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DATE: May 16, 2017

FST HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL BACK LOT BBQ ON JUNE 6

(Sarasota, FL) When the summer heat turns up, it's time to fire up the grill. FST hosts a Southern-style *Back Lot BBQ* fundraiser on June 6 at 6pm, and everyone's invited. Complete with live music from the *Manatee River Bluegrass Band* and all the fixin's - cooked low and slow. Ribs, chicken, pork, you name it...we're grilling it. Enjoy a cold beverage and bring your appetite to dine in the Goldstein Cabaret. Tickets are \$100, of which \$60 is tax deductible. A \$1000 sponsorship includes 6 tickets, and primary seating. For tickets, contact Melody Mora-Shihadeh, Director of Individual Giving, by phone at (941) 366-9017 ext326, or by email at mmora-shihadeh@floridastudiotheatre.org.

Manning the grill is Sarasota favorite, Nancy Krohngold, owner of Nancy's BBQ. Over the past six years she's perfected her secret dry rub recipe and pitmaster skills to create authentic North Carolina style BBQ that wins raves from food critics and good ol' boy barbecue lovers alike.

This summer, FST will welcome back favorite artists as well as some new performers through its three Mainstage productions, three Cabaret productions, a whole summer of FST Improv, as well as the 9th Annual Sarasota Improv Festival! Funds raised from this exciting and tasty event will support FST's Summer programming and operations. Providing the entertainment is Sarasota's own *Manatee River Bluegrass Band*. Band members Will Corr, Larry Lengacher, Todd Lingo, Rusty Moore, and Bryce Thompson will get toes tappin' while the Pitmasters get taste buds talkin.'

FST Managing Director, Rebecca Hopkins, speaks to the excitement of bringing together artists, playwrights, donors, and all friends of FST for this fun, food-filled event stating, "Last year's BBQ was so much fun, we knew we had to kick off the summer season once again with great food, great music, and great company. We hope to see everyone there – our actors, our patrons, our artistic crews, and our new and old friends for a fun night in our back lot with some great BBQ."

Nothing says summer like good friends, good music, and great BBQ. Tickets are \$100, of which \$60 is tax deductible. A \$1000 sponsorship includes 6 tickets, and primary seating. For tickets, contact Melody Mora-Shihadeh, Director of Individual Giving, by phone at (941) 366-9017 ext326, or by email at mmora-shihadeh@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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