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Three new play readings in annual FST series

By Jay Handelman, Herald-Tribune / Monday, April 8, 2013

Florida Studio Theater will use three Monday nights to explore new works in the 2013 Richard and Betty Burdick New Play Reading Series.

The three scripts are part of the theater's annual Sarasota Festival of New Plays, and will be presented with minimal staging, followed by a discussion.

One of the plays, Johnna Adams' "Gidion's Knot," scheduled to be read at 7 p.m. May 6, received a citation and a \$7,500 prize on April 6 as one of the top three plays in the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Prize determined by the

American Theatre Critics Association. The play is set in the aftermath of a child's death and a meeting between the boy's teacher and his mother, who is searching for answers about his death.

The reading series opens on April 29 with Jeffrey Jackson's "Two Point Oh," which questions the limits of technology and the reality of existence in a story about a world-leader in software development and what happens with his wife after his death in a plane crash.

The final play, to be presented May 13, is Seth Panitch's "Hell: Paradise Found," about a recently deceased lawyer who decides he wants to go to Hell, thinking it might be better than alternatives, but then he is forced to account for his actions on Earth.

Some plays featured in past years have gone on to full productions at Florida Studio Theatre, including Frank Higgins' "Black Pearl Sings" and Jack Canfora's "Jericho."

Tickets are \$25 for all three plays, or \$10 each. Readings begin at 7 p.m. in the Keating Theatre, 1241 N. Palm Ave., Sarasota. For more information: 3676-9000; floridastudiotheatre.org



The Keating Theatre at Florida Studio Theatre.