



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### FST'S STAGE III SERIES RETURNS THIS JANUARY

(Sarasota, FL) —Connecting audiences once again with the emotionally rough edges of raw, live theatre, FST relaunches the Stage III Series. This three show subscription series begins with the haunting production of *Stalking the Bogeyman*. Second in the line-up is the gripping story of *Gideon's Knot*. Concluding the season is the profound and poignant, *Grounded*. A subscription to all three Stage III shows may be purchased for as little as \$39. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.floridastudiotheatre.org](http://www.floridastudiotheatre.org) or by calling the Box Office at (941) 366-9000.

"We are relaunching this series to do more edgy work again, but in simple circumstances on the Bowne's Lab stage. It's gritty and simply produced," said Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins.

The first show of the series is *Stalking the Bogeyman*, by Markus Potter. Based on the true story made famous on *This American Life*, *Stalking the Bogeyman* follows renowned journalist David Holthouse's secret pursuit of justice for a crime hidden for 25 years. This new play explores the dangers of vengeance, the power of forgiveness, and the strength of family. "It explores vengeance, family ties, as well as the need for forgiveness," said Hopkins.

Next in the series is *Gidion's Knot* by Johnna Adams. Over the course of a 90-minute parent/teacher conference, a grieving mother and an emotionally overwhelmed primary school teacher have a fraught conversation about the death of the mother's son, the teacher's student, *Gidion*. *Gidion* may have been bullied severely - or he may have been an abuser. As his story is slowly uncovered, the women try to reconstruct a satisfying explanation for *Gidion's* act and come to terms with excruciating feelings of culpability.

Concluding this series is the gritty and gripping, *Grounded*, by George Brant. An ace fighter pilot is reassigned to desk duty following an unexpected pregnancy. After the birth of her child, she is relegated to operating drones from her base in Las Vegas. As she destroys enemies from the safety of a control room, *Grounded* takes us on a journey of self-discovery, identity, and morality. Hopkins comments about the nature of this solo show stating, "This production deals with the desensitization of flying fighter planes over Nevada compared to Afghanistan. What happens to a person's psyche in these circumstances?"

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FST's Stage III series will present pieces that get to the grit of the creative process and bring audiences face to face with the magic of simple, emotionally hard-hitting theatre. Subscriptions to all three shows may be purchased for as little as \$39. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.floridastudiotheatre.org](http://www.floridastudiotheatre.org) or by calling the Box Office at (941) 366-9000.

#### 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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