

## ***For Immediate Release***

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### ***STUDIO 54 JAX NIGHTCLUB AND BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE NONPROFIT FLORIDA THEATRE***

***– Skip the velvet rope; put your name on the VIP list –  
Saturday, May 19th***

*Jacksonville, Fla.* – Fans of the Florida Theatre, aficionados of the 1970s, and all Northeast Florida residents are invited to attend the most glamorous party of the year. For one night only, on Saturday, May 19, the historic Florida Theatre transforms into an iconic nightclub. Studio 54 Jax is a benefit event for the Florida Theatre Performing Arts Center, Inc., the nonprofit corporation that manages and programs the historic Florida Theatre.

In a transformed Florida Theatre, guests will celebrate the infamous private parties of the Studio 54 nightclub in New York City, while raising funds for the annual operations of the nonprofit Florida Theatre.

The theatre's transformation for the evening includes building an extension of the stage out over the ground floor seating area, enabling about 200 guests on the main floor to enjoy a sit down dinner inside the historic auditorium. In the mezzanine another 200 to 300 guests will savor heavy hors d'oeuvres and endless cocktails.

A benefit concert featuring guest artists performing the music of Elton John, Donna Summer and Barry Manilow follows the cocktail and dinner hours. The evening ends with a party on the Florida Theatre stage, which with live dance music by the Boogie Freaks, becomes the iconic Studio 54.

If disco dancing is not your thing, the theatre's donor lounge will be transformed for the evening into a piano bar featuring pianist and entertainer Murray Goff. The piano bar will feature an exhibit of Andy Warhol photographic prints, courtesy of Barbara Colaciello, owner of Bab's Lab

Proceeds from Studio 54 Jax benefit the annual operations of the nonprofit Florida Theatre. Numa Saisselin, Florida Theatre President says, "We fundraise a small slice of our budget every year, about 15 percent, but that small slice makes some big things possible. It underwrites a reduced rent for other nonprofit arts organizations to use the theatre. It pays for maintenance and preservation of this historic building in an accurate and appropriate way. It pays for the theatre to present arts and cultural programs to Northeast Florida residents that otherwise might not be here. The rock stars and comedians largely pay for themselves, and the fundraised money supports the presentation of music, dance and theatre artists such as Jacksonville Dance Theatre, our Civic Cinema movie series and recently our free US Army Field Band concert.

The Studio 54 Jax committee is co-chaired by Troy Spurlin, the owner of Troy Spurlin Interiors and Generation Us in Five Points, and Missy Peters, Community Affairs Manager of Community First Credit Union. Committee members include: Leslie Gordon, Don Cameron, Steve Smith and Kellie Prusiecki.

"The Florida Theatre is an icon of Jacksonville's arts and entertainment community, and the nonprofit arts in general are an important part of the fabric of Downtown Jacksonville," says Missy Peters. "This is one reason why Community First Credit Union is involved in the Florida Theatre, and why I personally am involved in Studio 54 Jax."

"We wanted to create a very unique evening that people would be afraid to miss, and indeed if they do, they will miss something special," says Troy Spurlin. "Fundraising is critical for a nonprofit arts theatre, but we did not want to create yet another event that people felt obligated to attend,"

Table tickets include valet parking, a VIP cocktail party on the stage, and an elegant plated dinner on the extended stage of the theatre, followed by the concert. Tables are still available.

Individual tickets include valet parking, access to the theatre's mezzanine, endless heavy hors d'oeuvres, an all-night open bar, and balcony seating for the concert. Individual tickets are still available.

At the end of the evening, everyone enjoys a dance party, on the stage, with live music by the Boogie Freaks.

To purchase a table, please contact Suzanne Hudson-Smith at [suzanne@floridatheatre.com](mailto:suzanne@floridatheatre.com). Individual tickets can be purchased at [floridatheatre.com/studio54jax](http://floridatheatre.com/studio54jax).

Studio 54 Jax media partners are *Jacksonville Magazine* and WJCT 89.9. Preferred production partner is AVL Productions.

*[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.*

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](http://floridatheatre.com).

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