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OFTEN**ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE**

FLORIDA'S PREMIER PROFESSIONAL THEATRE • SARASOTA

For Immediate Release: March 15, 2012**Media Contact:** Steph Gray, Public Relations Coordinator
941.351.9010 ext. 4800; Steph_Gray@asolo.org**Asolo Repertory Theatre presents *Unplugged****2012 will mark new play festival's third year in Sarasota*

(SARASOTA, Fla.)- Asolo Repertory Theatre's new play festival, *Unplugged*, will return for its third season on April 6. Devoted to drawing talented playwrights from around the country, *Unplugged* has presented work for the past two years as staged readings performed by actors from the mainstage repertory company. Led by Associate Artistic Director and Festival Curator Greg Leaming, *Unplugged* has given Asolo Rep the opportunity to supplement its season with new works.

"We started *Unplugged* as a means to bring new playwrights into the artistic fold of Asolo Rep and to give playwrights the opportunity to take their work to the next level," said Leaming. "There are so many stages that a script has to go through before it even arrives at production; and one of those really important stages is for the script to be heard by an audience so that the playwright can assess it. We remove the script from the playwright's head so that the playwright can step back from what he or she has done."

Garnering growing attention over the past two years, *Unplugged* has played an important role in helping to decide Asolo Rep's future. "We're getting more submissions, we're getting far greater audience attention, and we're also starting to realize the opportunity for us on the Asolo Rep staff to test scripts out, to see how they're working so we can consider them for future productions. Last year we fully produced one of the works that was read in the first year of *Unplugged* (Steven Drukman's *The Innocents*)," stated Leaming.

Unplugged will be brought back for the 2012-2013 season and Leaming is hoping to give these shows a life beyond Asolo Rep. "It's not just about producing the plays here; it's about also providing playwrights the opportunity to get their work produced across the country."

Unplugged

Readings will be located in the Asolo Rep Rehearsal Hall in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts. Patrons should use Stage Door entrance on the east side of the building. Seating is limited.

Three Voyages of the Lobotomobile

By: George Brandt

Directed by Jess Ontiveros

Performance: April 6, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

Three Voyages of the Lobotomobile is a play about the inventor of the American lobotomy, Dr. Walter J. Freeman, and his tireless, deluded, and ultimately tragic quest to spread the good news of his medical procedure across America. The play presents Freeman's life in a triptych of scenes - home, work, and retirement – and explores the dark side of the American myth of the confident genius, the brilliant inventor who will stop at nothing to achieve his dream.

The Good Soldier

By: Jeffrey Hatcher

Directed by Greg Leaming

Performance: April 12, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

Jeffrey Hatcher's stage adaptation of the novel by Ford Madox Ford. Two couples, one American and one British, meet in a 19th century spa, and the fragile veneer of civilized behavior is shattered. A deceptively simple and very mysterious story about an American man who discovers how naïve his view of friendship, family and even love has been.

23.5 Hours

By: Carey Crim

Directed by Brendon Fox

Performance: April 13, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

Tom Hodges was *that* teacher. The one a student adores. The one a parent admires. The one who went above and beyond and actually made a difference. But when a student accuses Tom of crossing a line, the community suddenly questions who Tom really is: upstanding husband, father and Educator of the Year? Or calculating sexual predator? Or perhaps the scariest thought of all- What if he's both?

Death of the Author

By: Steven Drukman

Directed by: Sean Phillips

Performance: April 20, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

At a university for the privileged, adjunct professor Jeff Egan detects something unusual about a paper submitted by Bradley, a legacy student a week away from graduation and parental approval. Jeff's discovery sets in motion a series of events that challenges each man's assumptions about the other--uncovering their pasts while potentially threatening their futures. A smart and probing new drama about academia, class, and conscience.

Sponsors for *Unplugged* are The Herald-Tribune Media Group, Gordon's Gourmet Market and The Holiday Inn, Sarasota Airport. Tickets are \$10 per show, or \$30 for all four shows and are available through the Asolo Repertory Theatre box office by calling 941-351-8000 or toll-free, 800-361-8388. Tickets are also available online at www.asolorep.org.

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Now in its 53rd season, Asolo Repertory Theatre is widely recognized as one of the premier professional theatres in the Southeastern United States. One of the few true repertory companies in the nation, Asolo Rep presents a diverse repertoire of newly commissioned plays, bold reinterpretations of contemporary and classical works, and provocative new musical theatre experiences each season. With its ambitious theatrical offerings and groundbreaking education, outreach and audience development programming, Asolo Rep is more vibrant and its work more relevant than ever before.