



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FST IMPROV GOES OUT OF BOUNDS AND CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

(Sarasota, FL) –Florida Studio Theatre (FST) announces its Fall Improv Season, which includes a brand new performance every Saturday, plus three special holiday-themed shows that will bring laughs, scares, and holiday cheer to Sarasota. The season kicks off on October 6 with FST Improv's classic comedy competition, *Out of Bounds*, where two teams of improvisers go head-to-head to compete for the most audience laughs. *Out of Bounds* runs every Saturday in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre through December 22.

"The competition is a key part of the show," explained FST's Director of Improv, Will Luera. "Not only is the audience involved by giving the performers prompts, but they also distribute points to their favorite team until a winner is determined. Competition raises the stakes for the performers because they try even harder to impress the audience."

Later this month, FST Improv will celebrate Halloween with a one-night-only performance of *We're Doomed* on October 26, where cast members will create a live horror movie on the spot inspired by audience suggestions. "The cast has a lot fun paying homage to our favorite horror flicks, from *Friday the 13th*, to *Halloween*, *The Blair Witch Project*, *Scream* and more," shared Luera. "Once the show begins, the audience still plays an active part as we have opportunities for them to participate by making the movie 3D or changing it to a different language for 60 seconds."

*When X Meets Y: Home for the Holidays* also returns for only one night this year on December 21. Inspired by one location and three notes on the keyboard, the cast of FST Improv's *When X Meets Y* weaves a story of love during the holidays.

FST's final holiday-themed show of 2018, *Resolution Rewind*, is a mashup of the top audience favorite skits and games of the past year, for a one-of-a-kind comedy retrospective. Audience members are invited to shout out their own highlights of 2018 and join in on a champagne toast to bring in the New Year. *Resolution Rewind* plays December 29, 30, and 31.

Back for another season of laughter (and a few scares) are returning cast members: Will Luera, Christine Alexander, Jason Cannon, Jamie Day, Andrew Deeb, Chris Friday, Patrick A. Jackson, Joey James, Darryl Knapp, Emily Levin, Maria Schaedler-Luera, Joey Panek, Kathryn Parks, Adam Ratner, Natasha Samreny, Sergei Glushonkov, Michelle Neal, and Jim Prosser.

*Out of Bounds* runs from October 6 to December 22 every Saturday. Special performances will take place on select dates in celebration of Halloween, Christmas, Hanukah, and New Year's Eve. All performances take place in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre at 7:30 pm with doors opening one hour before show time. Full menu and bar are available. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased from the FST Box Office in person, by calling (941) 366-9000, or online at [floridastudiotheatre.org](http://floridastudiotheatre.org).

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### 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 eventually settled down into a permanent home, acquiring the former Woman's Club building – now 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 Goldstein Cabaret, the 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. Under Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins, 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.

### ABOUT FST IMPROV

Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, FST Improv was founded in 2001 by Rebecca Hopkins, who had the vision of growing the art form in Sarasota. FST Improv is part of FST's Stage III Series dedicated to presenting work that is challenging in content and unique in form. FST is also home to the Annual Sarasota Improv Festival, which brings the top improv troupes from all over the world to Sarasota for a whirlwind weekend of laughter. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sarasota Improv Festival is scheduled to take place July 2019. In 2014, former ImprovBoston Artistic Director Will Luera was hired as FST's Director of Improvisation, and currently leads its artistic and education programs.

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