



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lydia Baxter
Public Relations Associate
(941) 366 – 9017 ext. 338
Lbaxter@floridastudiotheatre.org
DATE: March 12, 2019

FST PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF *WEDNESDAY'S CHILD*

(Sarasota, FL) — Florida Studio Theatre proudly presents the WORLD PREMIERE production of Mark St. Germain's *Wednesday's Child*, a dramatic new play that explores motherhood, passion, and the thin line between right and wrong. *Wednesday's Child* runs from April 3 to May 24 in FST's Gompertz Theatre. Single tickets range from \$29-39 and can be purchased online at floridastudiotheatre.org or by phone at (941) 366-9000.

"I asked Mark [St. Germain] to write a play about the issues we don't see on the American stage," said Richard Hopkins, FST's Producing Artistic Director. "Not political issues, but human issues. I was tired of the talking heads on TV debating the same narrow margins and ideologies. We need a much wider discussion on the controversial subjects that polarize our nation."

Closing out FST's 45th Mainstage Season, *Wednesday's Child* centers on Susan and Martin Merrit, a young couple who are unable to have a child on their own. So they hire a college student, Becca Connor, to serve as their surrogate. When Becca is found dead, a police investigation explodes the lives of everyone who knew her. Just as detectives begin to put the pieces together, secrets surface, alibis weaken, and lies are uncovered.

"In St. Germain's characters, we hear, love, loss, and the prices one must pay for having or not having children, explained Kate Alexander, Director of *Wednesday's Child*. "Never have I witnessed a play in which the women and the men express what it means to try to have a child, and the pathos they experience when the outcome does not fit in with their dreams."

FST has been working with playwright Mark St. Germain for two years to develop *Wednesday's Child*. The play was part of FST's 2018 Richard and Betty Burdick Reading Series, a facet of its New Play Development program, which grants the public a first look at some of the country's top plays in process. After an additional year of development, the play is returning to Sarasota's Contemporary Theatre, this time on the Mainstage. Those who attended the staged reading last May called it "Powerful," "Strong," and "Wonderful."

"*Wednesday's Child* owes its existence to Florida Studio Theatre," shared St. Germain. "There have been many readings over several years. I think it has gotten better with each reading, and the audience's input in discussions following each one has been very helpful."

Mark St. Germain is a member of FST's Playwrights Collective and has authored more than 15 plays and musicals that have been produced across the country. FST has produced six of St. Germain's plays and was instrumental in the development of his works, *Relativity* and *Dancing Lessons*. St. Germain has worked in television and film, and wrote the award-winning children's book *Three Cups*. He is an Associate Artist at Barrington Stage Company in Massachusetts, and received the William Inge Festival New Voices Award in 2001.

-MORE-

Bringing St. Germain's words to life is a strong ensemble of FST newcomers as well as some familiar faces. Returning to the Gompertz Mainstage are Brooke Benson as Becca Connor (*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*), Rachel Moulton as Susan Merrit (*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Honor Killing, Heisenberg*), and Alicia Taylor Tomasko as Detective Aleece Valez (*Native Gardens*).

New to Florida Studio Theatre are Susann Fletcher as lawyer Molly Strutt, Duke Lafoon as archaeologist Martin Merrit, Heather Michele Lawler as Professor Sam Sutton, and David Smilow as Detective Walt Dixon. Fletcher has been seen on Broadway and on tour in *The Full Monty*, and played Dolly Tate in the first national tour of *Annie Get Your Gun*, for which she was nominated for a National Theatre Broadway Award. Lafoon recently starred as Bruce in Virginia Rep's production of *Fun Home*, Howie in Cadence Theatre's *Rabbit Hole*, and Goodspeed Musicals' *A Wonderful Life*. Lawler was featured in Unicorn Theatre's production of *Stupid F*cking Bird*, Goneril in *King Lear* at Kansas City Actors Theatre, and Marianne in *Sense and Sensibility* at Crooked Path Theatre. Smilow is an actor and a writer that has taken on Heisenberg in *Copenhagen*, Aleksandr Vladimirovich Serebryakov in *Uncle Vanya*, and Orgon in *Tartuffe*.

Wednesday's Child concludes FST's 45th Winter Mainstage Season, and begins April 3 in FST's Gompertz Theatre. Single tickets can be purchased at (941) 366-9000 or at 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 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 Goldstein Cabaret, the renovated Gompertz Theatre, 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 and CEO, 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.

###