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(Press photos available upon request)

**ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS
An FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training Production: *MACBETH***

New Stages Tour Campaigns: SHAKESPEARE FOR ALL

(Sarasota, FL) – Asolo Repertory Theatre presents its *New Stages* Tour, an FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training production of *MACBETH*, from the play by William Shakespeare. This 60-minute adaptation includes post show discussions at each performance. As a third touring season begins, *New Stages* will travel to schools and community organizations across the state of Florida. Last year a record 12,000 audience members were reached throughout the state, with 44 performances at 36 venues. This new adaptation of *MACBETH* by Stephanie Fleischmann and Dmitry Troyanovsky and directed by Troyanovsky, will embark on a two month tour beginning October 2. Performances can be scheduled by contacting the Education & Outreach staff at Asolo Rep. Special Opening Night public performances in the Cook Theatre will be held on October 4 at 6:00 pm & 8:30 pm with a reception between performances, which is included in the ticket price.

Is there a moment when possessing the power of a country goes from the dream one wishes to attain, to the nightmare from which one must escape? See what happens when ambition becomes the object of obsession as Macbeth plots to become King of Scotland, leading him into a world of evil, deceit and murder. Shakespeare's masterpiece gets a bold and imaginative new look, as *MACBETH* raises the issues surrounding power and ambition that are as relevant today in light of an American election year as they were more than 400 years ago.

"Though of course Shakespeare is a British icon, this year's *New Stages* production of *MACBETH* is, in actuality, the true kickoff of Asolo Rep's American Character Project," Asolo Rep's Producing Artistic Director, Michael Donald Edwards remarked. "We are part of a larger cultural conversation. In this election year, as we look to our own challenging choices regarding the most powerful position in our country, this timeless story still has great potency and charge."

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“**MACBETH** is one of the best plays about power, its temptations and excesses. These themes become ever more compelling in a big election year. How far is one willing to go in order to acquire and keep power? Is ruthlessness necessary to achieve one’s political ambitions?” Said **MACBETH** director Dmitry Troyanovsky regarding his vision: “Living in a democratic society, we may be somewhat protected from the worst of political monsters. But our elected politicians still have to make life and death decisions -- and sometimes sanction blood shedding (presumably in our name). When we look at Macbeth’s personal tragedy, we must remember that today our own ideals and lives are intertwined with those who lead us.”

Following the success of last year’s tour, **MACBETH** is affording the *New Stages* program opportunities for great strides forward. “With **MACBETH**, we really want to emphasize how schools should allow even more students to experience a production like this. Shakespeare shouldn’t be limited to just theatre students, or to students perceived to ‘get it’ more easily. Shakespeare is for everyone,” Asolo Rep’s Education and Outreach Director, Brian Hersh, stated. To support this vision, Asolo Rep’s Education & outreach offers a special discount to schools that book more than one performance. Regarding this particular production of **MACBETH** for *New Stages*, Hersh says, “We are looking forward to adding some musical elements. Saskia Lane is an incredible songwriter, and she crafted a beautiful song that will flourish in its own way when the casts have a chance to work with it and make it their own using their unique instrumental and vocal abilities.”

In 2012 *New Stages* was awarded WEDU’s ‘*Be More Enriched Arts & Culture Award*’ for its “spirit of adventure and exploration through education in the arts.” *New Stages* is a bold educational initiative that challenges young minds and promotes growth and learning by connecting live performances to core curriculum standards. To achieve this goal, the *New Stages* artists initiate collaborative audience discussions after every performance. This direct contact between artist and audience allows for a deeper connection and immediate response to the work. Audiences can also interact with the cast before and after the show through social media, like Facebook, changing the way students engage with theatre.

New Stages ensures people of all backgrounds, especially young people, have the chance to experience live theatre. *New Stages* is reaching a new and wider audience through Asolo Rep’s continuing partnership with the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs. This year, *New Stages* will be in residence October 8-12 at the South-Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center, performing **MACBETH** for schools and the public as part of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs *Shadow Interpreted Theatre Program* and *Open Access Theatre Series*. *The Shadow Interpreted Theatre Program* utilizes trained American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters in a “shadow” performance literally paired alongside the **MACBETH** actors, creating an art form seamlessly integrated into the live performance.

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The company members of **MACBETH** are enrolled in the Florida State University/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training, a three-year graduate program culminating in a Master of Fine Arts degree. Only 12 students are chosen each year from thousands who audition in four cities nationwide. Actors are provided with rigorous training in a professional theatre environment, including membership in the Asolo Repertory Theatre company during their third year. Asolo Rep presents the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training Production of **MACBETH** to highlight the skills of the third year acting company, all of whom will be seen in the upcoming Asolo Rep mainstage season. Graduates of the program have appeared on and off Broadway, in regional theatres, in feature films and on television. *U.S. News and World Report* consistently places FSU's graduate theatre programs in its top-tier rankings, one of the few public university programs so honored.

Asolo Repertory Theatre subsidizes the costs of the *New Stages* touring program through charitable contributions from foundations, corporations and individual donors. For more information on how to support *New Stages*, please contact Tricia Mire, Development Director at 941.351.9010 ext. 4700.

MACBETH – Fact Sheet:

Teachers receive study guides to prepare their students for the performances. Classes can also participate in special online pre-show and post –show workshops. **Please note: While *MACBETH* will be performed mostly in high schools, its themes are inclusive for audiences ranging from middle school-aged students to senior citizens.**

❖ **Touring information for *MACBETH*:**

- This production kicks off its tour with performances at schools, organizations and unique venues across the state on Tuesday, October 2. To schedule a performance, please call 941.351.9010 ext. 3306.

❖ **Ticketing information for *MACBETH* on Thursday, October 4 Opening Night:**

- For single tickets to the Opening Night public performances in the Cook Theatre on October 4 at 6:00 pm or 8:30 pm, please call the box office at 941.351.8000, toll-free at 800.361.8388. Seats are \$25 for the October 4 performances and include access to the special Opening Night reception. Tickets **MACBETH** are currently on sale. For Groups of 10 + save up to 20-30%; call 941.351.9010 ext. 4813.

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Selected Artistic Biographies (in alphabetical order):

Stephanie Fleischmann (Adapter) is a playwright and librettist/lyricist whose texts serve as blueprints for intricate three-dimensional sonic and visual worlds. Her works for theater include: *Hamlet Redux*, *Red Fly/Blue Bottle*, *The Secret Lives of Coats*, *What the Moon Saw*, *Omonia-3*, *Eloise & Ray*, *Tally Ho*, *The Street of Useful Things*, *The World Speed Carnival*, *The Hotel Carter*, *Viper*, *Tinder*, and *The Greeks and The Americans* at Juilliard (song lyrics, dramaturgy, co-devising). She has been produced/developed internationally and in the U.S. at venues including: the Roundhouse, London (NYLon Productions), Noorderzon Festival (Netherlands), Exit Festival (France), Hellenic Centre of ITI (Athens, Greece), Aldeburgh Festival (England), EMPAC, Son of Semele, Roadworks, Synchronicity, Playlabs, Integrity, Act II, Empty Space, L.A. Theatreworks, the Hollywood Bowl. And in NYC at: T41, HERE, New Georges, Soho Rep, the Public, Knitting Factory and more. Grants/fellowships/residencies include: NEA opera commission, Frederick Loewe Award, Tennessee Williams fellowship, Playwrights Center Core Writer and New Dramatists alumnus. Published by *Play*, *A Journal of Plays*, Playscripts.com, Smith and Krauss. MFA: Brooklyn College (studied with Mac Wellman). She teaches playwriting at Skidmore College and was a 2012 Resident Artist at the Composer/Librettist Development Program of the American Lyric Theater. Her one-act opera, *Another Sky*, with music by Jeremy Howard Beck, was first heard at Symphony Space last June. With director Dmitry Troyanovsky and students at Bard and Smolny (St. Petersburg, Russia) she adapted Andrei Bely's *Petersburg*, which was performed in Russia and the U.S.

Dmitry Troyanovsky (Director / Adapter) is a theatre director and teacher. His recent directing credits include FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training production of *Hamlet Redux* (w/Stephanie Fleischmann) and a version of Strindberg's *The Ghost Sonata* with theatre students in Shanghai. Other notable projects: FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training production of *Antigone Now*, Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal*, Euripides' *The Bacchae*, Presnyakov Brothers' *Terrorism*, *The Discreet Charm of Monsieur Jourdain* (based on Moliere's work), *Strings Attached: Serenade for Two* (a new play/concert commissioned by the 92 Street Y in New York), Vassily Sigarev's *Plasticine*, Alexander Ostrovsky's *The Forest*, Nikolai Erdman's *The Suicide*, Frank Wedekind's *Spring Awakening*, *Doctor Caligari is Coming to Town* (w/Gabe Geltzer), Andrey Bely's *Petersburg* (w/ Stephanie Fleischmann), and Dürrenmatt's *The Visit*, and the Russian language premier of Shepard's *Fool for Love* at the famed Pushkin Theatre in Moscow. He led workshops and developed new material at institutions such as the Segal Theatre Center (CUNY), Baryshnikov Arts Center, American Repertory Theatre Institute, SoHo Rep Summer Camp, St. Petersburg State University (Russia), Fisher Arts Center at Bard College, Brown University, and Shanghai Theatre Academy and American Lyric Theatre. In addition to theatre, he's created installation and performance art projects such as *Herzstück* at the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University. He is an MFA graduate of the American Repertory Theatre Institute for Advanced Theatre Training/Moscow Art Theatre School at Harvard University. Dmitry taught at NYU's Tisch School for the Arts, Fordham University, and Bard College. Currently, Dmitry teaches acting and directing at Tulane University in New Orleans. He's also the co-director of the NewGeneRussian educational workshop (NY), promoting Russian theatre heritage and Stanislavsky-based approach to acting.

Production Staff

Producing Artistic Director - Michael Donald Edwards; Managing Director - Linda DiGabriele; FSU/Asolo Conservatory Director/Associate Director of Asolo Rep - Greg Leaming; Director and Adapter - Dmitry Troyanovsky; Adapter - Stephanie Fleischmann; Costume Designer - Moira Sine Clinton; Sound Designer - Matthew Parker; Original Music - Saskia Lane; Voice & Dialect - Patricia Delorey;

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Hair & Makeup - Michelle Hart; Fight Director - Bruce Lecure; Resident Dramaturg – Lauryn E. Sasso; Stage Manager - Ann E. Stenehjem; Stage Manager - Katrina Sylvester; Tour Coordinator – Becca Rothman; Education & Outreach Director - Brian Hersh; Education Associate - Kelli Bragdon; Education Intern - Lily Junker

Touring Company:

(The 3rd year class of the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training – is divided into two touring companies called **Sound** and **Fury**):

Sound Cast

Macbeth – **Jesse Dornan**
Lady Macbeth – **Brittany Proia**
Duncan, Doctor – **Jacob Cooper**
Malcolm, Lady Macduff – **Sarah Brown**
Banquo, Macduff's Son, Scottish Friend – **Lindsay Tornquist**
Macduff, Fleance – **Brendan Ragan**

Fury Cast

Macbeth – **Joseph McGranaghan**
Lady Macbeth – **Kelly Campbell**
Duncan, Doctor – **Zak Wilson**
Malcolm, Lady Macduff – **Erin Whitney**
Banquo, Macduff's Son, Scottish Friend – **Francisco Rodriguez**
Macduff, Fleance – **Christopher Williams**

The award-winning *New Stages* tour is sponsored in part by: Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc; Charles Henry Leach II Foundation; Cordelia Lee Beattie Foundation; Asolo Repertory Theatre Guild; Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation; Andrew R. Ferrell Foundation; The Plantation Community Foundation of Venice, FL; and the Thomas and Lola Seligman Fund at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.



Now in its 54th 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 classic works, and provocative new musical theatre experiences each season. With its ambitious theatrical offerings and ground-breaking education, outreach and audience development programming, Asolo Rep is more vibrant and its work more relevant than ever before. In 2012, Asolo Rep won **WEDU's "Be More Enriched Arts & Culture Award"** for culturally-based organizations that contribute to the spirit of adventure and exploration

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through education in the arts, and bring rich and engaging experiences to audiences who might now otherwise have opportunities to witness or be an active participant. This award recognizes outstanding achievement specifically for programs related to the arts, performances, historic or zoological exhibits. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards and Managing Director Linda DiGabriele, Asolo Rep exists to present a diverse mix of theatrical work of the highest artistic standards and enthusiastically engages audiences to continually ensure its lasting legacy for future generations.

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