FST EXTENDS COMEDIC WHODUNIT, SHEAR MADNESS, FOR A FOURTH AND FINAL TIME

(Sarasota, FL) — Due to overwhelming audience demand, Florida Studio Theatre (FST) announces the fourth and final extension of its hit Summer Mainstage production of Shear Madness. Critics write that FST’s production is “A delight” and “Keeps the laughs coming” (Sarasota Herald-Tribune), saying “It would be madness to miss FST’s Shear Madness” (Venice Gondolier-Sun). Written by Paul Pörnter, Shear Madness is a comedic whodunit where the audience helps solve the crime. FST’s production of Shear Madness will now run in FST’s Gompertz Theatre through July 16, 2023 and must close on this date. Tickets are now on sale at FloridaStudioTheatre.org or 941.366.9000.

“When I first saw Shear Madness in Boston, I really fell in love with the show,” said Richard Hopkins, FST’s Producing Artistic Director. “It’s been delightful to see Sarasota audiences fall in love with the show as well. This is exactly the type of uplifting comedy that we need this time of year.”

Audiences are raving about FST’s production of Shear Madness, calling it “Exceptional,” “Truly entertaining,” and “Hilarious!!! Spontaneously witty and terrific.” Audience member Jessie R. said, “I have seen Shear Madness two times before, but some time ago. FST’s production was fresh, funny, and felt like the first time all over again. The energy and ensemble feel of the cast was truly contagious.”

Shear Madness is set in a local Sarasota hair salon, where everything is going smoothly—until the old lady living above the salon is mysteriously “offed.” Suddenly, everyone inside becomes a suspect. Two detectives arrive and work with the audience to solve the clues, question the suspects, and identify the killer. Since the audience votes on who they think is the lead suspect and the outcome of their vote changes every night, no two performances of Shear Madness are the same. Improvisation also plays a key role in the show, keeping the play fresh and exciting for both new and returning audiences, alike.

FST’s production of this popular whodunit features a six-person cast, including three Shear Madness veterans. Danny Bernardy (Alabama Story, 2016), Gil Brady (The Play That Goes Wrong and Laughing Matters, 2022), and Lisa McMillan (Perfect Wedding, 2012) have each been in multiple previous productions of Shear Madness. Shaun Memmel and Luis E. Rivera appeared in The Straz Center’s production of the comedy this spring and are making their FST debuts with Shear Madness. This marks Gina Milo’s first time appearing in Shear Madness and at FST. Previously, she has performed at the Engeman Theater, Drury Lane Theatre, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, and Pioneer Theater.

The production’s creative team includes Bruce Jordan (Director), Gil Brady (Assistant Director), Isabel A. Curley-Clay and Moriah Curley-Clay (Scenic Design), Suzie Sajec (Costume Coordination), Andrew Gray (Lighting Design), and Thom Korp (Sound Design).
Due to audience demand, FST’s production of Shear Madness has been held over by four additional weeks and must close on July 16, 2023.

FST’s production of Shear Madness 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. Thank you to our media sponsor, Herald-Tribune Media Group.

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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