

## **BREAKDOWN**

### **THE LAST ROMANCE**

Written by Joe DiPietro

Produced by Florida Studio Theatre

Richard Hopkins, Producing Artistic Director

Director: Kate Alexander

Rehearsals begin – June 30, 2026

Previews – July 22 and 23, 2026

Show opens – July 24, 2026

Show closes – August 23, 2026

### **SYNOPSIS**

Ralph, an eighty-year-old widower, has found himself going through the same routine day in and day out, until one day he shakes things up. As he strolls past a dog park, he meets Carol, a woman similar in situation to himself in many ways... and who dotes on her dog. Ralph in turn instantly begins to dote on Carol. Abandoning his routine and embracing the romantic exuberance of his younger self, he begins a conversation with her about life, love, and opera. Ralph and Carol soon find themselves in the throes of a romance that brings them back to their youth and pushes them to consider how they wish to spend the rest of their lives—and how to navigate the things that may stand in their way.

### **CASTING**

**RAFAEL (RALPH) BELLINI** – Male-presenting, 80 years old, Italian. Vigorous, full of life, mischievous, and a deep lover of opera. After the loss of his wife and a health incident, RALPH lives with his sister ROSE and follows the same routine each day. He reflects not only on what has happened in his life up to this point, but also how his days could be different with CAROL in them. It would be a plus for this actor to be able to sing a little opera, but this is not necessary.

**CAROL REYNOLDS** – Female-presenting, 79 years old. Attractive, proper, very well-dressed, and skeptical of strangers. She loves her dog and is self-conscious about aging. She has complex feelings about love and romance after her husband's stroke and in the face of RALPH'S persistent pursuits, but soon begins to open her mind to a future for herself that she has previously considered out of reach.

**ROSE TAGLIATELLE** – Female-presenting, 70's, Italian. Blunt, stubborn, and a caretaker. RALPH'S sister, she lives with and takes care of him following his wife's passing and her husband leaving her. ROSE holds onto the past with white knuckles and allows it to dictate how she lives her life today: weighed down with regret, resentment, and worry.

**THE YOUNG MAN** – Male-presenting, early 20's, Italian. Baby-faced with a trained, operatic singing voice. Not only a representation of RALPH when he himself was a young man, but also the embodiment of the youthful vigor he feels again after meeting CAROL. **NOTE: The actor playing this role will join rehearsal two weeks after the rest of the cast, on July 14, 2026.**

**SALARY**

LORT-D Non-Rep

\$880 weekly minimum with housing and travel included for non-locals. Salary higher commensurate with experience and size of the role.

**UNDERSTUDIES**

Some roles will be understudied.

*Florida Studio Theatre is working towards becoming a more inclusive and accessible organization. FST is thus committed to developing a work environment that is reflective of the diverse world that it serves. Applicants from all populations and underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Consideration for employment will be given to all applicants without regard to race/ethnicity, gender identity/sexual orientation, age or ability.*

Florida Studio Theatre is an established, five-stage non-profit, operating under LORT D, LORT D EXPERIMENTAL, and AGVA contracts located in Downtown Sarasota, FL.