



Richard Hopkins  
Producing Artistic Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Lydia Baxter  
Public Relations Associate  
(941) 366 – 9017 ext. 338  
Lbaxter@floridastudiotheatre.org  
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**FST PRESENTS *THE GRANDMA THAT EATS EVERYTHING & OTHER WINNING PLAYS*, A COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL WORK BY YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS**

(Sarasota, FL)— **Florida Studio Theatre (FST)** proudly presents *The Grandma That Eats Everything & Other Winning Plays*, a collection of plays inspired by the imaginations of children in sixth grade and below. This production is presented as part of FST’s **WRITE A PLAY** program, an award-winning arts-in-education initiative that provides students with the example, the inspiration, and the skills to write their own original plays. Students’ creations are then submitted to FST’s annual youth playwriting competition, and about a dozen winning plays are selected out of thousands of submissions from around the world to be brought to life in a full-scale production performed by professional actors. This season’s anthology of winning plays, *The Grandma That Eats Everything*, marks the 31<sup>st</sup> year that FST has inspired young students through the WRITE A PLAY program.

“Art is a reflection of the world we live in, and that is certainly the case for young artists, too,” shared **Adam Ratner**, FST’s Young Playwrights Festival Coordinator and Lead Teaching Artist. “It’s been fascinating to see how these students have used the art of playwriting as a way to process the events of the last few years. Many of the plays submitted this year feature main characters who are faced with difficult situations that require them to escape from certain obstacles or who are lost and must find their way. Through playwriting, these students have found a way to vocalize, process, and imagine solutions for some of the challenges we’ve all faced recently – and that is a positive life skill that we are thrilled that we’re able to share with and use to empower these young people.”

WRITE A PLAY expanded to reach new schools in Florida, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Scotland during the 2021-2022 academic year. This was also FST’s first year bringing WRITE A PLAY to **The Haven**, a Sarasota-based organization serving individuals with disabilities of all ages.

Directing these touching, original pieces are FST Associate Artists **Jason Cannon** and **J Paul Nicholas**. Cast in *The Grandma That Eats Everything* are FST Acting Apprentices: **Rachel Biggs, Adian Chapman, Scott Douglas, Ariel Friendly, Gracie Gilbert, Jackson Janowicz, and Facia Lee**. These actors have previously been seen this season in FST’s productions of *Cinderella*, *Deck the Halls*, and *Hare & Tortoise*.

**SCHOOL GROUPS**

*The Grandma That Eats Everything & Other Winning Plays* will play on weekdays to school groups in FST’s Keating Theatre as part of FST’s WRITE A PLAY program. The play is also available to tour to your school. To book this theatrical experience for your school, contact Shelby Lynhall at [slynhall@floridastudiotheatre.org](mailto:slynhall@floridastudiotheatre.org) or call 941.366.9797.

### **WEEKEND FAMILY SERIES**

From March 6 to May 8, *The Grandma That Eats Everything & Other Winning Plays* is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday mornings as part of FST's Children's Theatre Series. Single tickets are \$10. Tickets are now on sale at [FloridaStudioTheatre.org](http://FloridaStudioTheatre.org) or by calling FST's Box Office at 941.366.9000.

This production is supported, in part, by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture and the State of Florida as well as Suncoast Credit Union. Thanks to our media sponsor, *The Observer*.

### **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 230,000 live attendees each year across its diverse programs: Mainstage, Cabaret, Stage III, Children's Theatre, The FST School, FST Improv, and New Play Development.

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 the street meets the elite — where everyone is welcome to engage in the art of theatre.

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