



Richard Hopkins
Producing Artistic Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lydia Baxter
Public Relations Manager
(941) 366 – 9017 ext. 338
LBaxter@floridastudiotheatre.org
DATE: December 7, 2022

FST IMPROV ANNOUNCES RUN OF *LIFE'S A BEACH* AND SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DAY SHOW, *WHEN X MEETS Y*

(Sarasota, FL) – **Florida Studio Theatre (FST)** announces the run of the audience favorite, ***FST Improv Presents: Life's A Beach***, and the date for ***FST Improv Presents: When X Meets Y***, a one-night-only performance for Valentine's Day. Tickets are \$15 and are now on sale at FloridaStudioTheatre.org or 941.366.9000.

A favorite of Sarasota audiences, ***Life's A Beach*** is a revue-style show featuring sketches, musical numbers, and popular improv games. Using audience suggestions, this hit show pokes fun at what makes Sarasota, Sarasota. Whether it's lovingly roasting the Gulf Coast's obsession with roundabouts or the never-ending quest for downtown parking, FST Improv's popular show continues to remind audiences why life in Sarasota is "just a beach." ***Life's A Beach*** begins playing in FST's Bowne's Lab on Saturday, January 21, and runs through March 25.

In honor of Valentine's Day, FST Improv presents ***When X Meets Y***, a fully improvised musical love story, on Saturday, February 11. Inspired by one location and three random notes on the keyboard, ***When X Meets Y*** mixes the quirkiness of romantic comedies, spectacle of Broadway musicals, and spontaneity of improvisation.

"This exclusive performance is the perfect opportunity for audiences to indulge in a night of completely improvised music, love, and maybe a laughter-induced tear or two," said **Will Luera**, FST's Director of Improv.

Audiences also have just two more chances to catch FST Improv's ***To Die For***, a comedic whodunit with a new suspect every night. Playing Saturday, January 7 and January 14, this popular murder mystery show features a cast of quirky characters and a plucky detective who will go to extreme lengths to crack the case.

Back for another season of laughter are returning cast members: **Kevin Allen, Ariel Blue, Valerie Dale, Sylvia Day, Sarah Durham, Darryl Knapp, Emily Levin, Will Luera, Shawn McWhinnie, Kathryn Parks, Sal Piccolo, Kyle Shoemaker, Basia Sroka, Autumn Steiner,** and **Matt Walker**. **Jim Prosser** or **Helena Rankin** will alternate as musical improvisers on the piano at each performance.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

FST Improv Presents: To Die For – A Comedic Whodunit With A New Culprit Every Night

Saturday, January 7 and 14 at 7:30PM

FST Improv Presents: Life's A Beach

Saturday, January 21 and 28 at 8:30PM

Saturday, February 4, 18, and 25 at 8:30PM

Saturday, March 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 8:30PM

FST Improv Presents: When X Meets Y (Valentine's Day Edition)

Saturday, February 11 at 8:30PM

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 200,000 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 everyone is welcome to engage in the art of theatre.

ABOUT FST IMPROV

Since its founding in 2001, FST Improv has grown into a robust, year-round program, offering never-before-seen shows week after week. FST Improv celebrates the full spectrum of Improv disciplines, going beyond game-focused Short-Form improvisation, to also incorporate Long-Form, Musical, and Free-Form styles. FST also produces the annual Sarasota Improv Festival, bringing the best improv troupes from across the country and around the world to Sarasota each year for a whirlwind weekend of spontaneous art. Today, the Sarasota Improv Festival is the premier festival of its kind in the Southeast United States.

###