



Richard Hopkins  
Producing Artistic Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Lydia Baxter  
Public Relations Manager  
(941) 366-9017 ext. 338  
Lbaxter@floridastudiotheatre.org  
DATE: August 30, 2022

**FST EXTENDS *NEW YORK STATE OF MIND – ALL THE HITS OF  
BILLY JOEL WITH THE UPTOWN BOYS***

(Sarasota, FL) — Florida Studio Theatre (FST) is proud to announce that the run of ***New York State of Mind – All the Hits of Billy Joel With The Uptown Boys*** has been extended an additional week due to audience demand. Created by **John De Simini** and **Alexander Aguilar**, who have 40 years of cumulative experience working on Broadway, this dynamic music revue will now play through October 9, 2022. Featuring more than two dozen of Billy Joel's greatest hits, this upbeat music revue will run as originally scheduled in FST's Court Cabaret through Sunday, October 2. Then, the production will transfer to FST's Goldstein Cabaret, where it will play through Sunday, October 9. Single tickets are now on sale at [FloridaStudioTheatre.org](http://FloridaStudioTheatre.org) or at 941.366.9000.

"We're excited that *New York State of Mind* has been held over," said **Rebecca Hopkins**, FST's Managing Director. "Audiences are loving how this show presents Billy Joel's music in a new way—with rich, three-part harmony, original musical arrangements, and Motown-inspired choreography. This show celebrates Joel's unique ability to write songs about universal human experiences that transcend the test of time."

*New York State of Mind – All the Hits of Billy Joel With The Uptown Boys* blends Billy Joel's extensive songbook with the cast's own stories of love, life, and pursuing success in New York City. With such songs as "Piano Man," "The Longest Time," and "Only the Good Die Young," this new Cabaret is engaging from start to finish.

*Total Theater* calls *New York State of Mind* "Energetic," "Wonderful," and "Very lively," and writes that there is "Something for everyone to like" in the musical salute to Billy Joel. *On Stage NY1* describes the show as "one epic night of entertainment" and *Our Town Sarasota* writes that the music revue "Makes you want more" and "Feels like you are at a small Broadway show."

Audiences are calling the high-energy Cabaret "Amazing," "Terrific," "Delightful," and "Wonderful." Audience member Michael L. shares, "This group took the evening to a whole new level! Their singing was top-notch, but the energy, choreography, and the polish of their routines was over the top. We loved it all!"

Cast in this musical tribute to Billy Joel are **Michael Fasano**, **Hank Von Kolnitz**, and **Sergi Robles**—all of whom have an array of national touring, regional theatre, and Off-Broadway credits on their resumes.

The creative team for FST's presentation of *New York State of Mind – All the Hits of Billy Joel With The Uptown Boys* includes **Catherine Randazzo** and **Alex Price** (Artistic Oversight), **Bruce Price** (Scenic Design), **Nadirah T. Harper** (Lighting Design), **Nicholas Christensen** (Sound Design), and **Jamie Thygesen** (Sound and Light Board Operator).

FST's presentation of *New York State of Mind – All the Hits of Billy Joel With The Uptown Boys* 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, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The production is also supported by The Shubert Foundation, Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues, and The Exchange.

### **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 six core programs: Mainstage, Cabaret, Stage III, Children's Theatre, The FST School, 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.

###