



Richard Hopkins  
Producing Artistic Director

**FOR  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Lydia Baxter  
Public Relations Associate  
(941) 366-9017 ext. 338  
Lbaxter@floridastudiotheatre.org  
DATE: March 15, 2022

## **FST PRESENTS MAINSTAGE MUSICAL COMEDY, THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE**

(Sarasota, FL) —Florida Studio Theatre (FST) proudly presents ***The Legend of Georgia McBride***, a heartfelt, music-filled play by Tony Award-winning playwright **Matthew Lopez**. Called “A stitch-in-your-side funny new comedy” by *The New York Times* and “Incredibly entertaining” by *BroadwayWorld*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride* is a regional theatre favorite that celebrates making oneself heard, individuality, and self-expression. *The Legend of Georgia McBride* will run in FST’s Gompertz Theatre starting Wednesday, April 6. Single tickets are now on sale at 941.366.9000 or [floridastudiotheatre.org](http://floridastudiotheatre.org).

“It doesn’t get more fun than a broken-down Elvis Impersonator, a run-down bar, and a hit drag show—all combined!” said Kate Alexander, the show’s Director. “*Georgia McBride* is the story of the American Dream in a flamboyant gilded coach.”

*The Legend of Georgia McBride* tells the story of Casey, a young Elvis impersonator struggling to make ends meet—he can’t pay his rent, and he just found out that his wife, Jo, is pregnant. Casey’s situation becomes more desperate when he is fired from his job performing at a small-town Florida dive bar. Eddie, the bar owner, brings in Miss Tracy Mills and her B-level drag show to replace Casey’s Elvis act in hopes that it will revive his struggling business. When Miss Mills’ co-star, Remy, is unable to perform at the last minute, Casey steps in, and realizes he has a lot to learn about show business—and himself.

“*The Legend of Georgia McBride* is an insightful comedy that helps us better understand the world we live in,” said **Richard Hopkins**, FST’s Producing Artistic Director. “The play is about accepting ‘The Other.’ There is a great joy in meeting and learning about people who are different.”

Playwright Matthew Lopez first envisioned the play when he heard a playlist that was created for a friend’s boyfriend who was exploring the art of drag. “I was attracted to the notion of a straight man exploring drag,” said Lopez in an interview with *Los Angeles Blade*. “That’s where I got the idea of telling the story of this down-on-his-luck straight guy who is an aspiring Elvis impersonator, who has definitely got performing in his blood, but who is not yet fully actualized as an artist or a person.”

Bringing this quirky comedy to life are **Britt Michael Gordon** (FST Debut), **Eric Hoffman** (*The God of Isaac, Butler*), **Stanley Martin** (FST Debut), **Kraig Swartz** (FST Debut), and **Tatiana Williams** (FST Debut).

Gordon played Casey in Vermont Stage's production of *The Legend of Georgia McBride* and has performed at other regional theatres across the country, including Actors Playhouse, Savannah Repertory Theatre, and American Stage.

"*Georgia McBride* is ultimately about family and identity," said Gordon. "It's also about how a person's perceptions of gender influence their understanding of these ideas. The people in Casey's life challenge his long-held beliefs about these notions, and by the end of the play, he learns that being a good partner to the people he loves has to do with being honest, dependable, and vulnerable."

*The Legend of Georgia McBride* marks Hoffman's fourth production at FST, in which he plays Eddie, a Florida bar owner whose business starts to boom after he hires his cousin, Miss Tracy Mills. Martin plays Remy, a drag queen who craves attention, as well as Casey and Jo's landlord, Jason. Martin was part of the original Broadway cast of *Aladdin* and performed in the international tour of *West Side Story*.

Swartz played Miss Tracy Mills in Marin Theatre Company's 2017 production of *Georgia McBride* and has been featured in the Off-Broadway productions of *A Picture of Autumn*, *The Voyage Inheritance*, *Jungle Book*, and *So Help Me God*. Williams—who plays Casey's wife Jo—most recently performed in *White Noise* by Suzan-Lori Parks at Studio Theatre in Washington, DC.

*The Legend of Georgia McBride* was originally scheduled to bring FST's 2019-2020 Winter Mainstage Series to a close but was cancelled in mid-March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The world changed so markedly with COVID, and this play will forever be the emblem of that change for me," explained Kate Alexander. "We were in rehearsals for only one week! When it was announced that the theatre had to be shuttered and the actors had to go home, it was devastating news for the cast and crew. Coming back to this play is incredibly meaningful to me."

FST's production of *The Legend of Georgia McBride* is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The production is also supported by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. Thank you to our media sponsor, the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*.

### **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, New Play Development, and FST Improv.

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.

###