florida studio theatre

Richard Hopkins
Producing Artistic Director

# Mainstage Playbill

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Sarasota Magazine
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# THE BLUE-SKY BOYS

## by Deborah Brevoort

**CAST** (in order of appearance)

Jed Berman..... Danny Bernardy*
CJ Caldwell..... Johnny Shea*
Vencel von Volp..... Kraig Swartz*
Howard Haggerty.....Patrick Noonan*
Buck Rogers/Dr. James Towers/Tycho Brahe/Icarus..... Greg Balla*
Galileo/The Red Baron/Reporter..... Howard Kaye*
Apollo/Snoopy/Louis Leakey..... Gil Brady*

**Directed by:** Richard Hopkins

**Associate Director**
Kate Alexander

**Assistant to the Director**
Lexy Hatch

**Music Composer**
Jim Prosser

**Scenic Designers**
Isabel & Moriah Curley-Clay

**Costume Designer**
Janice Pytel

**Lighting Designer**
Rob Perry

**Sound Designer**
Nicholas Christensen

**Projections Designer**
Dylan Uremovich

**Choreographer**
Ben Liebert

**Dialect Coach**
Paul Meier

**Specialty Props**
Ian Scheele

**Stage Manager:** Shira Lebovich*
**Stage Management Intern:** Ashley Nolt
**Rehearsal Stage Management Fellow:** Tori Martinson

### Premiere Underwriters

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

### Underwriters

Tom & Loretta Beaumont, Joan & Larry Castellani, The Elster Foundation with Sydney Goldstein, Doug & Kathy Engebretson, Cheryl Gorelick & Jake Ziegler, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Robert & Bonny Israeloff, Carlene Lebous & Harris Haston, Bill & Cynde Mutryn, Muriel O'Neil Fund for the Performing Arts of Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Gail & Skip Sack, John & Mary Lou Toal, Dorothy Waldron, Len & Flo Wilson

### Co-Producers

Les & Carol Brualdi, Joel Cuba, Carol Gilbert & Matty Matheson, Garry & Daureen Gutterman, Jim Meister & Peggy Mederios, Richard & Ellen Sandor Family, Sharon & Garry Snook

*THE BLUE-SKY BOYS was originally commissioned and developed by the Ensemble Studio Theatre/Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science and Technology Project, where it received the Galileo Prize. It was further developed in Playfest at Orlando Shakespeare Theatre. It was first professionally produced by Barter Theatre, Abingdon, Virginia, Richard Rose, Producing Artistic Director. The play received a subsequent production in 2016 at Capital Repertory Theatre, Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill, Producing Artistic Director.*

*THE BLUE-SKY BOYS is presented by special arrangement with the Playwright and Elaine Devlin Literary, Inc., 1115 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10010*

★ *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.*

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

The Designers at this Theatre are Represented by United Scenic Artists - Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

# ARTIST PROFILES

### DANNY BERNARDY

(Jed Berman) is happy to be back at FST. Past credits here include *Shear Madness*, *Alabama Story* (Best Supporting Actor nomination), *Spamalot*, and *The Underpants*. NYC credits include *PEMDAS* (59E59, Edinburgh Stage Award for Excellence in Acting), *Balls* (59E59), *Cougar The Musical* (St. Luke's), and *Clue* (original stage development at Playwrights Horizons), along with works at Cherry Lane, SoHo Playhouse, NY Classical Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop and others. Regional highlights: *My Fair Lady* (Olney Theatre Center), *Maple and Vine* (American Conservatory Theater), and productions at Pioneer Theater Co, Gulfshore Playhouse, Cape Playhouse, Florida Rep among others. Recent TV: *Magnum P.I.* (Maxwell). Carnegie Mellon, BFA. Member: SAG-AFTRA, AEA.

### JOHNNY SHEA

(CJ Caldwell) is honored to be back performing at FST. His favorite performances include *Ugly Lies The Bone* (FST), *American Idiot* (American Stage), *Tick Tick Boom* (Umbrella Arts), *The Last Five Years* (Portland Stage), *Peter Pan* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *Deathless* (Goodspeed Musicals), and *Teeth* (National Alliance for Musical Theatre). He holds a BFA from Ithaca College and is an alumnus of Fiasco Theater's 9WC Program.

### KRAIG SWARTZ

(Vencel von Volp) is happy to return to FST where he previously appeared in *Something Rotten!* (Nostradamus), *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Tracy Mills), *Visit Joe Whitefeather*, *Pictures From Home*. Other FL credits: Asolo Theatre, West Coast Black Theatre, Florida Rep., Gulfshore Playhouse. Off-Broadway: *A Picture of Autumn*, *The Voysey Inheritence*, *The Madras House*, *Donogoo*, (The Mint Theatre), *Tartuffe* (Pearl Theatre), *Jungle Book* (BAM), and the Drama Desk Award-nominated *So Help Me God* (Lucille Lortel). Philadelphia: *Take Me Out* (Barrymore Award), *Fully Committed* (Barrymore Award) and Vanya *in Vanya & Sonia*. . ., all at PTC, and Betty/ Edward in *Cloud 9* (Barrymore nomination) at the Wilma. Chicago: Goodman Theatre, Victory Gardens and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. Other regional credits include: Guthrie Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, Rep./ St. Louis, Pioneer Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Coconut Grove Playhouse, Meadow Brook Theater, Kennedy Center, Caldwell Theatre. Television: *SNL*. Film: *Know How*, *World*, and *Time Enough*.

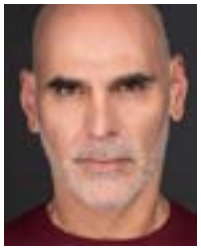
### PATRICK NOONAN

(Howard Haggerty) is snow-birdedly happy to be back at FST where he performed in a few of his favorite productions, including *Advice*, *Spamalot*, and *Irma Vep*. He was last seen on stage in the Fall with the Portland Stage Company in *Dirty Deeds Downeast*. 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. Other notable stage credits include: *Hard Cell* (GEVA Theatre), *The Odd Couple* (Cape Playhouse), and *On Golden Pond* (Florida Rep). 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*.

# ARTIST PROFILES

**GREG BALLA**

(Buck Rogers/Dr. James Towers/Tycho Brahe/ Icarus) is thrilled to be returning to FST after appearing in *The Cottage*. Select credits include: *Clue*, 1st Nat. Tour, off Broadway: *Straight*, *Blue Man Group*. Regional: La Jolla, Hartford Stage, Huntington, Pioneer Theatre, John Drew, Lyric Stage. TV/ Film: *The Watcher* (Netflix) *The Blacklist* (NBC) *The Penguin* (HBO Max), *No Hard Feelings* (Sony Pictures). imGregBalla.com.



**HOWARD KAYE**

(Galileo/The Red Baron/ Reporter) FST: *The Lehman Trilogy*, *The Cancellation of Lauren Fein* and *Tom Jones*. He has appeared on Broadway, off-Broadway, National Tours and 20 Regional theaters. He was the Broadway Guest Artist for Disney Cruise Lines and made his equity debut in *Peter Pan*, flying opposite Sandy Duncan, at the tender age of 12. Broadway World nominated him for outstanding performance by an actor in a supporting role for *The Da Vinci Code*. When not acting, Howie owns a bar in NYC called Dive106. Juilliard Drama Grad.

**GIL BRADY**

(Apollo/Snoopy/Louis Leakey) is so happy to be back and working with so many great friends and colleagues! FST: *Don't Dress For Dinner*, *The Outsider*, *Pictures From Home*, *Shear Madness*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and *Outside Mullingar*. Off-Broadway: *Sideways* (Theatre at St. Clements), *Shear Madness* (Davenport Theatre), and *National Pastime* (Playwrights Horizons). National Tours: *White Christmas*, *Annie*. Selected Regional: *Baskerville* (Syracuse Stage); *Mamma Mia!* (Capital Rep -Berkshire Theatre Award Nomination); *The Sound of Music* (Alabama Shakespeare); *The Addams Family* (Gateway Playhouse). TV: *My Sordid Affair...* (Lifetime Movie Network), *Law and Order: SVU*. Gil-Brady.com

**RICHARD HOPKINS** (Director, 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 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 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.

# ARTIST PROFILES

**KATE ALEXANDER** (Associate Director) is the Associate Director At-Large of FST and the Founder of the FST Theatre School with its acting method of training. Ms. Alexander has directed numerous productions and premieres on the FST stages, including, but not limited to: *A Tailor Near Me*, *Bad Books*; *The Heart Sellers*; *The Outsider*; *Troubadour*; *Pictures From Home*; *Black Pearl Sings!*; *The Last Match*; *What the Constitution Means to Me; Maytag Virgin; The Legend of Georgia McBride; America in One Room; Bright Star; Ethel Waters: His Eye is on the Sparrow; Wednesday's Child; Cherry Docs; Straight White Men; Always...Patsy Cline; The Things They Carried; Native Gardens; Heisenberg; The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey;* and *brownsville song (b-side for tray)*. Ms. Alexander has also been a resident actress for over 25 years. Some of her leading roles were in the plays: *Edward Albee's The Goat; Filumena; Master Class; Edward Albee's Three Tall Women; The Occupant; The Play About the Baby; Golda's Balcony*; and *Taking Shakespeare*. Ms. Alexander is the recipient of numerous acting, directing, and public service awards, including FAER, She Knows Where She's Going Award (Girls, Inc.), The Woman of Light Award, National Council of Jewish Women Award, The Woman of Power Award, the Sarasota County Arts Leadership Award, Education Award, Sarasota Manatee Jewish Federation, The Unity Award, and, most recently, the Suncoast Woman of Action Award. Ms. Alexander leads the FST Forums Series and developed the Blue Butterfly Theatre Program, a program for teens suffering from grief or loss. She created the Art of The Gesture program at Ringling College of Animation and is the co-author of *The Animated Short* with Karen Sullivan, now in its 2nd edition.

**LEXY HATCH** (Assistant to the Director) is the current FST Casting & Hiring Fellow and a recent graduate of Indiana University, where she studied Drama for Youth & Communities. There, she gained experience as a director, producer, playwright, and actor, and has appreciated the new experiences she has gained through her fellowship. She is thrilled to be part of her first FST production and has greatly enjoyed the opportunity to watch the great work on and off stage for the show.

**JIM PROSSER** (Music Composer) This season marks Jim's 33rd season as FST's Resident Pianist. He recently appeared in *Feeling Good*, *Divas*, *Off The Charts*, *The Lehman Trilogy*, *Laughing Matters*, *The Wanderers*, *Sophie Tucker: The Last of the Red Hot Mamas*, and *Vintage POP!*. He has arranged and co-developed over 50 Cabarets at FST including: *Divas*, *59th Street Bridge*, *Off The Charts*, *The Flip Side*, *Take It To The Limit*, *Up On The Roof*, *Reel Music*, *Laughing Matters*, *The Wanderers*, *Three Pianos*, *Light My Fire*, *Outlaws and Angels*, *That's Amoré!*, *The Wonder Years*, *Unchained Melodies*, and more. He has served as Composer/Music Director for FST School, writing numerous scores for children's shows.

**ISABEL A. & MORIAH CURLEY-CLAY** (Scenic Designers) Past FST designs include: *A Tailor Near Me*, *Lucky Stiff*, *Don't Dress For Dinner*; *Dorothy's Dictionary*; *Dames At Sea*; *Jersey Boys*; *The Cancellation of Lauren Fein*; *The Heart Sellers*; *Waitress*; *The Outsider*; *Dear Jack, Dear Louise*; *The World Goes 'Round; Troubadour; The Lehman Trilogy; Pictures From Home; Little Shop of Horrors; A Comedy of Tenors; Black Pearl Sings!; Shear Madness; Visit Joe Whitefeather; Network*; *What the Constitution Means to Me; Something Rotten!; The Legend of Georgia McBride;* and many more. Recent work includes scenic designs for Alliance Theatre, Triad Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre and The Billie Holiday Theatre (2020 AUDELCO award for Reparations). Isabel and Moriah were featured in *American Theatre Magazine's* Inaugural Roll Call, Theatrical People To Watch. Members USA 829. axisstudiosdesign.com

**JANICE PYTEL** (Costume Designer) is making her FST debut. Her work has been seen on stage and screen around Chicago, across the US, and in

# ARTIST PROFILES

numerous countries across 5 continents. Recent credits: *Translations* (Writer's Theatre); *No Man's Land* (Steppenwolf); world premiere of *Dana H.*(Kirk Douglas Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Vineyard Theatre, and Broadway fall 2021). She is a member of Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, and represents the Central Region on the national board of USA 829. You can see a selection of her work online: janicepytel.com.

**ROB PERRY** (Lighting Designer) FST: *The Cancellation of Lauren Fein*, *Heisenberg*, *Alabama Story*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Inspired Lunacy*, *Freud's Last Session*, *The World Goes 'Round*, *The Best Of Enemies*, *Talley's Folly*, *The Last Romance*, *Two Jews Walk into a War*, *Race*, *Brassy Broads*, *The Wanderers*, and *Shotgun*. Robert has also designed extensively off-Broadway, in addition to the Goodman Theatre, Arena Stage, La Jolla Playhouse, Hartford Stage, American Players Theatre, and the McCarter, to name a few. MFA: Yale School of Drama. BFA: UNC School of the Arts. He is a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. His work can be viewed at robertperrydesign.com.

**NICHOLAS CHRISTENSEN** (Sound Designer) Credits include: *A Tailor Near Me, Three Pianos, Lucky Stiff, Peter Pan, A Band Called Honalee, Don't Dress For Dinner, Dorothy's Dictionary, Too Darn Hot, Dames At Sea, How Sweet It Is, Shedding A Skin, Divas, The Cancellation of Lauren Fein, The Heart Sellers*, *59th Street Bridge*, *Off The Charts*, *The Outsider*, *Dear Jack, Dear Louise*, *The Music of Laurel Canyon*, *The World Goes 'Round*, *Rhinestone Cowgirls*, *Troubadour*, *The Flip Side*, *The Lehman Trilogy*, *Ugly Lies The Bone*, *Pictures From Home*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Take It To The Limit*, *Up On The Roof*, *Creedence Clearwater Remixed!*, *New York State of Mind*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, and *Ring of Fire*.

**DYLAN UREMOVICH** (Projections Designer) is a DC based lighting and multimedia artist. He was awarded the 2024 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Media/Projection Design for *Look Both Ways* at The Kennedy Center. Recently, Dylan worked as Associate Video Designer for Broadway's *All Out: A Comedy About Ambition* and the national tour of *The Notebook*. His twin artistic obsessions are telling amazing stories and creating interactive designed environments. Check out more of his work at UremovichDesign.com

**BEN LIEBERT** (Choreographer) At FST, Ben has directed *Lucky Stiff*, *Dames At Sea*, *Jersey Boys*, *Waitress*, *Peter Pan*, *Aesop's Fables*, *The World Goes 'Round*, *Red Riding Hood* and choreographed *Feeling Good*, *Divas* (which he also developed), *Off The Charts*, *Junie B. Jones: The Musical*, *Up On The Roof*, and *Laughing Matters: Variant 6*. Other direction/choreography includes *Next to Normal*, *Into the Woods*, *The Producers* (National tour, assistant director), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, *Ordinary Days*, *Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)*, and *The Bomb-itty of Errors* as well as new works at Theatre Aspen, the Metropolitan Room, Samuel French OOB Festival (festival winner), MST&DA, Planet Connections Festival, Studio Players, and Randomly Specific Theatre. On the other side of the table, Ben has appeared as an actor on Broadway in *Wicked*, off-Broadway in *Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish* directed by Joel Grey, and regionally in *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Into the Woods*, *Ragtime*, *Chicago*, *Spamalot*, and *Avenue Q*. He is the co-creator and puppeteer behind *Cam and Ben Sing Songs*, a social-emotional learning webseries for kids and families. Ben is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and an associate member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. B.F.A.: NYU-Tisch. BenLiebert.com

**PAUL MEIER** (Dialect Coach) is a leading dialect coach, with his books and coaching services available through Paul Meier Dialect Services. He has taught at England's RADA and LAMDA, and the North Carolina School of the Arts in the USA. He has dialect-coached numerous feature films, and over two hundred plays and musicals in more than a dozen countries. He is the founder and director of the International Dialects of English Archive (IDEA); and publishes *In a Manner of Speaking*, a monthly podcast on the spoken word.

**SHIRA LEBOVICH** (Stage Manager) is a UNC Greensboro alum with a BFA in Design and Technical Production with a concentration on Stage Management. She spent two years working as a Stage Management Intern here at FST. Stage Management credits at FST include *Lucky Stiff*, *Don't Dress For Dinner*, *Dorothy's Dictionary*, *Dames At Sea*, *Jersey Boys*, *The Cancellation of Lauren Fein*, *Waitress*, *Dear Jack, Dear Louise*, *The White Chip*, *A Night in November*, *Ugly Lies the Bone*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Paralyzed*, *The Last Match*, *Babel*, *Something Rotten!*. Other credits: *Every Brilliant Thing* (Horizon Theatre Company), and *Glorious!* (Winnipesaukee Playhouse).

**ASHLEY NOLT** (Stage Management Intern) At FST, she has done *Lucky Stiff*, *Too Darn Hot: Songs for a Summer Night*, and is very excited to be working on *The Blue Sky-Boys.* She graduated from Susquehanna University with a B.F.A. in Theatre Management. While at SU, she stage managed many shows, including *Blood Relations*, *Pride & Prejudice*, and *Pirates of Penzance*. While at university, she was also able to be a summer Stage Management Intern at Central City Opera, where she assistant stage managed many of their mainstage operas, such as *Romeo & Juliet*, *Othello*, and Cole Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*. Now after graduation she hopes to be able to continue bringing the joy of live theatre to others.

**TORI MARTINSON** (Rehearsal Stage Management Fellow) is an alum of Northern Arizona University, where she received her B.A. in Stage Management. After graduating, she interned with Nashville Children's Theatre and was delighted to assist with *The Blue-Sky Boys*. FST credits include *Deck The Halls*, *Snow White*, *Peter Pan*, *Dames At Sea*, *Off The Charts,* and *The Flying Penguin*.

**DEBORAH BREVOORT** (Playwright) is best known for *The Women of Lockerbie*, produced internationally, and for numerous comedies and dramas produced across the U.S. She won the Campbell Opera Librettist Prize from Opera America in 2023 and has written 11 operas commissioned and produced at leading companies such as Glimmerglass and Cincinnati Opera. *My Lord, What a Night*, (Florida Studio Theatre, 2021) went on to an acclaimed production at Ford's Theatre and is headed to George Street Playhouse in NJ in the spring. DeborahBrevoort.com

*We gratefully acknowledge **Helen Uffner Vintage Clothing** for generously providing costume rentals for this production.

# EXECUTIVE STAFF

**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 220,000 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.

# PREMIERE UNDERWRITERS

**GAELE BARTHOLD** I remain proud to support the theatre and serve as a Trustee. The breadth and depth of FST's offerings is astonishing, as are the low-ticket prices. You can see a big box musical and a cutting-edge new play. Original cabaret productions are equally amazing and diverse; FST has perfected that artform. Their strong commitment to education, community outreach and programming for children is likewise remarkable. FST is a gem that warrants our widespread financial and artistic support.

**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.

**DENNIS & GRACI MCGILLICUDDY** FST holds deep significance for us because we so firmly believe in the transformative power of the arts. For more than four decades, we've seen that power at work firsthand through an organization that brings extraordinary skill and dedication to its craft. The theatre's mission clearly reflects the values of its leadership, and those values come to life in the quality and integrity of its work. It has been—and remains—a true honor to support FST and the meaningful, lasting impact it 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 Jo Reston 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.

# UNDERWRITERS

**TOM & LORETTA BEAUMONT** We attended our first play on an early date in college. We enjoyed the experience, and continued to attend plays in the Washington DC area as a married couple. We came to FL as 50/50 snowbirds in 2010, and one of the first things we did was attend a show at FST. We were amazed at the quality of the production, and soon were season subscribers to everything FST offers. We enthusiastically support FST's efforts.

# UNDERWRITERS

**JOAN & LARRY CASTELLANI** We have been attending Florida Studio Theatre for many years, and we have found so much to enjoy. We love the diversity of the art FST offers and are consistently impressed at the talent showcased on their many stages. We appreciate that Richard, Rebecca, and the rest of the FST staff show a true dedication to their craft. And most importantly, we are grateful that a theatre of this caliber exists in our city. We are proud to be supporters of this Sarasota treasure.

**THE ELSTER FOUNDATION** with **SYDNEY GOLDSTEIN** FST is important to me because I have always enjoyed the theatre, and it provides a good, thought-provoking play. Its productions are unique to our community. I generally like the dramas, which make us think and touch our emotions. FST has many facets, all of them worthwhile. It is my pleasure to support these efforts!

**DOUG & KATHY ENGEBRETSON** 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.

**CHERYL GORELICK & JAKE ZEIGLER** There is something "magic" about FST. Whether it's small, intimate theatres where you almost feel part of the stage, or Cabarets where you leave humming your favorite songs, it is all "magic" made possible by Richard Hopkins and the staff's commitment to providing quality theatre to diverse audiences. We look foward to being long-time supporters of, and participants in, FST.

**GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** has transformed the region through bold and proactive philanthropy for over 25 years. As a partner and a leader in community initiatives, Gulf Coast has surpassed granting $510 million in the areas of: Health and human services, Civic and economic development, Education, Arts and Culture, and the Environment. To learn more visit GulfCoastCF.org and follow us on Facebook at @GulfCoastCommFnd.

**ROBERT & BONNY ISRAELOFF** FST is thought provoking, Broadway-worthy theater. We believe FST is important because it enriches our community and helps make Sarasota a cultural gem. That is why we have proudly contributed to past expansions and continue to support its current mission of being even more accessible to the public.

**CARLENE LEBOUS & HARRIS HASTON** Florida Studio Theatre is the star in the crown of Sarasota's performing arts community. We have attended many shows with friends who always come away with a fun and enjoyable experience. We continue to personally support FST because the shows are entertaining, creative, professionally written, and performed. The unique smaller venues provide audiences with an intimate experience with the performers. You'll want to come back for more.

**BILL & CYNDE MUTRYN** We have enjoyed Florida Studio Theatre productions since 2011 when we first purchased a home in the area. We strongly believe that FST is a unique feature of the Sarasota community with its offering of diverse productions in smaller settings and high-quality directors, actors, actresses, and musicians. Not only do the productions entertain, but they offer thought-provoking perspectives on our current society, which can open the minds of the audiences. We are honored to be Underwriters of this Winter's Mainstage Season.

**MURIEL O'NEIL FUND FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SARASOTA COUNTY** ★ (1923-2013) With a gift from The Muriel O'Neil Fund For The Performing Arts of the Community Foundation

# UNDERWRITERS

of Sarasota County, an endowed fund was established to help underwrite FST's Winter Mainstage Series for many years to come. Muriel's sister, Dr. Gertrude Hight, established this gift with the Community Foundation of Sarasota County to ensure Muriel's legacy would live on and support an area of the community she deeply cherished.

**GAIL & SKIP SACK** Thought-provoking plays with incredibly professional casts, performed within close proximity of the audience are very rare, but Florida Studio Theatre does it hundreds of times a year in their small, intimate theatres. The quality of the productions, professionalism of the actors, expert casting, and extraordinary management of the entire process makes FST one of the most successful theatre companies in the country. We're honored to support this amazingly talented organization.

**JOHN & MARY LOU TOAL** We are pleased to support FST. It is truly a wonderful organization providing a broad spectrum of theatre with something of interest and education for all groups at a reasonable cost. Our community is blessed to have had Richard Hopkins at the helm for more than forty years. His vision and leadership, supported by a dedicated staff and excellent board of trustees, has guided FST'S significant growth and gained national recognition.

**DOROTHY WALDRON** I support FST for its diversity of programming: Mainstage, Cabaret, Improv, WRITE A PLAY children's program, summer camp, adult education classes, and the VIP program for special needs children. It is truly a wonderful community asset.

**LEN & FLO WILSON** Attending FST for these many years has been a tremendous joy. There's always something to like or learn in every show, and the work of Richard & Rebecca Hopkins and their team is consistent and forward thinking. We are happy to support the art and ambitions of FST for many years to come.

# CO-PRODUCERS

**LES & CAROL BRUALDI** We are happy to be part of the FST community. We believe that this venue brings new and edgy productions to the theatre scene, along with fine acting and direction. The wonderful pricing of all of the productions make it affordable so that many people can enjoy this fine company.

**JOEL CUBA** Many years ago my late wife Sandy and I got involved with FST because it is so much more than just a theatre. In numerous ways FST's relationship with children and adults make it a community asset that everyone can enjoy, both on and off the stage. Sandy and I loved coming to the theatre to experience all that FST has to offer. Our plan to continue to support this wonderful organization remains intact.

**CAROL GILBERT & MATTY MATHESON** Florida Studio Theatre has been a Sarasota diamond for us since attending performances from the mid-1990s, and the FST diamond keeps getting brighter and brighter every year. To say "We love FST" is not quite enough, and to be able to join the ranks of the many generous FST patrons is an honor for us. Enjoy the show!

**GARRY & DAUREEN GUTTERMAN** We are extremely happy to be supporters of FST. We have been attending for years and the quality of the performances is outstanding and continues to get better every year. The outreach programs to local schools are wonderful for bringing theater to a new generation. Richard Hopkins and the rest of the staff at FST do everything they can to make FST one of the best regional theatres in the country which is why we continue to support them and will do so for as long as we can.

**JIM MEISTER & PEGGY MEDERIOS** Seldom does one associate a theatre with a well-run business, but in the case of FST, it's a fact. Richard Hopkins and his merry band of artists,

# CO-PRODUCERS

administrators, educators, and production crew are dedicated and smart. The art on stage is important and entertaining. I'm pleased to support FST and therefore influence and contribute to the community at large.

**RICHARD & ELLEN SANDOR FAMILY** We have enjoyed all of the performances that FST has staged in the five years that we've been in Sarasota. The cabaret and theatre productions have been wonderful. It's great being part of the audience and now being Co-Producers.

**GARRY & SHARON SNOOK** We moved to Sarasota in 2020. While we are life long business people, we are very fortunate to have a son in the theatre world. Because of his influence we added live theatre to our lives and we were very excited when we found FST. We continue to be very impressed with what Richard and the rest of FST provides to the community. It is such a treasure to have live theatre of this caliber, with such amazing talent, in our community.

★ *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.*

**VOLUNTEER**

Have extra time and a love for the arts? Join our dedicated volunteer pool and play an essential role in bringing live theatre to life.

Volunteers support front-of-house operations, special events, and more—while becoming part of the FST community.

**Volunter With Us: 941-366-9017 ext. 301 FSTvolunteers@floridastudiotheatre.org**

# FST COMPANY

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President ..... Dennis McGillicuddy
Vice-President ..... Richard Hopkins
Secretary/Treasurer ..... Patricia Courtois
Trustee ..... Gaele Barthold
Trustee ..... Neil M. Comber
Trustee ..... Georgia Court
Trustee ..... Euan Fannell
Trustee ..... Cheryl Gorelick
Trustee ..... Doug Holder Jr.
Trustee ..... Robert Israeloff
Trustee ..... Honorable Charles Williams

### EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

### ARTISTIC STAFF

Associate Director At-Large ..... Kate Alexander
Resident Pianist ..... Jim Prosser
Resident Music Director ..... Nathaniel Beliveau
Associate Producer ..... Catherine Randazzo
Associate Artist ..... Ben Liebert
Associate Artist/Literary Manager ..... Nancy Rominger
Casting and Hiring Coordinator ..... Timothy L'Ecuyer
Assistant to the Artistic Director ..... Doris Iemolo
Improv Manager & Resident Artist ..... Sarah Durham
Literary Associate ..... Kara Powell
Resident Artist ..... Dellan Short

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Production ..... Ahkim Church
Associate Production Manager ..... Allison Hannon
Production Stage Manager ..... Shira Lebovich
Stage Manager ..... Emilia Ciotti Hernández
Stage Manager ..... Kelli Karen
Costume Shop Manager ..... Madison Queen
Asst. Costume Shop Manager ..... Tony Toney
Lighting Supervisor ..... Andrew Gray
Technical Director ..... Andrew Patton
Assistant Technical Director ..... Casey Seiler
Properties & Paint Supervisor ..... Sarah DeSmith
Sound Supervisor ..... Nicholas Christensen
Company Manager ..... Daniel Chandler

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

General Manager ..... Jill Zakrzewski
Associate Managing Director ..... Travis Ray
Director of IT ..... Clarke Weigle
Director of Finance ..... Jacinta Kavanaugh
Receptionist/Volunteer Coordinator ..... Laura Alden
Director of Marketing ..... Sarah Hedges
Associate Director of Marketing ..... Emiliano Mejías
Marketing & Digital Media Associate ..... Franki Arroyo
Marketing Support Specialist ..... Ryan Stanley
Comms & Digital Content Associate ..... Wendy Kiesewetter
Development Manager ..... Anyssa Hining
Development Associate ..... Krista Hagans
Development Associate ..... Kristin Hartnett
Development Assistant ..... Rachel Wright
Grant Writer ..... Sarah Pettengill

### EDUCATION & TOURS

Director of Children's Theatre ..... Caroline Saldivar
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

### BOX OFFICE AND FRONT HOUSE MANAGEMENT

Director of Patron Services ..... Kelsey Wehde Wilson
Box Office Manager ..... Seth Hilbert
Asst. Box Office Manager/House Manager ..... Nicole Crivelli
Asst. Box Office Manager ..... Logan Franke
Asst. Box Office Manager ..... Austin Howeth
Asst. Box Office Manager ..... Brendan Lentini
Box Office Supervisor ..... Gigi Delpero
Box Office Assistant ..... Suzanne Ahmed
Box Office Assistant ..... Susan Cottle
Box Office Assistant ..... Jane Shureb
Box Office Assistant ..... Rebecca Singer
House Manager ..... Chiara Ortiz
House Manager ..... Janet Raines
House Manager ..... Jodi Sondergaard
Restaurant Manager ..... Tom Curry
Restaurant Manager ..... Karen Price
Restaurant Manager & Event Coordinator ..... Pamela Dillon
Bar Manager ..... Taylor Cummings
Kitchen Manager ..... Steve Swan

### FACILITIES

Facilities Manager ..... Seni Ok
Facilities Technician ..... Sean Chapowicki
Facilities Technician ..... Joe Clough
Facilities Technician ..... Tom Henriques
Cleaner ..... Loida Mata

### AUDIENCE ENRICHMENT GROUP

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

### OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

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

### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Acting Apprentice ..... Christiana Allison
Acting Apprentice ..... Ray Barber
Acting Apprentice ..... Grayson Buchanan
Acting Apprentice ..... Maya Carpentiere
Acting Apprentice ..... Walter Steven Dagley
Acting Apprentice ..... Ryan Dugan
Acting Apprentice ..... Amanda González
Acting Apprentice ..... Jillian Hurley
Acting Apprentice ..... Flynn Nolen
Acting Apprentice ..... Vanessa Smith
Acting Apprentice ..... Sheila Wallis
Casting & Hiring Fellow ..... Lexy Hatch
Company Management Intern ..... AnnaLee Lujan
Costume Intern ..... Julia Hornsby
Education Intern ..... Kira Manuel
Lighting Fellow ..... Kate Landry
Literary Intern ..... Geneva Barker
Literary Intern ..... Breanna Jones
Literary Intern ..... Chloe Kummer
Literary Intern ..... Mo de Poortere
Production Fellow ..... Nathaniel Avery
Props & Paint Intern ..... Audrey Smith
Sound Intern ..... Nicholas Ryan
Stage Management Fellow ..... Tori Martinson
Stage Management Intern ..... Carissa Ater
Stage Management Intern ..... Sage Brown
Stage Management Intern ..... Kate Johnson
Stage Management Intern ..... Ashley Nolt
Stage Management Intern ..... Mariana Villarreal
Stage Management Intern ..... Leigh Womack