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4 SHOWS FOR ONLY \$20!

FST'S CHILDREN'S THEATRE SERIES BEGINS ON NOV. 19

(Sarasota, FL)— Florida Studio Theatre's Inaugural Children's Theatre Series begins on November 19 with *The Velveteen Rabbit* written by Kevin Del Aguila based on the book by Margery Williams. Following this production is the holiday variety special, *Deck the Halls!*, the fully improvised adventure *Alice With a Twist*, and *The Dragon vs. The Hiccups and Other Winning Plays*. All productions will play in Bowne's Lab Theatre. Children's Theatre subscriptions are on sale for only \$20. Single tickets are \$10. For more information on the full subscription packages please contact Box Office at 941-366-9000 or visit the Children's Theatre page online at www.floridastudiotheatre.org.

Cast in the first show of the series, *The Velveteen Rabbit* are FST Acting Apprentices, Vanessa Guadiana, Dennis Mullikin, Myles Phillips, and Amber Wiest. Playing the role of the Rabbit, Guadiana speaks to her approach of taking on such an anticipated character in this show stating, "I'm excited to perform for children because they are the best kind of audience an artist can have. They are honest and deserve no less than the truth on stage. When they laugh it's a genuine belly laugh. If you're not believable in finding that truth within your own character, they aren't afraid to call you out on it. You have to be genuine and real. For me, that means challenging myself to find the heart and soul of the rabbit within my own humanity."

FST Director of Children's Theatre, Caroline Kaiser, speaks to the value of this production and the Children's Theatre subscription series stating, "At FST we are committed to making theatre accessible and affordable to as many Sarasota families as possible. That starts with low ticket prices. For \$20, subscribers get tickets to 4 shows. That makes the price of seeing one show less than cost of a movie! Every day with kids is an adventure, so in creating this series I aimed to make coming to the theatre both easy and entertaining, as well as an interactive family experience."

All shows of the Children's Theatre Series will play in Bowne's Lab Theatre. According to Kaiser, "Bowne's Lab Theatre is a great venue for the shows because of the small size and comfortable restaurant style tables. This provides a perfect pre-show space for coloring and tabletop toys, snacks, and easy stroller access. It also guarantees that even the littlest of ones can see the action on stage! We have free parking in the lot right next door, and the cabaret-style theatre allows parents to easily get in and out with little ones. It's a family friendly experience from the parking lot to the final curtain call."

The Children's Theatre Series includes *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Deck the Halls!*, *Alice With a Twist*, and *The Dragon vs. The Hiccups and Other Winning Plays*. Children's Theatre subscriptions are on sale for only \$20. Single tickets are \$10. For more information on the full subscription packages please contact the Box Office at 941-366-9000 or visit the Children's Theatre page online at www.floridastudiotheatre.org.

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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