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DATE: July 7, 2023

FST PRESENTS KEN LUDWIG’S A COMEDY OF TENORS,
AN UPROARIOUS RIDE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITIES, LOVE
AFFAIRS, AND OPENING NIGHT CHAOS

(Sarasota, FL) — Florida Studio Theatre (FST) is proud to present Ken Ludwig’s A Comedy of Tenors, an over-the-top comedy full of mistaken identities, blissful romance, and madcap delight. It is 1930s Paris and the stage is set for “the concert of the century,” where the world’s top three tenors are going to deliver a once-in-a-lifetime performance. But love affairs, humorous mix-ups, and opening night chaos have producer Henry Saunders ready to try just about anything to ensure that the show goes on. Called “Astoundingly good” and “Glorious” by DC Theatre Scene, A Comedy of Tenors begins playing August 2 in FST’s Gompertz Theatre.

A Comedy of Tenors is part of a three-show subscription package. Also included in the Summer Mainstage subscription package is the comedic murder mystery Shear Madness and the uplifting historical drama, Black Pearl Sings!. Subscriptions for all three Summer Mainstage shows can be purchased for as little as $49, and single tickets for A Comedy of Tenors range from $25-39. Subscriptions and single tickets are on sale at FloridaStudioTheatre.org or at 941.366.9000.

“Ken Ludwig is one of the few playwrights today who can write a really good, funny, and smart comedy,” said FST’s Producing Artistic Director Richard Hopkins. “He writes intelligent, character-driven comedies that also make you care about the people onstage. A Comedy of Tenors has just the right tone and rhythm to it, which is difficult to accomplish.”

A Comedy of Tenors features some of Ludwig’s most popular characters from his Tony Award-winning hit, Lend Me A Tenor, which garnered massive acclaim from audiences and critics, alike. Directed by Sean Daniels, FST’s Associate Director, this rollicking comedy marks Daniels’ FST Mainstage directorial debut.

“In addition to being hilarious, A Comedy of Tenors is a play about people desperately trying to make amazing art despite being foiled at every turn,” said Daniels. “I hope audiences revel in seeing the lengths that we, as artists, go to in order to put on a show. We deal with all the trials, the personalities, and the hiccups, but when that first giant laugh comes from the audience, it’s all worth it.”

FST’s production of A Comedy of Tenors will be brought to life by an ensemble of seven guest artists, three of whom are making their FST debuts: Andrew Benator, Jennifer Cody, and Aaron Muñoz.

Benator plays Henry Saunders, an opera producer tasked with keeping Italian superstar Tito Merelli and his hot-blooded wife, Maria, from causing utter chaos. Benator has performed in more than two dozen productions at regional theatres across the country. Cody plays Maria, Merelli’s passionate and
outspoken wife, a role she has played twice before—earlier this year at Riverside Theatre and in 2017 at Pioneer Theatre Company. Cody is probably best known for voicing the character of Charlotte La Bouff in The Princess and the Frog. Muñoz plays Tito Merelli, the world’s most renowned opera tenor and an infamous womanizer. Muñoz has extensive theatre, film, and television credits, including recurring roles on Stranger Things and Chicago Fire.

**Lucy Lavelly** (Babel, The Last Match), **Michael Perrie Jr.** (Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, The Last Match), **Alanna Smith** (Smoke & Mirrors), and **Hank Von Kolnitz** (New York State of Mind: All the Hits of Billy Joel With The Uptown Boys) all return to FST for A Comedy of Tenors. Lavelly plays Racon, a fierce and fiery Russian soprano and Tito’s former lover. Perrie Jr. plays Max, the former assistant to Henry Saunders and an up-and-coming tenor. Smith plays Mimi, the Merellis’ daughter and a young actress looking for her big break—a role she played at Walnut Street Theatre in 2019. Von Kolnitz plays Carlo Nucci, Mimi’s love interest who also has some awkward run-ins with Tito and Maria Merelli.

The production’s creative team includes **Isabel A. Curley-Clay and Moriah Curley-Clay** (Scenic Design), **Daniel Ciba** (Costume Design), **Suzie Sajec** (Costume Coordination), **Michael Pasquini** (Lighting Design), and **Louis Vetter Torres** (Sound Design).

FST’s production of A Comedy of Tenors 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 Gulf Coast Community Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, and Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues.

**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 200,000 live attendees each year across its diverse programs: Mainstage, Cabaret, Stage III, Children’s Theatre, The FST School, New Play Development, and FST Improv.

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 where everyone is welcome to engage in the art of theatre.

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