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FST ANNOUNCES ONE-NIGHT-ONLY APRIL FOOL'S DAY IMPROV TRIBUTE: *TOURNAMENT OF FOOLS*

(Sarasota, FL) – Florida Studio Theatre's home Improv team goes head-to-head in a truly one-of-a-kind celebration of spontaneity, improvisation, and April Fool's Day. On March 31, some of the Gulf Coast's top improvisers will compete in a series of scenes, songs, and games to win your laughter, your applause, and the coveted title of "Champion of Fools." The exclusive performance takes place in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre at 8:30PM. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased from the FST Box Office in person, by calling (941) 366-9000, or online at www.FloridaStudioTheatre.org. Full menu and bar are available. Doors open one hour prior to the show.

In this knockdown, drag-out comedy battle royale, favorite FST improvisers participate in a demanding "survival of the fittest" competition of games, songs, and scenes. After each round, players earn points from the audience based on their performances. The person with the fewest points will be eliminated and fed to sharks (April Fools! They sit and watch like everyone else).

"The show moves really fast," says FST Improv Director Will Luera. "There's an elimination round almost every fifteen minutes." Those left standing will keep improvising until the final round, when the audience will bestow one person with the ultimate title: "Champion of Fools." And don't think you're safe just because you're not onstage—the performers will need all the April Fools they can find!

"In 2010, we created the show as a special one-night-only event," said Rebecca Hopkins, FST Improv's creator. "With rave reviews from our audience and how fast it sold out, we wanted to bring it back. Audiences get to choose who wins the title, and we get to continue to bring laughter to Sarasota audiences."

A comedic competition of epic proportions, this FST Improv cast includes, Christine Alexander, Tim Beasley, Jason Cannon, Andrew Deeb, Michael Fraser, Chris Friday, Patrick A. Jackson, Joey James, Darryl Knapp, Emily Levin, Will Luera, Joey Panek, Angel M. Parker, Adam Ratner, Kihresha Redmond, Natasha Samreny, Sergei Glushonkov, Michelle Neal, Philippe Novikov, and Jim Prosser.

Watch your back –you don't know who might be pulling pranks—as you howl with laughter at FST Improv's *Tournament of Fools*. This high stakes April Fool's Day celebration takes place on March 31, 2018 at 8:30pm in Bowne's Lab Theatre. Tickets are \$15 per person and may be purchased from the FST Box Office in person, by phone at (941) 366-9000 or online at www.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 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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