



asolorep
2018-2019
SEASON
ANNOUNCEMENT

Asolo Rep and the FSU/Asolo Conservatory Announce 2018-19 Seasons

**Asolo Rep's 60th Anniversary Season
Kicks Off with *THE MUSIC MAN***

**Directed by Tony® nominee Jeff Calhoun (*Newsies*) and
Starring Legendary Broadway Song and Dance Man Noah Racey**

(SARASOTA, March 19, 2018) — On Monday, March 19, 2018, Asolo Rep and the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training proudly unveiled their 2018-19 seasons.

Asolo Rep's 60th anniversary season kicks off with the six-time Tony Award-winning musical sensation ***THE MUSIC MAN*** (November 13 - December 29). Fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill brings trouble to River City, Iowa when he cons the townspeople into buying instruments for an imaginary band – but his plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when his heart is stolen by the town librarian, Marian. This exuberant musical masterpiece will be directed by Tony nominee **Jeff Calhoun** (*Newsies*) and stars legendary Broadway song and dance man **Noah Racey**. Calhoun and Racey previously collaborated on the smash hit world premiere of *Noah Racey's Pulse* at Asolo Rep in 2013.

The winter repertory season opens with **Arthur Miller's** powerful portrayal of the Salem witch trials and their overt parallels to McCarthy-era America, ***THE CRUCIBLE*** (January 9 - March 10), directed by Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director **Michael Donald Edwards**. A smash hit on Broadway in 2017, **Lucas Hnath's *A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2*** (January 16 - March 31) will be directed by

Asolo Rep favorite **Peter Amster**. Hnath brilliantly and hilariously imagines what happened to Nora Helmer after she famously slammed the door on her marriage and bourgeois life at the end of Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

The season continues with **Lynn Nottage's SWEAT** (February 6 - April 13), fresh off a successful Tony nominated Broadway run. It will be directed by **Nicole A. Watson** (who helmed Asolo Rep's 2017 production of *The Great Society*). Winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, **SWEAT** is a humorous and poignant look at Tracey and Cynthia — best friends trying to make ends meet in the heart of working-class America despite the domino effect of factory closures.

In March, Asolo Rep presents **Michael Frayn's NOISES OFF** (March 20 - April 20), the timeless farce about the shenanigans that occur off stage for a motley company of actors. Penned by one of the writers and producers of the hit Emmy Award®-winning drama *This is Us*, **Bekah Brunstetter, THE CAKE** (April 3 - 28) is a touching new play that tells the story of Jen, who wants nothing more than for her deceased mother's friend Della to bake her wedding cake. One problem: Della is deeply conflicted to learn that she must put *two* brides on top of the cake. Directed by **Lavina Jadhvani** (Asolo Rep's *Roe*), **THE CAKE** will run in the Cook Theatre.

Asolo Rep's spring musical is a freshly re-imagined production of **Stephen Sondheim's SWEENEY TODD: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (May 1 - 26). Winner of 8 Tony Awards including best musical, it tells the dark and twisted tale of scorned barber Sweeney Todd and his quest for revenge in 19th-century London. It will be helmed by **Peter Rothstein**, who directs the theatre's upcoming production of *Ragtime*.

In June, the theatre continues its dedication to present innovative theatrical offerings for patrons of all ages with **Jules Verne's AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS** (June 6 - 23), from the creators of the wildly inventive and beloved *Hetty Feather*, which kicked off the theatre's family initiative in 2016. Eight actors, 109 characters, six trains, six boats, four flights, one storm, a circus act and an elephant take center stage in this unforgettable adventure. **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS** will be directed by **Theresa Heskins**.

“From a community invigorated by love and music in **THE MUSIC MAN**, to a 17th-century Massachusetts village torn apart by fear and sexual repression in **THE CRUCIBLE**, to the hilarious camaraderie and dysfunction central to **NOISES OFF**, our 2018-19 season is a vibrant look at how communities evolve and band together in times of great turmoil, joy and change,” said Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards. “Both **SWEAT** and **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2**, written

by two of America's most exciting playwrights, show what happens when the political becomes deeply personal, while **THE CAKE** searches for genuine empathy in a divided world. We finish our season with **SWEENEY TODD**, a delicious and artful look at how revenge warps a community, and **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS**, an inspiring, imaginative call to broaden our horizons. I urge you to join us for a season that promises thrilling stories about communities in the exciting thrall of change and discovery."

Asolo Rep will once again present its annual fall educational tour, an FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training production of **William Shakespeare's THE TEMPEST**, directed by Asolo Rep Artistic Associate **Celine Rosenthal**. The tour presents boldly re-imagined 45-minute adaptations of classic literature to schools and community venues throughout the state of Florida.

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training announced the second season of its annual Dog Days Theatre, which offers smart, contemporary works just light enough for the dog days of summer. The Dog Days Theatre 2018 season will feature **Joe Orton's** classic farce **WHAT THE BUTLER SAW** (July 10 - 29), directed by FSU/Asolo Conservatory Director **Greg Leaming**. The second production will be **THE TURN OF THE SCREW** (August 7 - 26), adapted by **Jeffrey Hatcher** from the story by **Henry James**. The edge-of-your-seat thriller will be directed by **Chris Clavelli**.

The Conservatory opens its season with Tom Stoppard's **ARCADIA** (October 30 - November 18): a time-jumping riddle caught between present day and 1809. Academic rivals Hannah Jarvis and Barnard Nightingale race to uncover the truth of Lord Byron, Ezra Chater, and the mysterious hermit of Arcadia. **ARCADIA** was the recipient of the 1993 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play, recognized by the Royal Institution of Great Britain as one of the best science-related works ever written, and nominated for a Drama Desk Award and Tony Award.

In January, the Conservatory presents **Henrik Ibsen's** masterpiece drama **GHOSTS** (January 1 - 20): a emotionally-taut story about the sins of the father and the limits of a mother's love. Written in 1881, **GHOSTS** follows Captain Alving's survivors as they wrestle with their public obligation and private hatred for the deceased. The season continues in late February with **Craig Lucas' RECKLESS** (February 19 - March 10). One peaceful December night, Rachel's husband admits that he's hired a hitman to kill her. The insanity ensues as the fleeing Rachel falls headlong into a ridiculous second life (and third, and fourth) with Lloyd Bophtelophti and his paraplegic girlfriend Pooty.

The Conservatory will return to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in April for William Shakespeare's romantic comedy ***AS YOU LIKE IT*** (April 9 - 27). Sarasota's premier outdoor destination will transform into the Forest of Arden as the lovelorn Orlando and Rosalind navigate adventure, intrigue, and a few suitors. ***AS YOU LIKE IT*** follows the Conservatory's previous Shakespeare-in-the-garden productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2017) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (2018).

"Our first-year students are bright and talented young artists, eager to begin their careers on the stage," said **Greg Leaming**, Director of the FSU/Asolo Conservatory. "I'm excited to pair them with a season of classical and contemporary works that will take both them and our audiences around the world on a wild ride. These are brilliant stories with fascinating characters – a wonderful showcase for our second-year company."

Season subscriptions for the 2018-19 season are on sale now and available by visiting the Asolo Rep Box Office, located in the lobby of the theatre, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail in Sarasota, by calling 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388 or online at www.asolorep.org. Single tickets will go on sale in September 2018.

ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE 2018-19 SEASON

ASOLO REP | FSU/ASOLO CONSERVATORY FOR ACTOR TRAINING presents
THE TEMPEST

Touring Schools and Community Venues

SEPTEMBER 25-NOVEMBER 19

By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Adapted by TYLER DOBROWSKY

Directed by CELINE ROSENTHAL

"O brave new world that has such people in't!" ***THE TEMPEST***, Shakespeare's supernatural tale of love, family, and revenge comes to surprising life in this boisterous, highly physical production. In a fast-paced adaptation, both funny and ferocious, the next generation will have the chance to explore their own definition of justice and consider the responsibility of those who wield power.

MEREDITH WILLSON's

THE MUSIC MAN

NOVEMBER 17-DECEMBER 29 • Previews begin November 13

Book, Music and Lyrics by MEREDITH WILLSON

Based on a story by MEREDITH WILLSON and FRANKLIN LACEY

Directed by JEFF CALHOUN

THE MUSIC MAN was the sensation of Broadway when it opened in 1957 and scored six Tony Awards®, including Best Musical (beating out *West Side Story*). Sixty years later it's still an American institution with its one-of-a-kind score including rousing marches ("Seventy-Six Trombones"), soaring ballads ("Till There Was You"), and Willson's snap-crackle-pop vocal arrangements that could be considered the Broadway precursors to rap. Fast-talking salesman Harold Hill brings trouble to River City, Iowa when he cons the townspeople into buying instruments for an imaginary band – but his plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when his heart is stolen by the town librarian. For this new, innovative, tap-infused production, Tony Award-nominated director Jeff Calhoun (*Newsies*) returns to Asolo Rep (*Bonnie & Clyde*, *Pulse*) to direct and award-winning actor, dancer and choreographer Noah Racey (*Pulse*) returns to dazzle in the role of Harold Hill.

THE CRUCIBLE

JANUARY 11–MARCH 10 • Previews JANUARY 9 & 10

By ARTHUR MILLER

Directed by MICHAEL DONALD EDWARDS

Spring, 1692. In the black of night, a Salem village reverend discovers a group of teenage girls dancing devilishly around a fire in the woods. When his daughter exhibits strange catatonic symptoms the following morning, the townsfolk are frenzied with rumors of witchcraft. Deep-seated jealousy, deadly accusations, and seething resentments pit neighbor against neighbor as a deeply religious community

is thrown into turmoil. A timeless parable about morality, silence and the devastating consequences when fear takes root in a community, **THE CRUCIBLE** is Arthur Miller's thinly veiled condemnation of the Communist "witch hunt" of his time. The play won the 1953 Tony Award for Best Play and is a landmark work in the canon of American drama.

A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2

JANUARY 18–MARCH 31 • Previews January 16 & 17

By LUCAS HNATH

Directed by PETER AMSTER

In the final scene of Ibsen's 1879 groundbreaking masterwork, Nora Helmer famously slammed the door on her marriage and bourgeois life, leaving her husband and children behind. What happened to the iconic heroine next? This snappy sequel imagines her 15 years later as a successful writer and independent woman, but a skeleton from her past has her returning home to the one man who can help her. Universally acclaimed during its recent Broadway run, this smart and sophisticated new comedy raises fascinating questions about marriage and the ways the roles of women have – and have not – changed. (Please note: you will enjoy this play whether you are familiar with Ibsen or not!)

SWEAT

FEBRUARY 8-APRIL 13 • Previews February 6 & 7

By LYNN NOTTAGE

Directed by NICOLE A. WATSON

Winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Lynn Nottage's gripping and timely play looks at life in the heart of working class America. It's the year 2000 in the steel town of Reading, Pennsylvania, and all that best friends Tracey and Cynthia need are their steady factory jobs, their favorite bar, and each other. But when layoffs and picket lines begin to chip away at their trust, the friends find themselves pitted against each other in the hard fight to stay afloat. Filled with warm humor and tremendous heart, this stunning new play confronts issues of race, class, family and friendship – and the tragic, unintended costs of a community without opportunity.

NOISES OFF

MARCH 22-APRIL 20 • Previews March 20 & 21

By MICHAEL FRAYN

Director to be announced

Precision timed, cunningly constructed, rip-roaringly hilarious: **NOISES OFF** is a comedy of epic proportions, and the laugh-until-you-cry guilty pleasure of audiences for decades. With opening night just hours away, a motley company of actors stumbles through a frantic, final rehearsal of the British sex farce *Nothing On*, and things couldn't be going worse. Lines are forgotten, love triangles are unraveling and sardines are flying everywhere. Complete pandemonium ensues. Brace yourself for a world class production of this incomparable comedy and relish every delicious

moment of the show that *The New York Times* exclaims, “voyages to the outer limits of hilarity!”

THE CAKE
IN THE COOK THEATRE
APRIL 5-28 • Previews April 3 & 4
By BEKAH BRUNSTETTER
Directed by LAVINA JADHWANI

Faith, family and frosting collide in this heartfelt new comedy by Bekah Brunstetter, writer/producer of the hit TV series, *This is Us*. Thirty-something Jen wants her deceased mother’s best friend Della, a talented but struggling baker, to create her wedding cake. She returns from New York with her betrothed to her North Carolina hometown and finds that Della is tickled pink to honor her wish, until she discovers that there isn’t just one bride, but two. Moral quandaries, reality TV, and lots of butter collide in this touching new play told with generosity, humor, and more than a few surprises

SWEENEY TODD
THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET
A Musical Thriller
MAY 4-26 • Previews begin May 1
Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM
Book by HUGH WHEELER
From an adaptation by CHRISTOPHER BOND
Directed by PETER ROTHSTEIN

Winner of eight Tony Awards including Best Musical, this dark and twisted tale of love, murder and revenge in 19th-Century London has shocked and delighted audiences worldwide for four decades. Unjustly imprisoned for 15 years, barber Sweeney Todd returns to take his revenge on the judge who took him from his wife and young daughter. Todd’s need for vengeance becomes murderous – and profitable – when he partners with the unscrupulous Mrs. Lovett and opens a barber practice above her meat pie shop. With his busy straight razors and her new secret ingredient, their notoriety soars until Todd comes face to face with the judge. In a stunning new staging by Theatre Latte Da of Minneapolis (*Ragtime*, 2018), this thrilling theatrical treat is Sondheim at his very best.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
GREAT FOR ALL AGES!
JUNE 7-23 • Preview June 6
By JULES VERNE • Adapted by LAURA EASON
Directed by THERESA HESKINS
Kenny Wax Family Entertainment and Simon Friend present the New Vic Theatre Production in association with Royal Exchange Theatre

Eight actors, 109 characters, six trains, six boats, four flights, one storm, a circus act and an elephant take center stage when Asolo Rep partners again with UK’s Kenny

Wax Family Entertainment (*Hetty Feather*, 2016) to bring ***AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS*** to Sarasota. When the mysterious and fabulously wealthy Phileas Fogg and his faithful servant Passepartout board the train in London in 1875, he has only 80 days to travel around the world to win a wager with his fellow members at the Reform Club. A grand adventure lies ahead in a journey that includes romance, danger and surprises with the illustrious Scotland Yard pursuing him at every turn.

FSU/ASOLO CONSERVATORY DOG DAYS THEATRE SUMMER 2018 SEASON

WHAT THE BUTLER SAW

By **JOE ORTON**

Directed by **GREG LEAMING**

JULY 12-29

Previews **July 10 & 11**

Wild, risqué, and ferociously funny, Joe Orton's classic farce takes aim at everything from sex to psychiatry. In an exclusive, private mental health clinic, Dr. Prentice is attempting to seduce his prospective secretary when his wife walks in, interrupting his sordid intentions and kicking off a maniacal tour de force involving a state inspector, bellboys, slamming doors, and, above all, Orton's wicked wit and breakneck dialogue.

THE TURN OF THE SCREW

Adapted by **JEFFREY HATCHER**

From the story by **HENRY JAMES**

Directed by **CHRIS CLAVELLI**

AUGUST 9-26

Previews **August 7 & 8**

1840. An era charmed by superstition, madness, and the writings of Sigmund Freud led Henry James to write one of the most chilling ghost stories of all time. A young governess arrives at a seemingly idyllic country house to look after two orphaned children. But shortly after her arrival, she realizes they're not alone. She risks everything to keep the children safe, until she begins to question her sanity, and the children's innocence.

FSU/ASOLO CONSERVATORY 2018-19 SEASON

ARCADIA

By Tom Stoppard

OCTOBER 31–NOVEMBER 18

Preview OCTOBER 30

A young genius and her private tutor set into motion an epic game of lost-and-found, caught between two centuries. Part mystery and part love story, **ARCADIA** pits elegance and poetry against the cold certainties of science and physics.

GHOSTS

By HENRIK IBSEN

JANUARY 2–20

Preview JANUARY 1

In a quiet provincial town, the great Captain Alving has died, leaving behind his legacy, devoted wife, and talented son—but all sins will be laid bare by rain and fire. **GHOSTS** is a haunting, relentless masterpiece of twentieth-century drama.

RECKLESS

By CRAIG LUCAS

FEBRUARY 20–MARCH 10

Preview FEBRUARY 19

Rachel's just your average, ordinary woman: always finding the positive, even when her life takes some insane sharp turns. Like a Fellini-fueled nightmare, **RECKLESS** is a terrifying comedy of shifting identities, bizarre game shows, therapy, and lots of champagne.

Shakespeare in the Gardens: AS YOU LIKE IT

By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

APRIL 10-27

PREVIEW APRIL 9

Orlando and Rosalind are absolutely perfect for each other, but bullying and banishment drive them apart and into the wilderness. Sarasota's own Selby Gardens transforms into the perfect Forest of Arden for William Shakespeare's romantic comedy **AS YOU LIKE IT**.

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