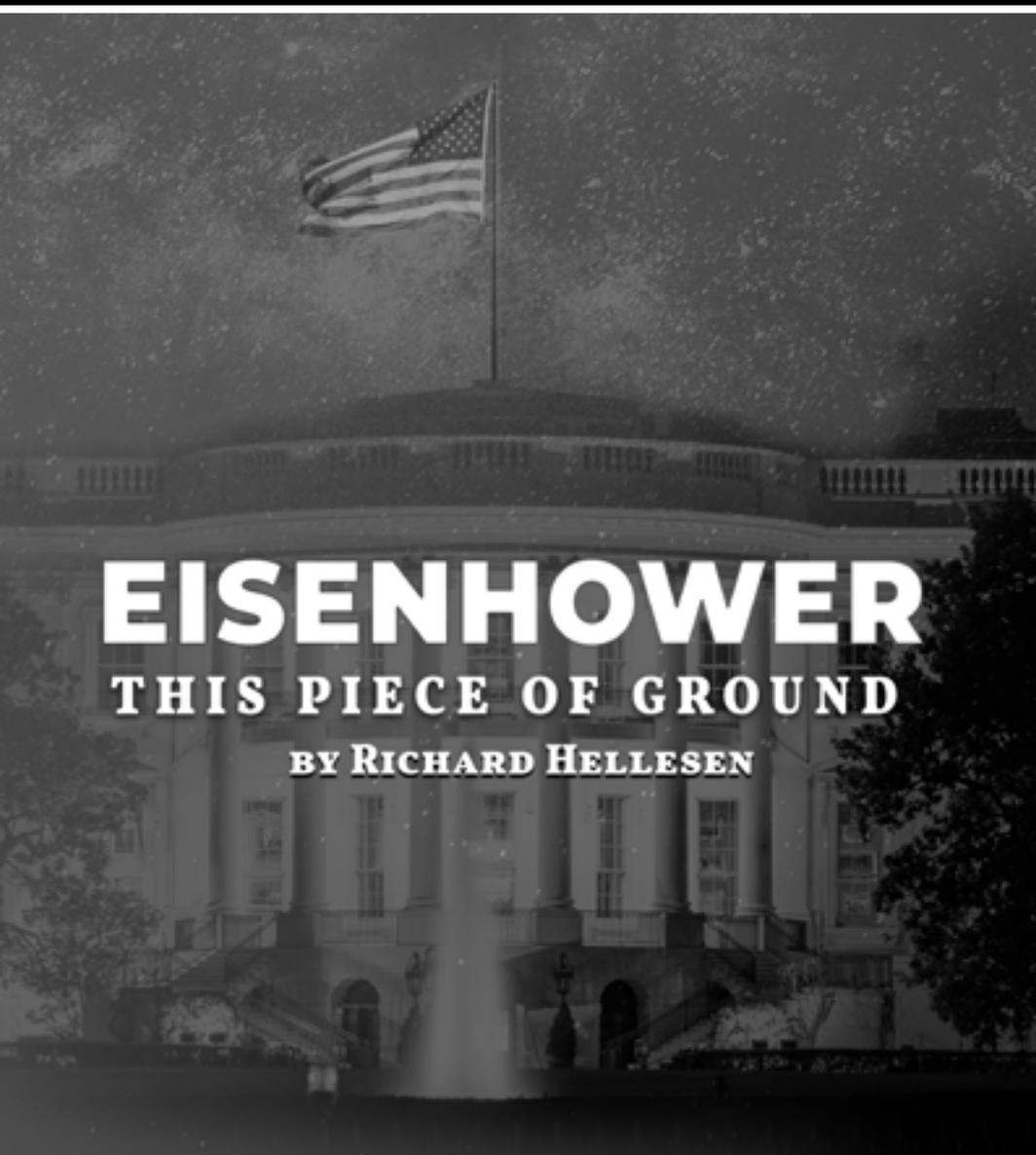


**Florida
studio
theatre**

Richard Hopkins
Producing Artistic Director

Stage III Playbill



EISENHOWER

THIS PIECE OF GROUND

BY RICHARD HELLESEN

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LOCALIQ

EISENHOWER: THIS PIECE OF GROUND

By Richard Helleesen

CAST

EisenhowerRobert Zukerman*

Directed by
Nancy Rominger

Costume Designer
Julia Hornsby

Lighting Designer
Kate Landry

Sound & Projections Designer
Nicholas Ryan

Props Designer
Audrey Smith

Stage Manager: Emilia Hernández Ciotti*

Stage Management Support: Sheila Wallis

Premiere Underwriters

Gaele Barthold, Georgia Court, Wendy & Bob Grady, Dennis & Graci McGillicuddy,
Patrick & Mary Mulva, Anne H.S. Nethercott, * Mary Jo Reston *

Co-Producer

Susan Fromm Shimelman, Alan J. Schottenstein Foundation, Emma Joels

Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground was developed in association with New Los Angeles
Repertory Company (Peter Ellenstein, Producing Artistic Director),
and originally co-produced with and presented at Theatre West, Los Angeles, CA.

Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground is presented through special arrangement with
TRW PLAYS 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036.
www.theatricalrights.com

The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

✦ Recognizes our Gold Circle Underwriters for their commitment to the Art of FST, establishing an endowed fund
to support cherished programs for life.

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



ARTIST PROFILES



ROBERT ZUKERMAN
(Eisenhower) is pleased to return to FST where he played Einstein in *Relativity*. Regional credits include Arena Stage,

Denver Center, Florida Rep, Gable Stage, Pittsburgh Public, and 20 productions at Barrington Stage. Two dozen Off-Broadway productions at Irish Repertory Theatre, Classic Stage Company, Atlantic Theater Company, and others. Television, film, and radio work in New York City. Narration for the Library of Congress; a tour of U.S. Air Force bases for the USO. Trained at London's Guildhall School, he holds a PhD in Theatre History and served as Theatre Program Director for the NY State Council on the Arts.

NANCY ROMINGER

(Director) leads new play development at Florida Studio Theatre, where she champions fresh theatrical voices while directing Mainstage and Stage III productions. She joined FST in 2024 after 12 seasons at Alabama Shakespeare Festival, serving as Associate Artistic Director and Director of the Southern Writers' Project, ASF's celebrated new play development program. There, she oversaw the development of 42 new American plays and musicals, many premiering at ASF before earning critical acclaim at regional theatres nationwide. Her FST credits include *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Dog Mom*, *Shedding a Skin*, and *Advice*.

JULIA HORNSBY

(Costume Designer) is the Costume Intern at FST. They are a recent graduate from University of North Texas with a BFA in Fashion Design. At FST, they designed costumes for *Snow White*, *The Write Stuff* and *Deck the Halls*, as well as worked on other productions like *Lucky Stiff* and *Feeling Good*.

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 *Snow White*, *Deck The Halls*, *Shedding A Skin*, *The Flying Penguin*, *Advice*, *Aesop's Fables*, *Deck The Halls*, *Heathers* (LSU), *Matilda the Musical* (Ascension Community Theatre), and *Steel Magnolias* (Baton Rouge Theatre). She is extremely excited to create here at FST!

NICHOLAS RYAN

(Sound and Projections Designer) is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist and is currently the Sound Intern at FST. They recently graduated from Gettysburg College, where they designed shows including *Broken Mirrors*, *Eurydice*, and *The Ver**zon Play*. The past two summers they've worked as the Education and Cabaret Lighting Design Apprentice at Theatre Aspen and the Assistant Sound Designer at Totem Pole Playhouse respectively. FST sound design credits: *Snow White*, *Deck The Halls* and *The Write Stuff*.

ARTIST PROFILES

AUDREY SMITH

(Props Designer) is currently the Props/Paint Intern at FST. Her FST credits include *Lucky Stiff*, *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Replacement ASM), *Peter Pan* (Props Designer), *Dorothy's Dictionary*, and *Dames at Sea*. Selected educational credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Blood Captain), *Three Sisters* (Deck Crew Head), *Small Mouth Sounds* (Props Supervisor), and *The Wolves* (Props Designer). She is a proud Texas State University alum.

EMILIA CIOTTI HERNÁNDEZ

(Stage Manager) is a New York City native and is excited to be back at FST. Recent credits include *Life and Trust*, an immersive off-Broadway production, *Lucky Stiff*, *Jersey Boys*, *The Heart Sellers* and *Shear Madness* at Florida Studio Theatre (FST). Additional stage management and technical theatre credits include *Les Misérables*, *42nd Street*, *August: Osage County*, *Pippin*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *The Marriage of Figaro*. Emilia thrives on creating seamless productions and fostering collaboration in all her work.

SHEILA WALLIS

(Stage Management Support) is a performer and educator from Mexico, New York, and is ecstatic to join the Florida Studio Theatre family as an Acting Apprentice this year. She graduated from Ithaca College in 2023 with degrees in Theatre Studies and Music. Since then, she has taught playwriting and theatre with the Hangar Theatre and worked as a voice teacher with Flight Performing Arts. FST Credit: *Peter Pan*.

RICHARD HELLESEN (Playwright) is the author of numerous plays for adults and young audiences. The former include *Kingdom* (Denver Center; Stavis Award, National Theatre Conference), *Once In Arden* (South Coast Repertory; Julie Harris Award, Beverly Hills Theatre Guild), *Moonshadow* (numerous regional productions; Dennis McIntyre Award, Philadelphia Festival Theater), and several projects for Ford's Theatre in Washington DC where he is an Associate Artist, including the full-length *Necessary Sacrifices* and the long-running one-act *One Destiny*. His solo show *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground*, starring Tony-winner John Rubinstein, ran off-Broadway in 2023 and was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Solo Performance. With composer David De Berry he wrote the book for a widely-produced musical adaptation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. His two dozen short plays include five finalists for the National Award for Short Playwriting, all produced at City Theatre in Miami (among others). Mr. Hellesen's plays for young audiences include a version of *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* (published by Samuel French), and adaptations of *The Emperor's New Clothes* and Esther Forbes' *Johnny Tremain* (B Street Theatre). With Grammy-winning composer Michael Silversher, he has written a musical adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in The Willows* (South Coast Repertory), as well as eleven Educational Touring musicals for SCR, three of which were subsequently produced at the Sundance Children's Theatre in Utah. A member of the Dramatists Guild, Mr. Hellesen has twice been playwright-in-residence at the William Inge Center for the Arts in Independence, Kansas.

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. Mr. Hopkins serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Florida Studio Theatre. He oversees 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 225,000 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 received 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 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). Under Ms. Hopkins' leadership, FST has grown into one of the largest regional theatres, engaging an audience of 225,000 annually. Ms. Hopkins currently serves as Vice President of the League of Resident Theatres. She is the former President of the National New Play Network and a former board member of Theatre Communications Group. She is a member of the Executive Committee for the Sarasota Cultural Alliance. Ms. Hopkins has been actively involved in the development of FST's Cabaret productions since her arrival in 1998. In addition, she is the Founder of FST Improv and the Sarasota Improv Festival. In 2012, the Arts & Cultural Alliance awarded Ms. Hopkins the Cultural Champion Award in recognition of her many years of accomplishment and growth with Florida Studio Theatre. In 2016, Ms. Hopkins received the Luminaire Award, honoring excellence in creativity, philanthropy, advocacy, and all elements that are keys to future growth of the arts in Sarasota.



We encourage you to take photos before and after the show, and share to social media!

@FloridaStudioTheatre

PREMIERE 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.

GEORGIA COURT I love great theatre and FST delivers that. FST is among the best theatre companies I have seen, but it is more than a theatre company. It is an organization that recognizes it is part of the greater community—and it reaches out to that community in positive, productive ways. As the owner of Bookstore1Sarasota, I have been proud to partner with FST in the creation and celebration of contemporary literary works. Having FST so accessible adds to the joy of living in the fabulous arts community that is Sarasota.

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, 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.

★ Recognizes our Gold Circle members for their commitment to the Art of FST, establishing an endowed fund to support cherished programs for life.

DENNIS & GRACI MCGILLICUDDY FST is important to us because we believe so strongly in the transformative power of the arts. For more than 40 years now, we have experienced first-hand how that 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. 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.

MARY JO RESTON ★ (1937-2024) A devoted supporter of Florida Studio Theatre for nearly two decades, Mary believed deeply in the power of the arts to enrich community life. After retiring to Sarasota in 1999, she became a familiar face at Mainstage and Cabaret performances and quietly demonstrated her commitment through a legacy gift that will sustain the theatre's artistic excellence for generations to come.

CO-PRODUCER

SUSAN FROMM SHIMELMAN Theatre provokes and evokes. Stage III never fails to challenge and question. It is theatre at its best. With minimal sets, effective use of video, simple costuming, talented actors, and challenging scripts, one never fails to leave with more questions than answers. Discussion at dinner following the performance is always lively and charged. Stage III is a gift to Sarasota, and I am privileged to support it.

ALAN J. SCHOTTENSTEIN FOUNDATION We are proud to support FST and lucky to

have such great theatre in Sarasota. FST reaches out to the community and provides wonderful affordable productions at the Broadway level.

EMMA JOELS proudly continues the legacy of her parents, Harold (1931–2016) and Valerie (1933–2025) Joels, longtime supporters of Florida Studio Theatre and the Sarasota arts community. Through her support of Florida Studio Theatre, Emma honors her parents' belief in artistic excellence and accessibility for all, helping to carry forward their lasting impact.

SEE THE REST OF STAGE III
Subscribe & Save as much as 50% over regular single ticket prices.

BEGINS FEB. 4 **GRANDMA GATEWOOD**
TOOK A WALK BY CATHERINE BUSH

BEGINS MAR. 11 **A NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN**
Music and Lyrics by **Janis Joplin**
Book by **Randy Johnson**

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Resident Artist.....	Dellan Short

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Stage Manager.....	Kelli Karen
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Director of Education/Associate Artist.....	Rachel Moulton
Children's Theatre Associate.....	Kacy Jones
Teaching Artist.....	Ava Podewitz
Education Coordinator/Teaching Artist.....	David Stein
Education Administrator.....	Pamela Smith

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Box Office Supervisor.....	Gigi Delpero
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Acting Apprentice.....	Sheila Wallis
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Literary Intern.....	Breanna Jones
Literary Intern.....	Chloe Kummer
Literary Intern.....	Mo de Poortere
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Stage Management Fellow.....	Tori Martinson
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Stage Management Intern.....	Kate Johnson
Stage Management Intern.....	Ashley Nolt
Stage Management Intern.....	Mariana Villarreal
Stage Management Intern.....	Leigh Womack