

For Immediate Release

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FLORIDA THEATRE IS RANKED #1 TOP TOUR STOP IN FLORIDA

VENUESNOW RANKING COMPARES ALL VENUES STATEWIDE UP TO 2,000 SEATS

Jacksonville, Fla. – The historic, nonprofit Florida Theatre in downtown Jacksonville has been recognized by *VenuesNow* magazine as the #1 “Top Stop” in Florida for 2018, for all venues with up to 2,000 seats.

The designation honours the Florida Theatre as one of the most important stops in the state for touring artists. The venue rankings were determined by attendance from June 1, 2017 through April 31, 2018.

VenuesNow is a leading international trade publication that covers the business side of entertainment and sports, particularly as it relates to venues. The designation honored the Florida Theatre's “Outstanding performance!”



The Florida Theatre's attendance of 140,323 during this period bested the 1,871 seat Barbara Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers with attendance of 137,944; the 1,741 seat Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in Sarasota with attendance of 133,201; the 1,168 seat Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale with attendance of 63,003; and the 800 seat Capitol Theatre in Clearwater with attendance of 46,486. The Florida Theatre seats a capacity of 1,944.

The Florida Theatre also presented the most shows during this period, with 134 taking the historic theatre's stage, as compared to 109 at the Barbara Mann, 96 at the Van Wezel, 79 at Parker Playhouse and 90 at the Capitol Theatre.

Florida Theatre Vice President of Programming Kevin Stone said, “The ‘Top Stop’ designation validates the work we've been doing to improve our offerings across all genres of music, dance and theatre. If you are a touring artist working in Florida, the Florida Theatre has become an important part of any serious tour itinerary.” Stone is responsible for booking the Theatre's performances.

Numa Saisselin, President of the Florida Theatre said, “Jacksonville is becoming a serious entertainment center not just for North Florida and Southern Georgia, but for the entire State of Florida. We're pleased to play an important part in that effort with our partners, and our brother and sister venues and arts organizations in Jacksonville.”

The historic, nonprofit Florida Theatre is sponsored by Community First Credit Union. For a complete list of upcoming events or to buy tickets visit the Theatre's official web site floridatheatre.com.

Florida Theatre : From ballet and opera to contemporary pop, jazz, rock, country and blues the nonprofit Florida Theatre offers 200 cultural and entertainment events annually for every taste and age. More than just an entertainment center, The Florida Theatre is also home to graduations, awards ceremonies, lectures, business meetings and charity events that support the community's schools, churches, hospitals and civic groups. As an anchor to downtown development along the beautiful St. Johns River, The Florida Theatre draws 250,000 people to Jacksonville's center each year. The magnificently restored Florida Theatre is recognized as one of the finest concert venues in the Southeast. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Florida Theatre holds special memories for four generations. From the Vaudeville acts and silent films of its earliest days to today's blend of performances of all kinds, The Florida Theatre has served as Jacksonville's premier entertainment center since 1927.

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