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LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE COMES TO FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE

(Sarasota, FL)— Beginning February 3, 2018, Florida Studio Theatre (FST) brings the magical tale of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* from the story by C.S. Lewis to the Bowne’s Lab Theatre stage. Children and families will experience this original and engaging adventure into the world of Children’s Theatre for less than the cost of a movie. Tickets to *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* are just \$10, and are available by calling the FST Box Office at 941-366-9000, or by visiting the Children’s Theatre page online at www.floridastudiotheatre.org. School groups may also book their students to attend a performance during the week as part of FST’s WRITE A PLAY program. To book your school, please contact Hannah Bagnall at hbagnall@floridastudiotheatre.org.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe follows wildly popular runs of the classic *Robin Hood* and *Deck the Halls: 'Tis the Season*, a holiday-inspired adventure. Both shows attracted an unprecedented number of Children’s Theatre attendees, exceeding FST’s attendance projections. Coming next to the Children’s Theatre stage is *The Boy Who Liked Pulling Hair*, an anthology of award-winning plays by children, for children, beginning April 14, 2018.

“This season of Children’s Theatre at Florida Studio Theatre has grown exponentially,” said Director of Children’s Theatre Caroline Kaiser. “We are thrilled to be adding more performances and reaching more families with professional theatre. It is exciting to see families of all types coming to the theatre regularly.”

In this inventive and highly theatrical adaptation of *The Lion, the Witch, and The Wardrobe*, audiences join Peter and Lucy on their travels to Narnia. The White Witch has cast a spell that makes it always winter and never Christmas. Peter and Lucy travel to Narnia and along the way meet Mr. Tumnus the faun, Aslan the Great Lion, and all the talking animals of the kingdom. Children and families, alike, watch as our characters courageously battle the forces of evil and discover that love is the deepest magic of all.

Directing this timeless classic is FST Associate Artist, Jason Cannon. A two-person cast brings this imaginative journey to life with FST Acting Apprentices, Brooke Benson and Ryan Friedman, each playing multiple roles. Benson plays the parts of Lucy, Susan, The White Witch, Maugrim the Wolf, and Statues. Friedman plays the roles of Aslan, Peter, Edmund, Mr. Tumnus the Fawn, and Mr. Beaver.

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“We know that in order to make an impact in the life of a child, we need to reach the entire family,” continued Kaiser. “ Coming to FST to see a play with your children or grandchildren is more than just entertainment, it is an opportunity to spend quality time together, foster meaningful conversation, and to make live theatre a part of your children’s cultural education.”

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe will play on weekdays to school groups in FST’s WRITE A PLAY series and on weekends to the public as part of FST’s Children’s Theatre subscription series. Tickets to *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* are just \$10, and are available by calling the FST Box Office at 941-366-9000, or by visiting the Children’s Theatre page online at www.floridastudiotheatre.org. To book your school, please contact Hannah Bagnall at 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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