



Richard Hopkins
Producing Artistic Director

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**IMPROV TROUPE DAD'S GARAGE EXTENDS THEIR STAY
AFTER THE 11TH ANNUAL SARASOTA IMPROV FESTIVAL**

(Sarasota, FL) —Florida Studio Theatre is proud to announce that Atlanta's top improv group, **Dad's Garage**, will be extending their stay in Sarasota following the 11th Annual Sarasota Improv Festival. After the Festival ends on July 13, **Dad's Garage** will be in residence at FST for an additional week, leading workshops and delivering special encore performances on July 19 and 20 in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre at 7:30 PM each night. Tickets for these performances are \$15-18 each and can be purchased at floridastudiotheatre.org or (941) 366-9000. Workshops are \$35 each and are limited to 16 people. Those interested in exploring their own spontaneous creativity can register for workshops at floridastudiotheatre.org, or by calling Pamela Smith, Education Administrator, at (941) 366-1350.

Winning *Creative Loafing's* "Best Theater and Best Improv Group in Atlanta" Award multiple times, **Dad's Garage** has become a favorite among festivalgoers since the Sarasota Improv Festival's founding in 2009. In fact, the group is only one of four that has never missed a Sarasota Improv Festival. **Dad's Garage** has been performing improv at least once a week—a typical weekend schedule consists of 6 performances—for 24 years. That means that **Dad's Garage** has completed, at the very least, over 1,200 performances.

"**Dad's Garage** is an institution in the Atlanta arts scene and one of the nation's leading comedy theatres," shared Will Luera, FST's Director of Improv. "Their legacy is so deep that they played a crucial role in my own development as an improviser. When I was barely months into my improv career, I remember visiting **Dad's Garage** for the first time and being blown away by the talent. It is an honor for FST and our Improv community to be able to host some of the top improvisers in the country for an additional week."

"We're super excited to extend our stay in Sarasota this year!" shared Matt Horgan, Associate Artistic Director of **Dad's Garage**. "Not only will it be a week staying and exploring in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, but it's a week where we get to work with and strengthen our relationships with all the great improvisers at FST!"

On July 19 and 20, **Dad's Garage** will perform their acclaimed, long-running mystery format, *Murder, She Improvised*. "We're excited to bring this show to Sarasota audiences this summer. It's an improvised murder mystery in the style of Agatha Christie, where no one knows who is guilty, until the detective decides in the show's final scene," explained Horgan. "We'll also be bringing **FST Improv** members into it as well, so we will be mixing it up with everyone and having a lot of fun on stage.

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Representing **Dad's Garage** at the Festival this year are Andy Coen, Perry Frost, and Matt Horgan. Coen has been part of **Dad's Garage** since 2008, and co-founded another improv troupe, **Automatic Improv**. When he's not making things up on the spot, Coen pilots shows for *CNN*, and works for *Cartoon Network*. **Frost** started her improv and theater training in 2008 at **Dad's Garage**, and has since founded an all-female noir improv team in Atlanta. Horgan has been improvising for 25 years, and has written and co-written several shows for **Dad's Garage**, including *Benjamin Franklin: American Gigolo*, *Song of the Living Dead: A Zombie Musical*, *The Going Out of Business Show*, *Drove* and *Chick & Boozy's Christmas on Ice*.

Workshop participants will learn from **Dad's Garage** artists about combatting uncertainty, embracing conflict and obstacles, and the fundamentals of narrative improv. There are workshops available for beginners who are interested in dipping their toe in the surprising world of improv, as well as workshops available for more advanced participants that want to hone and develop their improv skills.

Encore performances of *Murder, She Improvised* by Atlanta's top improv team, **Dad's Garage**, will take place on July 19 and July 20 in FST's Bowne's Lab at 7:30PM each night. Tickets are available for \$15 and can be purchased by calling the Box Office at (941) 366-9000 or at floridastudiotheatre.org. Single workshops are \$35 each. To enroll, please call Pamela Smith, Education Administrator, at 941-366-1350.

ABOUT FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE

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 then acquired the former Woman's Club building, becoming the first permanent venue. Shortly after Richard Hopkins arrived, the building was purchased and 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 Gompertz Theatre, the Parisian style Goldstein Cabaret and 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. 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.

Dad's Garage Post-Festival Workshops

Tuesday, July 16 - 6 to 9 pm

Caring About Stuff – Led by Andy Coen

In life, we constantly have feelings about what we want to do, things we want to keep, and words that we just can't wait to say. But sometimes when we are improvising we find ourselves marooned on stage, not sure what to say or what to do, we are just lost. This workshop gives you the tools to combat those uncertain moments by caring about something in your scene work, making it as effortless as living your life. This workshop is for 6 to 15 people, of all skill levels.

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Wednesday, July 17 – 6 to 9 pm

Makin' It Worse – Led by Perry Frost

Pour fuel on the fire of your scene work with "Make It Worse," a three-hour workshop about the art of exacerbation. Learn how leaning into conflict and celebrating obstacles can give your improv a fresh, fearless perspective. This workshop is for 5-15 improvisers, from intermediate to advanced skill levels.

Thursday, July 18 – 6 to 9 pm

Intro to Narrative Structure

When we're first exploring narrative as improvisers, our stories frequently start off on the wrong foot, get sidetracked or lost or are just dead on arrival. This workshop will teach you the basics of Johnstonian narrative structure to help you establish solid story platforms, introduce fun & effective tilts and create stories collaboratively that will have both the players and the audience loving the fun narrative roller coaster! This workshop is for 6 to 15 improvisers, from beginner to intermediate skill levels.

Dad's Garage Special Encore Performances

Friday, July 19 & Saturday, July 20

7:30pm – **Dad's Garage's** *Murder, She Improvised* in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre

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