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

(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 yet again due to audience demand. Created by **John De Simini** and **Alexander Aguilar**, Broadway veterans who have worked on such shows as *Miss Saigon* and *A Bronx Tale*, this lively music revue will now play through October 16, 2022. Featuring more than two dozen of Billy Joel's greatest hits, *New York State of Mind* 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 16. Single tickets are now on sale at FloridaStudioTheatre.org or at 941.366.9000.

"We are thrilled by the wonderful response of FST patrons to *New York State of Mind!*" said John De Simini and Alex Aguilar, the cabaret's co-creators. "We're also excited that Sarasota audiences will have *even more* opportunities to see the show in such an intimate, one-of-a-kind setting."

New York State of Mind – All the Hits of Billy Joel With The Uptown Boys uses Joel's well-known song catalogue as a vehicle to share the cast's personal stories of life, romance, and trying to "make it" in New York City. With Billy Joel's biggest hits, such as "Piano Man," "Uptown Girl," and "Still Rock and Roll to Me," this engaging concert experience celebrates Billy Joel's musical storytelling and ability to reach people of all generations.

BroadwayWorld calls *New York State of Mind* "Glorious," "Bold," and "A charismatic tribute to The Piano Man, himself." *Total Theater* describes the show as "Wonderful" and "Very lively." *Venice Gondolier-Sun* writes that the music revue is "Spot on" and "An entertaining evening that ended all too soon."

Audiences are calling the production "Very entertaining," "Outstanding," "Fabulous," and "Definitely the best." Audience member Maris M. shares, "The Uptown Boys are one of the best groups we have seen in the Cabaret! It was a wonderful evening—a combination of the group and the music of Billy Joel."

Cast in this musical tribute are **Michael Fasano, Hank Von Kolnitz,** and **Sergi Robles**—all of whom have been part of national touring, regional theatre, and Off-Broadway productions.

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** (Line Producers), **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.

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