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CONTACT: Lydia Baxter
Public Relations Associate
(941) 366 – 9017 ext. 338
Lbaxter@floridastudiotheatre.org
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FST ANNOUNCES ITS 2018 SUMMER MAINSTAGE SEASON

(Sarasota, FL)—Florida Studio Theatre announces its 28th Summer Mainstage Season with three enticing productions. The season kicks off with the inspiring tribute *Always...Patsy Cline*, celebrating one of the most iconic voices in country music. *Murder for Two*, a madcap musical whodunit follows, in a witty homage to classic murder mysteries. The season concludes with a humorous yet poignant period piece, *Other People's Money*, exploring ethics, morality, and finance. The 2018 Summer Mainstage Season opens on June 1 and runs through August 19 in FST's Keating and Gompertz Theatres. A subscription to all three shows can be purchased for as little as \$39. All subscriptions and single tickets may be purchased in person at the FST Box Office, by calling (941) 366-9000, or online at FloridaStudioTheatre.org.

Opening the season, *Always...Patsy Cline* pays homage to a one-of-a-kind music pioneer and country legend whose sweet ballads and distinct sound continue to touch audiences today. In this tuneful and memorable tribute, the story of Patsy Cline's rise to legendary stardom is told through the eyes of her biggest fan, Louise Seger. From her performances in honky-tonks to the Grand Ole Opry, Patsy Cline will "always" have a place in country music, with hit songs such as "Walking After Midnight," "I Fall to Pieces," "Crazy," "Sweet Dreams," and many more you know and love. *The Chicago Tribune* calls *Always...Patsy Cline* "Stellar" and "Crowd pleasing," and *Broadway World* says it "Makes you fall in love with Patsy Cline all over again."

"It's a show I've really grown to love over the years," said Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins. "You have no idea that you're going to be so moved and get so connected to Patsy and her friend Louise." Opening June 1, *Always...Patsy Cline* will be directed by FST's Associate Director At-Large, Kate Alexander. Meredith Jones, who was last seen in FST's Cabaret *Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves*, is playing the legend herself, Patsy Cline. Portraying Louise Seger is FST favorite Susan Greenhill, who has previously been in FST's *The Exonerated*, *Chapatti*, *Dr. Ruth*, and *The Savannah Disputation*.

Second in the season is *Murder for Two*, a fast-paced whodunit with killer laughs. In this quirky, comedic musical, small town policeman Marcus Moscovicz dreams of becoming a detective. When shots ring out at the surprise birthday party of great American novelist Arthur Whitney, and Whitney ends up dead, Marcus sees an opportunity to prove his sleuthing skills. In a witty and winking homage to classic murder mysteries, *Murder for Two* is the perfect blend of music, mayhem, and murder. Directing this madcap musical mystery is Bruce Jordan, one of the original adapters of *Shear Madness*. Since *Shear Madness's* creation, Jordan has directed the hit comedy over 30 times.

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Hopkins explains why Jordan is the right director for *Murder for Two*: “Jordan has a great sense of humor, and really knows how to work comedy. He’ll bring a nice fresh take [to the show], and he always brings out the humanity in comedy.” Called an “Ingenious” and “Snazzy double act” by *The New York Times*, *Murder for Two* will begin playing in FST’s Keating Theatre July 27.

Concluding the Summer Mainstage Season is the 1989 classic, *Other People’s Money* by Jerry Sterner. In this engaging yet humorous drama, fast-talking Wall Street shark Lawrence Garfinkle—also known as “Larry the Liquidator”—has his sights set on taking over the undervalued stock of New England Wire and Cable. It’s up to Kate Sullivan, a determined big-city lawyer, to stop Larry from gutting the company. Can Kate save her hometown’s esteemed business from being conquered by Larry? Loaded with conflict, comedy, and a touch of romance, *Other People’s Money* delves into the seedy and deceptive world of business.

New York Magazine calls the play “Involving, disturbing, and, above all, expertly crafted with epic grandeur and intimate titillation,” and *The New York Post* says, “It held me, amused me, [and] charmed me.” With great characters and compelling conflict, *Other People’s Money* withstands the test of time. “The fundamentals [of the play] are the same, if not more so today, with companies gobbling up other companies,” said Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins. “It’s very funny and you never know how it’s going to turn out.” Directed by Associate Artist Jason Cannon, *Other People’s Money* will begin playing in FST’s Gompertz Theatre August 1.

All three shows of the Summer Mainstage Season, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *Murder for Two*, and *Other People’s Money* will be presented at FST’s Keating and Gompertz Theatres. Single tickets range from \$36-39, and a subscription for all three shows can be purchased for as little as \$39. Both may be purchased in person at the FST Box Office, by calling (941) 366-9000, or online at 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 then acquired the former Woman’s Club building, becoming the first permanent venue. Shortly after Producing Artistic Director, 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.

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