

**Florida
studio
theatre**

Richard Hopkins
Producing Artistic Director

Stage III Playbill



**SHUBERT
FOUNDATION** INC.

Herald-Tribune

LOCALIQ

ADVICE

By Brent Askari

CAST

RonJames Evans*
JoyAmanda Kristin Nichols*
Gary Patrick Noonan*

Directed by
Nancy Rominger

Scenic Designer

Casey Seiler

Costume Designer

Rossitza Lovetcheva

Lighting Designer

Kate Landry

Sound Designer

Naomi Marin

Stage Manager: Charlotte Perez*

Stage Management Intern: Amoreena Tillman

Platinum Underwriters

Gaele Barthold, Wendy & Bob Grady, Dennis & Graci McGillicuddy
Patrick & Mary Mulva, Anne H.S. Nethercott

Underwriters

Ed & Judy Christian, Carol B. Williams

Co-Producers

Doug & Kathy Engebretson, Cecy & Pat McKeough, Lois Stulberg

Advice was part of Florida Studio Theatre's 2023 New Play Festival.

Advice was a finalist in the 2024 New Comedies Festival at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento, CA.

CEO/Executive Director Lyndsay Burch.

Permission granted by Stewart Talent 1430 Broadway, Suite 601, New York, NY 10018.

All inquiries concerning rights to the Play shall be addressed to the above.

Advice is produced at Florida Studio Theatre as part of a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere. Other Partner Theaters are B Street Theatre in Sacramento, CA and Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers, FL.

For more information, please visit nnpn.org

* Denotes member Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

ROLLING WORLD PREMIERE
National New Play Network



ARTIST PROFILES



JAMES EVANS

(Ron) Previous theater credits include: *A Night in November* (Florida Studio Theatre); *The Rat Trap* (New York City Center); *The Woman in Black* (The McKittrick Hotel

and American Conservatory Theater); *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Rewards of Being Frank* (Cincinnati Shakespeare Company); *Pride and Prejudice* (Tantrum Theater); *The 39 Steps* (Colonial Theatre). TV credits include: *The Food That Built America*, *Empires of Excess*, and *The Mega-Brands That Built America*. MA from the University of Cambridge and AA from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. jamesevansactor.com



AMANDA KRISTIN NICHOLS

(Joy) is thrilled and grateful to be making her FST debut! Theater credits include *Noises Off* at Bucks County Playhouse, *Let There Be Love* at Penguin Rep, *Three Sisters* at The Sheen Center, *Shakespeare's R+J* at The Hangar Theater, and *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* at Bay Street Theater. Film/TV includes *Kaleidoscope* on Netflix, *New Amsterdam* and *Law & Order:OC* on NBC, and *The Sinner* on USA.



PATRICK NOONAN

(Gary) is excited to be back at FST where he performed in a couple of his favorite productions including *Spamalot* (King Arthur) and *Irma Vep*. A proud veteran of the

longest running non-musical in America, he has starred in over 4,000 performances of *Shear Madness* in several cities across the country including Washington DC's Kennedy Center and the entirety of the OFF-Broadway

run. TV credits include: *Succession*, *FBI*, *Bull*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Last O.G.*, *Raising Kanan*, *Akwafina Is Nora From Queens*, *The Good Fight*, *The Blacklist*, *Several Law And Orders*, *The Sinner*, *Mindhunter*, *Friends From College*. Films Include: *West Side Story* (2021), *The Post*, *The Princess Diaries*, *Eileen*, and *Jules*.

NANCY ROMINGER

(Director) joins Florida Studio Theatre after an impressive 12 seasons at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, where she served as Associate Artistic Director and Director of the Southern Writers' Project, ASF's celebrated new play development program. During her tenure, Nancy oversaw the development of 42 new American plays and musicals, 14 of which received world premiere productions at ASF before earning critical acclaim at regional theatres nationwide.

As a director, Nancy's credits span a range of classics and contemporary works, including *The Tempest*, *The 39 Steps*, *A Christmas Carol*, *King O' the Moon*, and *Charlotte's Web*. She also helmed world premieres such as *Twenty Seven*, *The Furniture of Home*, *Dauphin Island*, and *The Fall of the House*. Under her leadership, the Southern Writers' Project fostered the creation of numerous celebrated works, including *Alabama Story* by Kenneth Jones and *In the Book Of* by John Walch—both of which have been featured on FST's stages.

CASEY SEILER

(Scenic Designer) is the Assistant Technical Director at FST. He is a Florida native and has worked with the Patel Conservatory at the Straz Center as a set designer, builder, and painter on shows such as *Madagascar*, *Jungle Book*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *Singin' in the Rain*. In addition to his work with the Patel Conservatory, Casey has worked as an Entertainment Technician at Legoland Florida.

ARTIST PROFILES

ROSSITZA LOVETCHEVA

(Costume Designer) Rossitza has recently joined FST as a costume shop assistant. Before that, she worked with Disney on Ice, Sarasota Opera, Opera Orlando, Orlando Ballet, and Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando, FL. Rossitza studied textile and apparel design and technology in her native country, Bulgaria. Additionally, she holds an MBA in business management and a Bachelor of Science in finance from the State University of New York (SUNY). FST: *Aesop's Fables* and *Deck The Halls*.

KATE LANDRY

(Lighting Designer) Graduated from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she received her B.A. in technical theatre. She designed locally around Louisiana before coming to intern at Florida Studio Theatre. Her credits include *Aesop's Fables* (FST), *Deck The Halls* (FST), *Heathers* (LSU), *Matilda the Musical* (Ascension Community Theatre), and *Steel Magnolias* (Baton Rouge Theatre). She is extremely excited to create here at FST!

NAOMI MARIN

(Sound Designer) is a recent graduate of Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, where she got her B.A. in theatrical design. Originally from Columbia, Maryland, she has been involved in theater since her freshman year of high school and is beyond excited to be at FST. Her FST credits include *Aesop's Fables*, *Red Riding Hood*, *Deck the Halls*, *We're Doomed*, *Out of Bounds*, *Treble in Paradise*, *A Night in November*, and *The White Chip*.

CHARLOTTE PEREZ

(Stage Manager) is an alum of Miami University (OH) with a BA in Theatre and is excited to be back at FST! Previous FST Stage Management credits include *Waitress*, *The Outsider*, *The Flip Side*, *Little Shop of Horrors*,

and *Red Riding Hood*. Other notable credits include *The Wizard of Oz*, *Forever Plaid*, and *Beehive* (Cedar Summerstock Theatre).

AMOREENA TILLMAN

(Stage Management Intern) is a recent graduate of Florida State University with a B.A. in Theatre and emphasis in Stage Management. While at FSU, she worked as both a Stage Manager and run crew on plays and musicals including *9 to 5*, *Bulrushers*, and *R & H's Cinderella*. Previous FST credits: *Deck the Halls* and *Waitress*.

BRENT ASKARI

(Playwright) is thrilled FST is part of the Rolling World Premiere of *Advice*. Some other plays include *Andy Warhol In Iran*, voted Best New Play by the Berkshire Theatre Critics and produced nationwide; *The Refugees*, recipient of the Smith Prize for Political Theatre (world premiere at Gulfshore Playhouse); and *Hard Cell* (world premiere at Geva Theatre Center). He was part of HBO's New Writers Project and has written screenplays for Paramount, Marvel, and MTV.

NATIONAL NEW PLAY NETWORK

NNPN is an alliance of professional theaters that collaborate in innovative ways to develop, produce, and extend the life of new plays. NNPN envisions a robust, equitable, and inclusive new play ecology that reflects a broad range of aesthetics, and strives to pioneer, implement, and disseminate ideas and programs that revolutionize the way theaters and audiences encounter new work. Since its founding in 1998, National New Play Network has grown into a vital force for new work in the American theater, serving over 110+ Member Theaters as well as artists and audiences around the world. NNPN's National Showcase of New Plays, initially presented in 2002, was the Network's first program aimed at creating a new play pipeline that spanned the US. In

ARTIST PROFILES

2004, NNPN launched the pilot of what has become its paradigm-shifting Rolling World Premiere program. As NNPN's membership, funding, and programmatic offerings have grown, emergent innovations include season-long Residencies within Member Theaters for rising administrative leaders, a dedicated fund for theater-makers working to develop new plays across institutions, and more. The New Play Exchange®, launched in 2015, is the world's largest online library of scripts by living writers, and features unprecedented

opportunities for direct connection among playwrights, readers, and producers. NNPN's current Strategic Plan centers its commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The Network's dedication to new plays remains the center of its work, but the future NNPN envisions is one that is robust, inclusive, and equitable for all theater-makers and audience members.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

RICHARD HOPKINS

(Producing Artistic Director and CEO of Florida Studio Theatre). Mr. Hopkins has fostered the development of FST's Mainstage and Cabaret productions. His many Mainstage directing credits include: *The Cancellation of Lauren Fein*, *The Lehman Trilogy*, *Network*, *Sophie Tucker: The Last of the Red Hot Mamas*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Honor Killing*, *Inspired Lunacy*, *The Best of Enemies*, *Next to Normal*, *Race*, *Ruined*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Boleros for the Disenchanted*, *Permanent Collection*, and *Metamorphoses*, among numerous other plays. This season, he served on the development teams for *Off The Charts*, *59th Street Bridge*, and *Divas: Time After Time*. Mr. Hopkins led the development of FST's past Cabaret productions of *Take It To The Limit*, *Reel Music*, *The Wanderers*, *Outlaws and Angels*, *Guitar Girls*, *Mack the Knife*, *Older than Dirt*, *Piano Men*, and *The Prima Donnettes*. Mr. Hopkins also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Florida Studio Theatre. This includes overseeing the creation and implementation of all FST programming, including Mainstage, Cabaret, Stage III, New Play Development, Education, and Touring. Since his arrival at FST

in 1980, Mr. Hopkins has guided the theatre from a small touring company to a nationally recognized regional theatre, which impacts over 220,000 adults and children annually. He created the New Play Development program, the Cabaret Series, FST's award-winning WRITE A PLAY program, and has directed the design and renovation of all FST's theatres. Mr. Hopkins has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has served as a Theatre Specialist for the U.S. Department of State to Cairo and Amman, and taught at the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Clown College. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Arts Leadership Award from the former Sarasota Arts Council, the Richard G. Fallon Award for Artistic Excellence from the Florida Professional Theatres Association, and the 2012 Cultural Champion Award from the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County. In 2016, Mr. Hopkins was awarded the Luminaire Award, honoring excellence in creativity, philanthropy, advocacy, and all elements that are key to future growth of the arts in Sarasota. In 2017, Mr. Hopkins was awarded the Florida Theatre Conference Lifetime Achievement Award for contributing to the

EXECUTIVE STAFF

rich cultural fabric of the Sarasota community and the state of Florida, and his dedication to developing future artists, educators, and advocates.

REBECCA HOPKINS

(Managing Director and Chief Operations Officer). Mrs. Hopkins is responsible for oversight of FST's Administration, including the Business Office, Development, Marketing, Box Office, Front of House, Restaurant, Budgeting, and maintaining the overall quality of FST's internal management. Mrs. Hopkins is Vice President of the League of Resident Theatres and Executive Board Member of the Sarasota Arts & Cultural Alliance. She is also a former Board Member of the Theatre Communications Group and former President of the National New Play

Network. Mrs. Hopkins has been actively involved in development of FST's Cabaret productions since her arrival in 1998. She has served as Lead Developer for *59th Street Bridge*, *Off The Charts*, *Up On The Roof*, *Reel Music*, *The '70s: More Than A Decade*, and others. In addition, she is the Founder and Producer of FST Improv and the Sarasota Improv Festival. In 2012, the Arts & Cultural Alliance awarded Mrs. Hopkins the Cultural Champion Award in recognition of her many years of accomplishment and growth with Florida Studio Theatre. In 2016, Mrs. Hopkins was awarded the Luminaire Award, honoring excellence in creativity, philanthropy, advocacy, and all elements that are keys to future growth of the arts in Sarasota.

PLATINUM UNDERWRITERS

GAELE BARTHOLD

FST is family and an integral part of my life. Its quality and diverse stage productions at affordable prices are a model of theatrical excellence. Educational programs for adults and children, community forums, and a strong commitment to New Play Development makes FST a gem that warrants our widespread financial and artistic support. I am proud to serve on FST's board and to support it financially and otherwise.

WENDY & BOB GRADY

Now, more than ever, we need a place where people can forget, even for the moment, and enjoy the company of others while being entertained. Staffed by dedicated and caring people; staged by the most creative and talented people, and committed to bringing the theatre to as many people as possible, FST fulfills the need. That's why we Underwrite all of the season programs and especially the

children's programs - because the earlier they learn what the theatre teaches, the better our world will be.

DENNIS & GRACI MCGILLICUDDY

FST is important to us because we believe so strongly in the transformative power of the arts. For more than 35 years now, we have experienced first-hand how that transformative power works its magic in the hands of an organization that is so highly skilled in their craft. The values of the theatre and its leadership are reflected in its mission and manifested in its work. It has been and continues to be such a privilege to be supportive of FST and the meaningful & wonderful impact the theatre has on our community.

PATRICK & MARY MULVA

FST continues to provide challenging, thought-provoking, and always entertaining performances for a wide range of audiences.

PLATINUM UNDERWRITERS

We are so fortunate to have such quality theatre here in our community. We hope you enjoy this performance and many others this season.

ANNE H.S. NETHERCOTT (1926-2019) ★

When asked to define giving, Anne said: "My mother used to say the best way to find you is to lose yourself, by focusing on the needs of

others rather than on oneself." So giving has always been an important family value, which in childhood was reinforced by the community experience of surviving The Depression. Anne was proud to be a supporter of FST.

★ Recognizes our Legacy Underwriters & Legacy Co-Producers for their commitment to the Art of FST, establishing an endowed fund to support cherished programs for many years to come.

UNDERWRITERS

ED & JUDY CHRISTIAN

Ed's passion for the theatre lives on in the Christian family's continued support of Florida Studio Theatre. FST sets the mark and excels in invariably producing a high-level, quality theatre experience. No doubt about it, FST is a strong part of the fabric that makes Sarasota the stand-out community that it is. Please join with us and other donors to ensure that FST will grow and continually challenge us with great theatre and entertainment on all levels.

CAROL B. WILLIAMS

Although I enjoy most theatrical genres, I am particularly drawn to the cutting-edge plays that make one think or that take a different slant on an issue. I am pleased that FST has launched another Stage III season of these works for our enjoyment and edification. Supporting this innovative and community-oriented organization is a joy for me.

CO-PRODUCERS

DOUG & KATHY ENGBRETSON

When we lived in Western Massachusetts, theatre was important to us. Retiring here, we have enjoyed the variety of FST shows, and thought this was a good time to increase our commitment to this special place. Giving to the theatre reinforced our interest and appreciation of FST's mission of producing entertainment that is accessible to a large segment of our population. We are happy to be able to support this place we now call home.

PAT & CECY MCKEOUGH

We were delighted to discover FST. It offered plays that we enjoyed as much or more than comparable productions in our home city

Toronto, and even New York City. We've since become acquainted with Richard, Rebecca, and a number of FST team members. They are an extraordinary group of individuals. We are awestruck at the quality and consistency of the performances they put on every season. FST, all we can say is "Bravo!" and "Thanks!"

LOIS STULBERG

I love FST, and I love the Sarasota Arts Community. Stage III is a personal favorite; I am so impressed with Kate Alexander, the Artistic team and the staff of FST. It's all grown so much since I first started attending, decades ago. I always look forward to seeing the shows, and am happy to support wherever I can.

FST COMPANY

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EXECUTIVE STAFF

Producing Artistic Director.....	Richard Hopkins
Managing Director.....	Rebecca Hopkins

ARTISTIC STAFF

Associate Director At-Large.....	Kate Alexander
Resident Pianist.....	Jim Prosser
Associate Artist/Literary Manager.....	Catherine Randazzo
Associate Artist.....	Ben Liebert
Associate Artist.....	Nancy Rominger
Casting and Hiring Coordinator.....	Hershey Vazquez Millner
Assistant to the Artistic Director.....	Doris Lemolo
Improv Manager & Resident Artist.....	Sarah Durham

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Production.....	Ahkim Church
Associate Production Manager.....	Allison Hannon
Production Stage Manager.....	Shira Lebovich
Stage Manager.....	Emilia Ciotti Hernández
Stage Manager.....	Charlotte Perez
Costume Shop Manager.....	Chelsea Allen
Costume Shop Assistant.....	Rossitza Lovtcheva
Lighting Supervisor.....	Andrew Gray
Technical Director.....	Andrew Patton
Assistant Technical Director.....	Casey Seiler
Properties & Paint Supervisor.....	Sarah DeSmith
Sound Supervisor.....	Nicholas Christensen
Company Manager.....	Julie Wells

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Director of IT.....	Clarke Weigle
Director of Finance.....	Jacinta Kavanaugh
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Management Assistant.....	Korinna Perez-Nunez
Receptionist/Volunteer Coordinator.....	Joan O'Dowd
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Grant Writer.....	Abby Jimison
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Development Assistant.....	Noah Sieg
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Asst. Box Office Manager.....	Austin Howeth
Asst. Box Office Manager.....	Karla Mendez
Box Office Supervisor.....	Gigi Delpero
Restaurant Manager.....	Tom Curry
Restaurant Manager.....	Karen Price
Restaurant Manager.....	Pamela Dillon
Kitchen Manager.....	Steve Swan
Mailroom Technician.....	Ryan Stanley

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Facilities Manager.....	James Handley
Senior Facilities Technician.....	Seni Ok
Facilities Assistant.....	Luke Johnson
Maintenance Technician.....	Todd Bechtel
Cleaner.....	Loida Mata

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Children's Theatre Associate.....	Kacy Jones
Director of Education/Associate Artist.....	Rachel Moulton
Education Administrator.....	Pamela Smith
Teaching Artist.....	David Stein

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Robert Grady	Frank Malickson	Martin Taffel
Wendy Grady	Matty Matheson	

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Trevor Harvey	Charles Shaw
Gilbert King	Howard Tevlowitz
Michele D. Redwine	Honorable Charles Williams
Dr. Eddy Regnier	Rose Chapman
Renée James Gilmore	
The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee	

OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

House Counsel.....	Michael E. Siegel
.....	Shutts & Bowen LLP

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Acting Apprentice.....	David Allsup
Acting Apprentice.....	Stokeley Ellison
Acting Apprentice.....	Hannah Habisreitinger
Acting Apprentice.....	Nick James
Acting Apprentice.....	Tilley Jane
Acting Apprentice.....	Destinee Johnson
Acting Apprentice.....	Ava Mastrone
Acting Apprentice.....	Julia Ruggirello
Acting Apprentice.....	Evan Souza
Acting Apprentice.....	Cory Sweat
Acting Fellow.....	Dellan Short
Artistic Fellow.....	Jakob Harding
Casting & Hiring Intern.....	Mattie E. Hinckley
Children's Theatre & Education Intern.....	Chloe Remaley
General Management Intern.....	Krista Hagans
Lighting Intern.....	Kate Landry
Literary Intern.....	Nicole Crivelli
Literary Intern.....	Tyler Lemley
Literary Intern.....	Gillian Lintz
Literary Intern.....	Artemis Truax
Production Management Fellow.....	Kara Powell
Production Fellow.....	Passion Shaffer
Props & Paint Intern.....	Kirsten Pruitt
Sound Fellow.....	Naomi Marin
Stage Management Fellow.....	Matthew Parvin
Stage Management Intern.....	Nathaniel Avery
Stage Management Intern.....	Colbee Dickson
Stage Management Intern.....	Madison Harosky
Stage Management Intern.....	Tori Martinson
Stage Management Intern.....	Amoreena Tillman