made possible thanks to support in part by Culture Builds Florida, Herald Tribune Media Group, and Sarasota County Tourist Tax Development Revenues.

Buyer & Cellar by Jonathan Tolins runs from March 20 through April 14 in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre. Tickets can be purchased at (941) 366-9000 or floridastudiotheatre.org.

ABOUT FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE

Known as Sarasota's Contemporary Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre was founded in 1973 by Artist, 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 five theatre venues: the Keating Theatre, the Goldstein Cabaret, the renovated Gompertz Theatre, the John C. Court Cabaret and Bowne's Lab Theatre.

Even with its growth, Florida Studio Theatre remains firmly committed to making the arts accessible and affordable to a broad-based audience. Under Producing Artistic Director and CEO, Richard Hopkins, 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.

ABOUT STAGE III

Stage III presents socially significant productions, producing plays that are challenging in content and unique in form, such as *Edward Albee's The Goat*. The program also offers something for the broader palate, seeking to entertain audiences with shows such as *Shear Madness*.

Stage III is also home to the FST Improv Troupe. Since 2001, FST Improv has been entertaining audiences and has grown wildly popular. FST also hosts the annual Sarasota Improv Festival, now in its eleventh year, to bring troupes from all over the world to Sarasota audiences.

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