

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

October 18, 2017

**ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE RECEIVES \$70,000 GRANT
FROM GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

(SARASOTA, October 18, 2017) — Asolo Repertory Theatre proudly announces that it is the recipient of a \$70,000 Arts Appreciation Grant from Gulf Coast Community Foundation. The grant will support Asolo Rep's 2017-18 season "Staging Our World," which kicks off November 14 with *EVITA*.

The Arts Appreciation Grant provides essential support for Asolo Rep's 2017-18 season, from the actors on stage, to the musicians in the pit, to the sets, costumes and props, and the highly skilled artists and crafts people who bring the production elements to life. Gulf Coast's Arts Appreciation Grant ensures that Asolo Rep is able to continue to cultivate the best artists, designers and actors and create world class theatre here in Sarasota for the Sarasota community.

"Since its inception, Gulf Coast Community Foundation has been one of Asolo Rep's greatest champions in all of our endeavors," said Linda DiGabriele, Managing Director of Asolo Rep. "Gulf Coast's latest grant in support of our 17/18 season will give us confidence to make bold choices on the stage, and to produce Broadway-caliber work to engage and inspire our audience members from Sarasota and beyond."

"The arts are a differentiator that set our region apart, and Asolo Repertory Theatre is one of the cornerstone arts organizations here in our community," said Dr. Mark S. Pritchett, President|CEO of Gulf Coast Community Foundation. "Gulf Coast's grant investment reflects Asolo Rep's vital contributions to both our economy and our exceptional quality of life."

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.

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ABOUT GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Together with its donors, Gulf Coast Community Foundation transforms our region through bold and proactive philanthropy. Gulf Coast is a public charity that was created in 1995 through the sale of the Venice Hospital. Since then, it has become the philanthropic home of more than 650 families who have established charitable funds there, and has invested over \$260 million in grants in the areas of health and human services, civic and economic development, education, arts and culture, and the environment. Learn more at GulfCoastCF.org.

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