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**FST WILL CONTINUE MURDER, MAYHEM,
AND BEAUTIFUL MELODIES INTO WINTER**

(Sarasota, FL) —Due to audience demand, Florida Studio Theatre (FST) announces that two hit productions—the FST original music revue *Unchained Melodies* and Mainstage production of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*—will have extended runs this season.

Unchained Melodies celebrates the male harmony groups of the '50s and '60s and features songs from legendary groups like The Drifters and The Four Tops. Audiences have called the production "Uplifting," "Engaging," and "A musical time machine trip down memory lane." With another Cabaret, *The Wonder Years: The Music of the Baby Boomers*, scheduled to take the stage of FST's Court Cabaret beginning February 6, *Unchained Melodies* must close on February 3 as planned. However, FST is proud to announce that *Unchained Melodies* will re-open with special encore performances in a limited engagement run in FST's Keating Theatre beginning March 7. Tickets can be purchased online at floridastudiotheatre.org or by phone at (941) 366-9000.

Critics agree *Unchained Melodies* is a runaway hit. *The Observer* calls the musical revue "World class" and "Great fun." *Broadway World* calls it "A fast paced jog down memory lane," "Delightful," and "Deliciously engaging." *Total Theater* dubs it "A great audience pleaser," "Impressive," and "Energetic."

On the Mainstage, FST is proud to announce the second extension of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* due to popular demand. Now playing through January 13 in FST's Gompertz Theatre, *A Gentleman's Guide* tells the story of Monty Navarro, a humble Englishman who discovers he is eighth in line to become the Earl of Highurst. Using a great deal of charm (and a dash of murder) Monty works to speed up the line of succession. This Tony Award-winning Broadway hit takes audiences on a wild ride of unforgettable music, murderous hijinks, and alluring love affairs.

Critics are calling FST's production of *A Gentleman's Guide* a "Must see" and "Ingenious" (*Broadway World*). Kay Kipling of *Sarasota Magazine* describes the show as a "Killer comedy," "Great fun" and says it is "Bound to entertain." Audiences agree, calling it "Superb," "Fabulous," and "One of the best productions [they've] seen at FST!"

"I'm thrilled that audiences are connecting with both of these shows. We are so proud of both productions and how the audience is reacting to them night after night," explained Rebecca Hopkins, FST's Managing Director. "They are both excellent, yet REALLY different.

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A Gentleman's Guide is a classic underdog story and Monty is so charming that it's difficult not to root for him. Both Richard Henry and Jimmy Nicholas are giving tour de force performances. *Unchained Melodies* is a completely different experience with four guys making beautiful harmonies. The music in the show is some of the most celebrated of the 20th century. It's not just music for Baby Boomers. The songs have impacted us all. They are so ingrained in the American culture."

After an eighteen week run in FST's Court Cabaret, *Unchained Melodies* will return to Sarasota with special encore performances in FST's Keating Theatre beginning March 7. *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* will now run in FST's Gompertz Theatre through January 13. Single tickets for both productions may be purchased online at floridastudiotheatre.org, or at (941) 366-9000.

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 eventually settled down into a permanent home, acquiring the former Woman's Club building – now 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 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. Under Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins, 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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