



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **THE BOY WHO LIKED PULLING HAIR & OTHER WINNING PLAYS BRINGS FST'S CHILDREN'S THEATRE SERIES TO A CLOSE**

(Sarasota, FL)— Florida Studio Theatre concludes its second Children's Theatre season with *The Boy Who Liked Pulling Hair & Other Winning Plays*, a collection of authentic stories from the imaginations of children in sixth grade and below. Part of the WRITE A PLAY program, this production will be performed on the Keating Mainstage by FST Acting Apprentices. With 13 inspiring and invigorating pieces selected from over 3,500 submissions, *The Boy Who Liked Pulling Hair & Other Winning Plays* reveals children's unique voices.

This production will play to school groups starting April 3 in FST's WRITE A PLAY program and to the public on Saturdays from April 14 to May 5 as part of FST's Children's Theatre Series. Single tickets are \$10. For more information, please contact Box Office at 941-366-9000 or visit the Children's Theatre page online at [www.floridastudiotheatre.org](http://www.floridastudiotheatre.org). To book your school, please contact Hannah Bagnall at [hbagnall@floridastudiotheatre.org](mailto:hbagnall@floridastudiotheatre.org).

Wise, heartfelt, and often hilarious, this anthology of award-winning short plays highlights the most creative and imaginative writing by elementary school students from around the world. Some of this year's exciting original works include *Case File 402: Love is Blind*, *Lily Hippo Learns to "Fly"*, *A Beary Big Adventure* and *The Mom Who Couldn't Cook*. These plays were submitted via FST's WRITE A PLAY program, which reaches as far as Mexico, Israel, Scotland, and Russia. Every submitted play undergoes a thorough evaluation process, and is read at least twice by FST staff members and community volunteers.

When choosing winners, FST looks for plays with an imaginative plot and character, a strong sense of rhythm in the dialogue, innate wisdom, and diverse themes. Adam Ratner, FST's Young Playwrights Festival Coordinator and Lead Teaching Artist, said, "The plays are as varied as the playwrights themselves; plays about friendship and family, tales of overcoming obstacles and fears of not being accepted and bullying. The plays represent all kinds of genres and run the emotional gamut."

Directing these touching original pieces is FST Associate Artist, Jason Cannon. Cast in *The Boy Who Liked Pulling Hair & Other Winning Plays* are FST Acting Apprentices: Brooke Benson, Carey Blackburn, Jon DeVries, Michael Fraser, Ryan Friedman, Kihresha Redmond, and J Vance. These actors have previously been seen in FST's productions of *Robin Hood*, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and *Deck the Halls: Tis' the Season*. Cannon and the cast "Treat these young playwrights' inspired works with same respect and consideration that [they] give to adult professional playwrights," explains Ratner.

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*The Boy Who Liked Pulling Hair & Other Winning Plays* will play on weekdays to school groups in FST's WRITE A PLAY series and on Saturdays from April 14 to May 5 to the public as part of FST's Children's Theatre subscription series. Single tickets are \$10. For more information, please contact Box Office at 941-366-9000 or visit the Children's Theatre page online at [www.floridastudiotheatre.org](http://www.floridastudiotheatre.org). To book your school, please contact Hannah Bagnall at [hbagnall@floridastudiotheatre.org](mailto:hbagnall@floridastudiotheatre.org).

### ABOUT CHILDREN'S THEATRE

This season, Florida Studio Theatre is taking families on an original and engaging adventure into the world of Children's Theatre. From timeless heroes to a trip to Narnia, we hope you and your family will join us on this journey! Whether you have children ages 3 or 13, or even a wily grandparent who wants to join in on all the fun, FST Children's Theatre is a fun, magical, and memorable experience for all ages.

FST Children's Theatre is more than just a performance to sit and watch! Share and learn during pre-show activities. After the show, meet the cast and ask questions about what you saw and experienced. How did it make you feel? What did you see?

Our low ticket prices ensure that anyone can see a show at FST for less than the cost of seeing a movie--that's \$5 per show, per person! These plays are your plays. These plays are OUR Journey. These plays are YOUR Journey.

We hope you and your family will join us for what is sure to be an exciting theatrical journey filled with laughter, lessons, and love to last a lifetime!

### 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, 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. 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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