



\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*

March 6, 2018

## ASOLO REP PRESENTS BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS' *GLORIA* THE PULITZER PRIZE-FINALIST RUNS APRIL 4 - 29

"This is an exciting, disturbing, and truly major piece that breathes fresh air into a time-tested subject. And it will shake audiences to their cores."

– *TheatreMania*

(SARASOTA, March 6, 2018) — Asolo Rep continues its season with **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins'** gripping and engrossing ***GLORIA***, a Pulitzer Prize-finalist and one of *The New York Times'* Best Theater Picks of 2015. Directed by FSU/Asolo Conservatory Director and Asolo Rep Associate Artistic Director **Greg Leaming**, ***GLORIA*** previews April 4 and 5, opens April 6 and runs through April 29 in the Cook Theatre, located in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts.

It's business as usual for a group of disgruntled 20-something editorial assistants at a magazine in Manhattan, where the only subject matter the group can agree on is that they want more than the life they're leading. But when the morning banter is forced to an arresting halt, it alters their perspectives and lives in a way they could have never imagined. Deeply pertinent and provocative, ***GLORIA*** takes audiences on an unpredictable, unnerving journey to a simple and very human insight.

"***GLORIA*** is an equally exciting and alarming new play from one of the most brilliant young writers working in the American theatre," said Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director **Michael Donald Edwards**. "This will be a truly memorable theatrical event."

A recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Award, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins is one of the leading voices for the American stage. His plays include *Neighbors* (Public Theater); *Appropriate* (Actors Theatre of Louisville, Victory Gardens Theater, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, and Signature Theatre); *An Octoroon* (Soho Rep); and *War*. He is a Residency Five playwright at Signature Theatre and a Lila Acheson Wallace Fellow at the Juilliard School.

"Branden Jacobs-Jenkins has a knack of turning our expectations in the theatre on their head, and leaving us with an experience that is unlike any other," said director Greg Leaming. "**GLORIA** is a comedy of character, a satire, a tragedy, a drama and a sentimental comedy all rolled into one. What starts out being a brilliant portrait of Millennials in the workplace eventually becomes a scathing portrait of how we live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Asolo Rep favorite **Denise Cormier** plays Gloria/Nan. At Asolo Rep, she has appeared in *The Little Foxes*; *Good People*; *All The Way*; *The Great Society*; *Ah, Wilderness!*; *Born Yesterday*; *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*; and *Our Betters*. **Delphi Borich** plays Kendra/Jenna. She was recently seen in the National Tour of *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*, where she understudied Ella. Her regional credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (The Barn Stage Company) and *Peter Pan* (Syracuse Stage). **Bryce Michael Wood** plays Miles/Shawn/Rashaad. His credits include *The Royale* (Hippodrome Theatre), *Smart People* (Geva Theatre Center and Kitchen Theatre Company), *Welcome to Fear City* (Contemporary American Theater Festival), and *Row*, where he starred as Muhammad Ali at Goodspeed Opera House

The cast also features FSU/Asolo Conservatory third year MFA students: **Aleksandr Krapivkin** (Dean/Devin) and **Wes Tolman** (Lorin). Both Krapivkin and Tolman are also in *Shakespeare in Love* at Asolo Rep this season. Second year FSU/Asolo Conservatory student **Jenny Vallancourt** plays Ani/Sasha/Callie.

**GLORIA contains gun shots and potentially disturbing, realistically depicted gun violence. Prop guns are used in the performance. Recommended for ages 17+. For more information visit: <http://www.asolorep.org/shows/gloria/2017-2018>**

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**CAST**  
(In order of appearance)

JENNY VALLANCOURT#.....Ani/Sasha/Callie  
BRYCE MICHAEL WOOD\*.....Miles/Shawn/Rashaad  
ALEKSANDR KRAPIVKIN.....Dean/Devin  
DELPHI BORICH\*.....Kendra/Jenna  
DENISE CORMIER\*.....Gloria/Nan  
WES TOLMAN.....Lorin

\*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

#Appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

## SELECTED CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....	GREG LEAMING
Scenic Designer.....	REID THOMPSON
Costume Designer.....	TRACY DORMAN
Lighting Designer.....	MICHAEL PASQUINI
Sound Designer.....	MATTHEW PARKER
Fight Director.....	J. DAVID BRIMMER
Hair/wig and make-up designer.....	MICHELLE HART

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## SELECTED ARTISTIC BIOS

(In Alphabetical Order)

**DELPHI BORICH\*** (Kendra/Jenna, *Gloria*) is ecstatic to be making her debut at Asolo Rep! She was most recently seen on the national tour of *Rodgers Hammerstein's Cinderella* (u/s Ella). Regional credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (The Barn Stage Company) and *Peter Pan* (Syracuse Stage.) Huge thanks to her amazing agents at HCKR and her endlessly supportive family. Delphi is a recent and proud graduate of the Syracuse University BFA program. For Ojiichan. IG: @delphiborich

**DENISE CORMIER\*** (Gloria/Nan, *Gloria*) Asolo Rep: *The Little Foxes*; *Good People*; *All The Way*; *The Great Society*; *Ah, Wilderness!*; *Born Yesterday*; *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*; *Our Betters*. Ms. Cormier appeared in the Broadway 1<sup>st</sup> National Tour of *The Graduate*, and at regional theaters including Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Cleveland Play House, Virginia Stage Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Pioneer Theatre Company, Riverside Theatre, Magic Theatre, Palm Beach Dramaworks, and seasons at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and Theatre at Monmouth. TV and Film: *The Affair*, *Law & Order: CI*, *Guiding Light*, *The Real Stephen Blatt*, and *The Big Gay Musical*. MFA: Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting. Ms. Cormier is a proud 2017 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow, nominated by Asolo Rep.

**ALEKSANDR KRAPIVKIN** (Valentine/Ensemble, *Shakespeare in Love*; Dean/Devin, *Gloria*) is thrilled to make his Asolo Rep debut! Aleksandr appeared in the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training season as Reverend Groves in *Book of Days*, Marco in *A View From The Bridge*, and Pietr Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Credits: *Sound of Music* at Hope Summer Rep, *Joseph and the Amazing...* at Maples Rep, (u/s) *All The Way* and *Ah, Wilderness!* at Asolo Rep.

**GREG LEAMING** (Director, FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training; Associate Artistic Director, Asolo Repertory; Director, *Gloria*) For Asolo Rep, he has directed his own translation/adaptation of *Anything to Declare?* as well as *Ah, Wilderness!*, *Hearts*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Play's the Thing*, *Boeing Boeing*, *The Game's Afoot*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Good People* and the world premiere of Jason Wells' *Men of Tortuga*. For the Conservatory, he has directed *Oedipus*, *The Real Inspector Hound/The Actor's Nightmare*,

*The Water Engine, The School for Lies, Twelfth Night, Cloud Nine, Two Gentleman of Verona, Pericles, Blue Window, Murder by Poe and The Mystery Plays.* He was the Director of Artistic Programming for Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, CT, as well as Acting Artistic Director for the 2001-2002 season. There he directed, among others, the world premieres of *Going Native, Abstract Expression, The Third Army, Syncopation* and *An Infinite Ache*. Other credits include numerous productions around the country, including the world premieres of *Losing Father's Body, Church of the Sole Survivor, Jeffrey Hatcher's The Turn of the Screw*, as well as many other productions at Portland Stage Company, Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Philadelphia Drama Guild, Clarence Brown Theatre Company, Stage West, Shakespeare Sedona, Southwest Shakespeare, and Banyan Theatre Company. His adaptation/translation of Pierre Feydeau's *Le Dindon* titled *The Patsy* premiered at the Resident Ensemble Players in Delaware in 2015 and was published in the spring of 2018.

**WES TOLMAN** (Adam/Ensemble, *Shakespeare in Love*; Lorin, *Gloria*) is a proud graduate student at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training and is thrilled to be joining the Asolo Rep company this year! Asolo Rep credits include understudy for *Living on Love* and *All The Way*. FSU/Asolo Conservatory: Eddie Carbone in *View From the Bridge*. He is infamously known as the Prince spokesman for Squatty Potty.

**BRYCE MICHAEL WOOD\*** (Miles/Shawn/Rashaad, *Gloria*) is pleased to be making his Asolo Rep debut! He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with his Bachelors and was a Division-I athlete for the Fighting Irish. Most recently he received his MFA in Acting from UCONN under the direction of Dale AJ Rose. His recent credits include, but aren't limited to: *The Royale* at Hippodrome Theatre; *Smart People* at both Geva and Kitchen Theatre; *Welcome to Fear City* at the Contemporary American Theater Festival; and *Row*, where he starred as Muhammad Ali at Goodspeed Opera House. While attending UCONN he was in a multitude of Connecticut Rep productions.

**JENNY VALLANCOURT‡** (Ani/Sasha/Callie, *Gloria*) is a graduate of Barnard College. Before moving to Sarasota, she lived and worked in New York City, where she co-founded The Brewing Dept. (TBD), a theater company dedicated to collaboration and development. With TBD, Jenny performed in everything from Ibsen to Shakespeare to world-premieres. She has also worked extensively with the New Jersey Repertory Company.

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## **PUBLIC PROGRAMMING**

### **The Scoop**

**One hour prior to every performance of *GLORIA***

Arrive one hour before curtain to hear the ideas and inspirations that contributed to the making of *GLORIA* (Opening Night, April 6, is excluded.)

### **Post-Show Discussions**

**After every performance**

**Cook Theatre**

Join us for a discussion following every performance of *GLORIA* (excluding opening night April 6). Actors will join in the conversation on April 10, 17, and 24.

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**Inside Asolo Rep: *GLORIA***  
**Wednesday, March 28 at 11am**  
**Cook Theatre**  
**Panel discussions are \$5; and free for all donors and Asolo Rep Guild Members**

Get rare insights into the artistic process, hear directly from the people responsible for producing **GLORIA**, and engage in stimulating discussion inspired by the plays' themes and issues.

**Inside Asolo Rep is sponsored by Designing Women Boutique, Observer Media Group and Hotel Indigo.**

**Meet the Actors**  
**Sunday, April 15**  
**Asolo Rep's Cook Theatre**

Immediately following the 2pm matinee, ask questions and learn more from members of the cast in a facilitated discussion.

***GLORIA IllumiNation Event***  
**Wednesday, April 21 at 6:30pm**  
**Pre-show reception and a post-show community conversation held on the Mezzanine**  
**Performance in the Cook Theatre**  
**Contact Asolo Rep's Box Office for series package information and single performance tickets.**

A stimulating series of theatre and conversation exploring the topical and social themes threaded throughout our season. IllumiNation events begin one hour prior to curtain with a reception on the mezzanine, continue with the performance, and conclude with a conversation. IllumiNation also includes the ***Faces of Change performance on April 9 at 7pm in the Cook Theatre***, with additional performances in the Sarasota community on Sunday, April 8 at 7pm at Fogartyville Peace Education & Action Center, Tuesday, April 10 at 7pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, and Thursday, April 12 at 7pm at The SOURCE Productions.

**IllumiNation is sponsored by Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering, Observer Media Group, and Capstan Financial Consulting Group**

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## **TICKETS**

Tickets for **GLORIA** and the entire 2017-18 Asolo Repertory Theatre season are on sale now. Tickets for **GLORIA** start at \$27.

**GLORIA contains gun shots and potentially disturbing, realistically depicted gun violence. Prop guns are used in the performance. Recommended for ages 17+. For more information visit: <http://www.asolorep.org/shows/gloria/2017-2018>**

To purchase tickets, call 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388, visit [www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org), or visit the Asolo Repertory Theatre Box Office, located in the lobby of the theatre. Asolo Repertory Theatre is located at 5555 North Tamiami Trail in the Florida State University Center for the Performing Arts.

The Box Office is open Monday 10am – 5pm, Tuesday – Thursday 10am - 7:30pm, Friday – Saturday 10am – 8pm, and Sunday 10am – 2pm. The box office closes at 5pm when there are no evening performances and phone lines close one hour prior to the start of any performance. Season subscription packages are also available online and by visiting or calling the box office.

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## **SPONSORS**

Asolo Rep is able to present **GLORIA** because of the generosity of its sponsors. The corporate sponsor for **GLORIA** is Stella Artois. Asolo Rep 2017-18 Major Season Sponsors are Florida State University, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Designing Women Boutique, William H. Donner Foundation, The Exchange, the Huisking Foundation, and Sunset Cadillac of Bradenton. Asolo Rep's artistic programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues. Asolo Rep is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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## **About Asolo Repertory Theatre**

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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### **Media Contact:**

Sasha Goodrich  
Public Relations Manager  
941.351.9010 x4800  
[Sasha\\_Goodrich@asolo.org](mailto:Sasha_Goodrich@asolo.org)