



Richard Hopkins  
Producing Artistic Director

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**FST ADJUSTS SCHEDULE FOR REMAINDER OF ITS WINTER SEASON DUE TO DELAYS RELATED TO OMICRON SURGE**

(Sarasota, FL) — **Florida Studio Theatre** (FST) announces that, due to continued complications and delays related to the Omicron variant, the theatre is adjusting the performance schedule for the remainder of its Winter Mainstage and Winter Cabaret Series. This update follows an announcement made by the theatre on January 21, stating that the opening of FST’s Mainstage comedy ***The Play That Goes Wrong*** would be postponed by two weeks. Since then, FST has evaluated the situation and its progress, and has determined that it will be necessary to postpone the start of this complex production by a third week. This final scheduling change has resulted in the need to also adjust the run dates for two other productions: FST’s Cabaret ***Laughing Matters (Variant 6): Paranoia on Parade***, which will now begin playing February 16, as well as the Mainstage production of ***The Legend of Georgia McBride***, which will now begin playing on April 6.

**FST’s productions of *America in One Room*, *The Wanderers*, *Friends in Low Places*, *FST Improv*, and all Children’s Theatre performances will not be impacted by these schedule changes.**

To ensure the theatre is able to process ticket changes in the most efficient manner possible, affected ticket holders are asked to please wait to be contacted by the FST Box Office. The theatre expects this process to take several weeks and thanks its patrons for their patience, continued loyalty, and understanding through this challenge.

“We know these performance schedule adjustments are highly frustrating,” said **Richard Hopkins**, FST’s Producing Artistic Director. “We share those frustrations. Unfortunately, these were the necessary changes we had to make to bring our valued audiences the remainder of this terrific Winter Season. We have a fantastic lineup in store – from the international hit, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, to the return of FST’s popular sketch comedy revue, *Laughing Matters*, to *The Legend of Georgia McBride* by Tony Award-winning playwright Matthew Lopez. We can’t wait to share it with you.”

*The Play That Goes Wrong*, originally scheduled to begin January 19, will now open the week of February 7, with preview performances on Wednesday, February 9, and Thursday, February 10, and the official opening night taking place on Friday, February 11.

*Laughing Matters (Variant 6)*, originally scheduled to begin February 9 will now open the week of February 14, with two preview performances on Wednesday, February 16, and Thursday, February 17, and the official opening night taking place on Friday, February 18.

The final Mainstage production of the season, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, was originally scheduled to begin March 30. The Off-Broadway hit will now begin playing the week of April 4 with two preview performance on Wednesday, April 6, and Thursday, April 7, and the official opening night taking place on Friday, April 8.

“We thank our audience members who have showed immense understanding and support over the past two years through these unprecedented challenges caused by COVID-19,” said Hopkins. “Today, we say thank you again to our loyal audience for their continued support and understanding as we navigate this most recent change to the Winter Season – we hope it’s the last. It is because of our valued patrons that we do what we do. We see a light at the end of this tunnel, and with these adjustments, we’ll be back on track so we can do what we do best: producing high quality, contemporary theatre.”

### **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, New Play Development, and FST Improv.

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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