



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lydia Baxter  
Public Relations Associate  
(941) 366 – 9017 ext. 338  
lbaxter@floridastudiotheatre.org  
DATE: January 9, 2019

## IMPROVISED MUSICAL AND FAN FAVORITE TAKE THE FST IMPROV STAGE

(Sarasota, FL) –Florida Studio Theatre (FST)'s winter Improv season kicks off with *FST Improv Presents: When X Meets Y*, an improvised musical inspired by a location suggested by the audience and three random notes on the keyboard. In this show, FST Improv cast members weave a story of love, heartbreak, drama, and destiny infused with music and comedy. Previously performed as isolated holiday-themed performances, this is the first time that *When X Meets Y* is getting its own full multi-week run. *FST Improv Presents: When X Meets Y* will run every Saturday in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre beginning January 12 through February 16.

For the last three years, special performances of this improvised musical have played to sold-out audiences. "Since we first started to run *When X Meets Y* in 2015, our audiences have been positive about the longer-form improvised musical and have constantly asked us to do it more often," explained FST's Director of Improv, Will Luera. "Over time, we added performances [of *When X Meets Y*] throughout the year, so eventually, we felt that it would be a natural evolution for the show to get its own run. Unlike our holiday versions of the show, these performances will return to the show's roots and tell the story of two people meeting for the first time and falling in love."

Following the six-week run of *When X Meets Y*, *FST Improv Presents: Life's a Beach* celebrates and lampoons what makes Sarasota unique—its abundance of roundabouts, influx of snowbirds, and never-ending construction of new condos. An audience favorite, this short-form, revue-style show features improvised sketches, musicals, and classic improv games. The cast pokes fun at what makes Sarasota one-of-a-kind by using audience suggestions, demonstrating to audiences why life is 'just a beach.' *FST Improv Presents: Life's a Beach* will run every Saturday in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre from February 23 through April 6.

Back for another season of hilarity are returning cast members: Christine Alexander, Kevin Allen, Jason Cannon, Andrew Deeb, Chris Friday, Sergei Glushonkov, Patrick A. Jackson, Joey James, Darryl Knapp, Emily Levin, Denee Lortz, Will Luera, Michelle Neal, Joey Panek, Sal Piccolo, Jim Prosser, Adam Ratner, Elise Rodriguez, Natasha Samreny, and Anna Weatherwax.

FST's Winter Improv Season features a brand new show, *When X Meets Y*, and brings back an audience favorite, *Life's a Beach*. All performances take place on Saturdays in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre with doors opening one hour before show time. Full menu and bar are available. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased from the FST Box Office at (941) 366-9000, or online at [floridastudiotheatre.org](http://floridastudiotheatre.org).

-MORE-

### 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.

### ABOUT FST IMPROV

Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, FST Improv was founded in 2001 by Rebecca Hopkins, who had the vision of growing the art form in Sarasota. FST Improv is part of FST's Stage III Series dedicated to presenting work that is challenging in content and unique in form. FST is also home to the Annual Sarasota Improv Festival, which brings the top improv troupes from all over the world to Sarasota for a whirlwind weekend of laughter. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sarasota Improv Festival is scheduled to take place July 2019. In 2014, former ImprovBoston Artistic Director Will Luera was hired as FST's Director of Improvisation, and currently leads its artistic and education programs.

###