

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

**March 23, 2018**

**Asolo Repertory Theatre Presents its  
Annual Documentary Theatre Project: FACES OF CHANGE**

(SARASOTA, March 23, 2018) — Asolo Rep proudly presents its sixth annual documentary theatre project: **FACES OF CHANGE**. **FACES OF CHANGE** collects stories, personal experiences, and interviews from community members of diverse backgrounds, which are assembled in an original script. The project culminates in free public readings followed by post-show discussions.

**FACES OF CHANGE** draws from the specific themes and plays of Asolo Rep's mainstage season each year in order to identify a topic to investigate from different points of view. Residents of Sarasota, Manatee and beyond have used the documentary theatre process to reflect on issues as varied as immigration, poverty and homelessness, religious intolerance and racially-motivated violence. The 2017-18 season provides inspiration from **Lisa Loomer's *Roe***.

"The focus of the **FACES OF CHANGE** project is to explore social issues in our community," said **Ria Cooper**, Asolo Rep's Community Engagement Specialist. "Using theatre to share stories allows for local community-building, and is a way to begin a dialogue about potentially difficult topics. The intention is to prompt questions about our usual ways of thinking. What better hot-button topic to explore than our ideas about abortion and *Roe v. Wade*?"

There will be a public reading on Monday, April 9 at 7pm in the Cook Theatre. Additional free readings will be held at partner locations, including Fogartyville Peace Education and Action Center on Sunday, April 8 at 7pm, Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota on Tuesday, April 10 at 7pm, and at The SOURCE on Thursday, April 12 at 7pm. All readings are followed by a community conversation and reception.

"You can really hear the voices of the people whose stories we are sharing," says **Laura Daniel Gale**, participant/reader in **FACES OF CHANGE**. "The conversational aspect of the script makes it feel very real to us as the readers and hopefully, will resonate with the audience in that same way. Director Ria Cooper has really succeeded in offering perspectives from so many different experiences."

## **FACES OF CHANGE**

**Page 2 of 3**

Admission is free; however, tickets are required. Tickets for all four performances are available by visiting Asolo Rep's Box Office, located in Asolo Rep's lobby, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, by visiting <http://www.asolorep.org/education/faces-of-change> or calling 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388.

**FACES OF CHANGE** is made possible, in part, with support from the Koski Family Foundation Fund for New Audiences.

### **FACES OF CHANGE 2018 PERFORMANCES**

All **FACES OF CHANGE** performances are free and open to the public. Reservations strongly recommended. Admission is free; however, tickets are required.

**Tickets for all four performances are available by visiting Asolo Rep's Box Office, located in Asolo Rep's lobby, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, by visiting <http://www.asolorep.org/education/faces-of-change> or calling 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388.**

- **Sunday, April 8, 7pm**

\*doors open at 6pm\*

Fogartyville Peace Education and Action Center  
525 Kumquat Court  
Sarasota, FL 34236

- **Monday, April 9, 7pm**

Cook Theatre  
FSU Center for the Performing Arts  
5555 N Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, FL 34243

- **Tuesday, April 10, 7pm**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota  
3975 Fruitville Road  
Sarasota, FL 34232

- **Thursday, April 12, 7pm**

The SOURCE  
736 Central Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34236

-more-

## **ABOUT ASOLO REP**

Now in its 59th season, Asolo Repertory Theatre is recognized as one of the premier professional theatres in America and one of the largest in the Southeastern United States. One of the few select theatres in the nation that performs in true rotating repertory, Asolo Rep's highly skilled acting company and extensive craftsmanship bring to life this unique performance method that gives audiences the opportunity to see multiple productions in the span of a few days. Asolo Rep presents up to 10 productions each season including contemporary and classic works and provocative musical theatre experiences. A theatre district in and of itself, Asolo Rep is committed to expanding its reach into the community, furthering its collaboration with the best theatre artists working in the industry today and cultivating new artists through its affiliation with the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards and Managing Director Linda DiGabriele, Asolo Rep's ambitious theatrical offerings and ground-breaking education and community programming engage audiences and ensure its lasting legacy for future generations.

For more information, visit  
[www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org)

