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OFTEN**ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE**
FLORIDA'S PREMIER PROFESSIONAL THEATRE • SARASOTA**For Immediate Release:** February 9, 2012**Media Contact:** Steph Gray, Public Relations Coordinator
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Desperate Housewives Onstage at Asolo Rep

Noël Coward's *Fallen Angels* opens March 9

(SARASOTA, Fla.)- Noël Coward's outrageous comedy *Fallen Angels* will bring two desperate housewives, one French lover and unlimited champagne to Asolo Repertory Theatre on March 9. Directed by Peter Amster, *Fallen Angels* tells the story of best friends Julia and Jane who have a secret past: they both had an affair with a Frenchman named Maurice before they were married. Now Maurice is back in town, their husbands have gone golfing, and the two women embark on an evening of hilarious, drunken debauchery and lustful anticipation for the Frenchman's arrival. Asolo Rep is proud to present one of Noël Coward's rarer pieces opening March 9, 2012. Previews start March 7. Tickets for *Fallen Angels* 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.

Asolo Rep is one of the only theatres in the nation to have gained the rights to perform *Fallen Angels* from the Noël Coward estate this season. Known best for shows such as *Hay Fever* and *Blithe Spirit*, Coward's work has delighted audiences and given them a hilarious insight into the early 20th century. *Fallen Angels* has been likened to a 1920's version of *Sex & the City*, with dialogue that drove critics mad when the show first opened. The words that were used to describe the production were vulgar, disgusting, shocking, nauseating, and obscene. One newspaper went as far to refer to the two women as "suburban sluts", which of course cemented the show's popularity and interest with audiences.

Amster is very excited to bring Coward's work to Sarasota audiences. "Preparing Coward is like waiting for Christmas; I love him. I find him a very congenial spirit. He has a delicious sense of fun, a great sense of language, silliness and topsy turvy that he borrows heavily from Oscar Wilde. However, there's always an underlying poignancy and

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something very frank, and often about sex. What ***Fallen Angels*** says about what a marriage should be, what the shape of love is, what friendship is and the relationship between these two friends is extraordinary and very, very funny.”

The cast features actors **Hillary Clemens** (Jane Banbury in ***Fallen Angels***, Yentl/Anshel in *Yentl*, May Daniels in *Once In a Lifetime*), **Kate Hampton** (Julia Sterroll in ***Fallen Angels***, Veronica in *God of Carnage*, Helen Hobart in *Once in a Lifetime*), **Carolyn Michel** (Saunders in ***Fallen Angels***, Rivka/Frumka Vishkower/Yachna/Ensemble in *Yentl*, Mrs. Walker in *Once In a Lifetime*) and **David Breitbarth** (Maurice Duclos in ***Fallen Angels***, Michael in *God of Carnage*). Rounding out the cast are guest artists **Jason Bradley** (Fred Sterroll in ***Fallen Angels***, Mordecai/Laibish/Zlateh/Sheftel in *Yentl*, George Lewis in *Once In a Lifetime*) and **Andrew Carter** (Will Banbury in ***Fallen Angels***, Avigdor in *Yentl*, Jerry Hyland in *Once In a Lifetime*).

FALLEN ANGELS

By: Noël Coward

Directed by Peter Amster

Previews: March 7-8, 2012

Performances: March 9, 2012- May 13, 2012

Creative team:

Director	Peter Amster
Costume Design	Virgil Johnson
Set Design	Robert Mark Morgan
Lighting Design	Aaron Muhl
Voice & Dialect Coach	Patricia Delorey
Sound Design	Matthew Parker
Wig & Make-Up Design	Michelle Hart
Stage Manager	Patrick Lanczki*
Resident Dramaturg	Lauryn E. Sasso

Cast:

(In order of Appearance)

Kate Hampton*	Julia Sterroll
Jason Bradley*	Fred Sterroll
Carolyn Michel*	Saunders
Andrew Carter*	Will Banbury

Hillary Clemens* Jane Banbury

David Breitbarth* Maurice Duclos

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

Fallen Angels select artist bios:

Noël Coward (playwright, *Fallen Angels*) Coward was born on December 16, 1899, in Teddington, Middlesex. His first play, *Rat Trap*, was written in 1917 but not published until 1926. His first drama to be noted by the critics was *The Vortex* (1924). In 1929, Coward starred in the Broadway production of his own *Bitter Sweet*. This play's popular song, "I'll See You Again," is one of his notable efforts as a composer; among his other songs are "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" and "If Love Were All." Coward's plays include *Private Lives* (1930), *Cavalcade* (1931), *Design for Living* (1937), *Blithe Spirit* (1941), *Peace in Our Time* (1947), *Quadrille* (1952), *Nude with Violin* (1956), and *Sail Away* (1961). During World War II, Coward entertained troops on the battlefronts and later detailed his experiences in *Middle East Diary* (1945). In 1942 he wrote, codirected with David Lean, and acted in the film *In Which We Serve*. He continued his collaboration with Lean on *Blithe Spirit* (1945) and *Brief Encounter* (1946). In 1960, he gave a fine performance as the secret agent in the film, *Our Man in Havana*. Coward also wrote two autobiographical volumes, *Present Indicative* (1937) and *Future Indefinite* (1954); two collections of short stories, *To Step Aside* (1939) and *Star Quality* (1951); and a novel, *Pomp and Circumstance* (1960). He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1970. Noel Coward died on March 26, 1973 in Kingston, Jamaica.

Peter Amster FOURTH SEASON (Director, *Fallen Angels*) Peter is pleased to return to the Asolo Repertory Theatre where he directed *Deathtrap*, *The Perfume Shop*, and *This Wonderful Life*. While working in Chicago, he was nominated for Joseph Jefferson Awards for directing *Once on this Island*, *The World Goes Round*, and *The Rothschilds* at Apple Tree Theatre, and *Pride and Prejudice* at Northlight Theatre. Other Chicago area theatres include Steppenwolf, The Goodman, The Court, Live Bait, Pegasus, and Route 66. Other regional theatres include the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Stage, GEVA Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Peninsula Players, Weston Playhouse, Maltz Jupiter Theatre and Laguna Playhouse. Peter has directed and choreographed operas for the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Opera Theatre, Skylight Opera in Milwaukee, and Light Opera Works in Evanston, IL.

KATE HAMPTON* GUEST ARTIST, THIRD SEASON (Julia, *Fallen Angels*) is delighted to return to the Asolo Rep stage where she has performed in *Once in a Lifetime*, *God of Carnage*, *The Innocents*, *Las Meninas*, *Boeing Boeing*, *La Bête*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Expecting Isabel*. Other credits include: the first national tour of *Spring Awakening*. Broadway: *The Best Man* and *The Deep Blue Sea*. Other New York: *Have You Seen Steve Steven?* (13P), *The Typographer's Dream* (Clubbed Thumb), *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *All My Sons* (Roundabout).

Regional: *Absurd Person Singular* (Bristol Rep), *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (Humana Festival), *Loot* (The Arden), *The Real Thing* (Olney), *All My Sons* (Williamstown), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Shakespeare Theatre of NJ). TV credits include: The *Law & Order* trifecta, *The Education of Max Bickford*, *Sex and the City*. She is married to the actor, David Breitbarth.

HILLARY CLEMENS* GUEST ARTIST, FIRST SEASON (*Yentl/Anshel, Yentl*; Jane Banbury, *Fallen Angels*) was most recently seen in Asolo Rep's production of *Once in a Lifetime*. In Chicago, her work includes *Cloud 9*, *Three Sisters*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *Hurlyburly* (The Gift Theatre Company), *As You Like It* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *The Illusion* (Court Theatre), *Ski Dubai* (Steppenwolf), *Picnic* (Writers' Theatre), *A Room With a View* (Lifeline Theatre), and *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Apple Tree Theatre). Regionally, she has worked with American Players Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Coterie Theatre, and the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival. She is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago and The School at Steppenwolf.

Corporate sponsors for *Fallen Angels* are Sabadell Bank & Trust, ABC 7, 107.9 WSRZ, *Living on the Suncoast* and Longboat Key Club & Resort. Tickets for *Fallen Angels* 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.