



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Florida Theatre Ranks #50 For Worldwide Tickets Sold

### The Theatre Also Releases Results of its 2015 Audience Poll

Today, *Pollstar* magazine, the concert industry's primary trade publication, ranked the Florida Theatre 50<sup>th</sup> on its Worldwide Ticket Sales Top 200 Theatre Venues chart.

In 2015, Florida Theatre concert attendance was 135,268, more than 50,000 tickets than in 2014 and only 8,000 tickets less than Veteran's Memorial Arena, which is Jacksonville's largest entertainment venue.

Florida Theatre President Numa Saisselin said, "This is quite an achievement. We only entered the charts two years ago at #89. Last year we were ranked #82."

Saisselin believes two things are worth noting about the jump to #50 this year. First, the theatre category includes venues like Radio City Music Hall and the Royal Albert Hall, which are bigger venues in bigger markets. Second, *Pollstar* is only interested in concert events, so attendance numbers for community events are not included in the *Pollstar* ranking. "If we were allowed to report attendance for community events, we would be in the Top 30," said Saisselin.

Florida Theatre Director of Programming Kevin Stone, responsible for booking the shows that the theatre presents, said, "We knew we were tracking to have a successful year, but the level of this ranking is more than we expected." said Stone. "We are now going to set new goals for 2016."

Today the theatre released the results of its own 2015 Audience Poll. Patrons were surveyed and asked to list their favorite 2015 show. Out of more than 100 concert events listed, the Top 10 Fan Favorites are:

First was night #1 of a two-night Lynyrd Skynyrd stand in April, in which they performed their first album, *Pronounced 'Lëh-'nérd 'Skin-'nérd*, plus hits. Tied for second were Alice Cooper and the Tedeschi Trucks Band. Brian Wilson was third, Styx was fourth, and Jason Isbell was fifth. Tied for sixth were Brit Floyd, Buddy Guy and the second night of the Lynyrd Skynyrd concerts, in which they performed their second album, *Second Helping*, plus hits. Straight No Chaser was seventh, Boney James was eighth, and

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tied for ninth were Dave Koz, Diana Ross and Weird Al. Tied for tenth were John Cleese & Eric Idle, Kansas, and Post Modern Jukebox.

“If you want to know how the theatre got to #50 worldwide, just look at the diversity of the audience’s favorite shows. The two local bands are not surprising, and frankly, the theatre can’t take credit for their success. But they’re joined by four classic rock acts, a legendary diva, a singer songwriter emerging with his own solo career, two jazz acts, a blues guitar player, a classic rock tribute act, two legendary British comedians and pop music’s premier parodist. The common denominator is excellence. We really try to address all audiences in the course of a year, and Northeast Florida has responded,” said Saisselin.

The theatre is managed and programmed by the Florida Theatre Performing Arts Center, Inc., a nonprofit corporation in a public/private partnership with the City of Jacksonville, which owns the building.

