

GUILD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 'Maria' is in the building

That staid martinet Baron von Trapp and his regimented troop of children will be arriving on the Asolo Rep stage this month. They will be caught up by the whirlwind known as Maria, a young woman whose evanescence will bubble up around the whole family and transform their lives forever.

Yes, the von Trapps will be in residence at the Asolo Rep from November 13 to December 28 as the beloved classic *The* Sound of Music opens just in time for the holiday season. Josh Rhodes, well known on Broadway as a director/choreographer and celebrated in Sarasota for his stunning restaging of Evita, is directing this new production. I personally can't wait to see if he gives the "oh so stiff" Baron the opportunity to foxtrot or twostep across the stage.



MADDIE SHEA BALDWIN 2019-20 KEATING FAMILY FOUNDATION PERFORMER (Maria Rainer)



TALLY SESSIONS (Captain Georg von Trapp)

Maddie Shea Baldwin will be performing the role of Maria. Maddie is an exciting new voice in musical theatre. She has been featured in the original Broadway and national touring productions of the musical Bright Star by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. Maddie's sparkling voice and exuberant personality will wrap her 'Maria' in a robe of Alpine roses and daisies.

Some of the creative team for The Sound of Music will join dramaturg James Monaghan for the Inside Asolo Rep panel discussion on Thursday, November 21. We have our fingers crossed that Josh and Maddie will be available to participate. Mark your calendars now to join us - and bring a friend for free!

This season will be a perfect time to reflect on your "Favorite Things," get reacquainted with "The Lonely Goatherd," exercise your vocal cords by reaching the top of the scale while singing "Do-Re-Mi," inspire yourself to "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" and exit gracefully with "So Long, Farewell, auf Wiedersehen, Adieu." Or maybe you just want to sit back and enjoy the show.

What a treat is in store for us! See you at the theatre.

Pat Anderson, President

GUILD HAPPENINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THESE EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS!

MONDAY, NOV 11 Play Readers Meeting

Frankel Annex

9:30 AM-Coffee & Conversation **10:00 AM-**Flowers for Algernon by David Rogers. See the Play Readers' Corner for more info.

TUESDAY, NOV 12 Cast & Crew Tech Dinner

The Sound of Music **Asolo Rep Theatre** 4:45 PM-ish

We will have 70+ hungry actors and crew to chat with and feed!

THURSDAY, NOV 21

Inside Asolo Rep The Sound of Music **Cook Theatre**

9:30 AM-Coffee & Conversation

10:00 AM-Business meeting

10:30 AM-Panel discussion

Bring a friend for free!

MONDAY, DEC 9 Play Readers Meeting

Cook Theatre

9:30 AM-Coffee & Conversation

10:00 AM-Harvey by Mary Chase

PLAYING SOON AT ASOLO REP **SEE PAGE 10**

GUILD BOARD OF DIRECTORS 19/20



LENEE OWENS

kddowens39@hotmail.com......941-312-4263



Be our Facebook friend!

To be in the know, all you have to do is "like" the Asolo Rep Theatre Guild Facebook page. It's a great way to keep up with Guild news and share the fun with your friends and family. Photos from Guild events can be sent to Publicity Chair Nanette Crist at ncrist17@gmail.com for inclusion on our page.



Check us out today!
AsoloRepertoryTheatreGuild

Take it to the top!

Pat Anderson and June Aloia are ready to take your call to help you answer that question or resolve that issue related to the Guild.

PATRICIA ANDERSON 941-504-4729

> JUNE ALOIA 561-351-8109

Spotlight on Vic Meyrich

By Nanette Crist

Vic Meyrich is a fixture at Asolo Rep. For the past 50 – yes, 50 – years Vic has headed up the crafts departments at the theatre. His purview includes scenery, props, lighting, sound, and costumes. As if that weren't enough, he also serves as Operations Manager and IT Manager. Vic took time away from his busy schedule to talk about the work of the scenic studio.

When asked what's kept him at Asolo Rep all these years, Vic talked about the excitement of his work. "Every day is different," he said. And every day brings a different challenge. This isn't surprising since multiple projects are in process at any given time.

On a recent visit to the Koski Production Center, work was being wrapped up on the set for *The Sound of Music*, scenic elements were underway for *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Into the Breeches!*, and construction was nearing completion on the set for an upcoming Sarasota Opera production. (The scenic shop takes on jobs for other cultural organizations when its schedule allows.) Whew!

The work for each Asolo Rep show begins once the director and designers have been selected. The scenic designer provides Vic with a rendering and a set of drawings depicting his vision. What's missing is how to get the concept from the page to the stage. That part is up to Vic and his team.

The relevant craftspeople gather around a table and discuss the various options. Vic noted these meetings can be pretty lively and likened them to an energetic family discussion. As we've all witnessed, the process leads to impressive results.

"The only things we say you can't do are things Newton has outlawed," he reported being fond of saying. The can-do attitude of Vic and his team has allowed the theatre to push the boundaries of its productions, whether that means creating an incredibly elaborate set or pulling off the equivalent of a Hail Mary pass.

Take, for instance, the last minute request by the director of *Bonnie and Clyde* for a 1932 Ford. With two weeks to go until



"The only things we say you can't do are things Newton has outlawed."

opening night, Vic and his team scrambled to figure out a way to get a facsimile of the vehicle on stage. They quickly learned that '32 Fords are popular hot rods today. As a result, reproduction parts of the vehicle are readily available. They bought fenders, headlights and other key parts and welded them together to create the car in which Bonnie and Clyde make their get-aways. It's just one example of the ingenuity and teamwork required of these master craftsmen.

Vic was quick to note that while he often gets the praise for the end product seen on stage, credit goes to the "hands, brains and creative spirit" of his team. Most of his staff has been at Asolo Rep for at least 20 years. In fact, it's not unusual to find old-timers who've been there nearly as long as Vic. Steve Hogan was one of Vic's first hires back in 1969. Steve came on as a technical apprentice while he was still in high school and today serves as Scenery Construction/Shop Foreman.

The next time you're in your seat at the theatre, take the time to really notice the details on stage. And when you receive this season's invite for a tour of the Koski Production Center, jump at the opportunity. It will give you a new appreciation of the work that goes into making each Asolo Rep production so special.





GUILD By June Aloia

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the cast and crew potluck dinner on November 12 and at our meeting at Inside Asolo Rep on November 21. Both events will be a great opportunity to catch up with your Guild friends while getting the scoop on The Sound of Music. Don't forget to wear your name tag!

The "big" membership news is that it's time to pay your dues!

In order to be consistent with Asolo Rep's season, Guild membership runs from November 1- October 31. As a result, everyone's dues should be paid in the fall. Membership levels and ways to pay are listed below.

I hope you'll consider renewing at an "Angel" level to support the theatre's "Access to the Arts" initiative. This program helps provide thousands of local students the opportunity to attend performances at a greatly reduced cost. Many of these young people are experiencing live theater for the first time. It's hard to imagine a better cause to support than helping instill a love of theater in the next generation.

We also invite you to purchase a Guild name tag

if you haven't already done so (or if it's gone missing). Badges are just \$10.

Please Welcome Our New Members:

Karen Camp | Rhoda Karp | Rita Mazer Stevie Rawlings | Zahana Schillinger | Mary Ann Subowski

Memberships are available online at asolorep.org!

- 1 Click the Guild banner (shown above) on the home page. Scroll down to **MEMBERSHIP DUES**.
- 2 Click on ONLINE PAYMENTS.
- 3 Scroll down to GIVE TODAY.
- 4 PLEASE SELECT This drop down menu includes choices for ALL types of donations.
- 5 Choose GUILD DUES and select level of membership. The dollar amount appears in the next box.
- 6 Choose **DONATE NOW** and you will be taken to the Shopping Cart and Checkout. Fill in with your credit card information.



ANNUAL DUES November 1- October 31						
REGULAR / INDIVIDUAL	\$35	\$50 per couple				
SUSTAINING* LEVEL	\$110	\$125 per couple				
PATRON* LEVEL	\$135	\$150 per couple				

Membership forms are in every issue of The Guilder. Complete the form if you are a new member or want to change your level of membership or address, order a name tag (\$10 fee), or update your volunteer interests. Then mail it with your check to the address on the form. You can also pay online with a credit card or call Frank Kelly at 941-351-9010 ext. 4714. I'm also always happy to accept your dues or revised membership information at any Guild meeting or function.

Asolo Rep Public Programming for *The Sound of Music*

Don't miss the chance to deepen your theatre experience with these terrific programs!

DESIGNER BRUNCH

WEDNESDAY, NOV 13 Hear from set designer Paul Tate de Poo III and Music Supervisor Sinai Tabak following a gourmet brunch at 10:30 AM. Reservations and tickets are required. (\$25 for donors and Guild 04 members; \$35 for the general public).

TUESDAY TALKBACKS

NOV 19 & 26 An intimate post-show discussion takes place with featured actors or guests on the Mezzanine after every Tuesday evening performance. **FREE**

SUNDAY SALON

SUNDAY, DEC 8 Stay after the matinee for a conversation about the show led by a member of the Asolo Rep Artistic Department. FREE

INSIDE ASOLO REP

THURSDAY, NOV 21, 10:30 AM, Dramaturg James Monaghan talks with members of the creative team. Reservations and tickets are required. (free for donors and Guild members; \$5 for the general public)

^{*}At this level of membership, Asolo Rep bestows Cherubim Angel status with associated privileges.

GUILD

The Guild proudly recognizes our members HONOR ROLL who make generous charitable gifts to Asolo Rep in addition to their membership dues.

PATRON MEMBERS

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^{*}These members have made generous gifts to Asolo Rep's Endowment Fund in addition to their annual support.

GUILD

PLAY READERS' CORNER Article and Photographs by Susan Mauntel



By Susan Mauntel

Scenes from October Our favorite leaders, Guild President Pat Anderson and Play Readers Chair Dianne Brin, opened up our much anticipated AND smash first meeting of the season at the Cook Theatre. Dianne says this is her last year in that role, but of course we all find that unacceptable. What would we do without her?

Does it get any funnier than Neil Simon? And does a Neil Simon play get any funnier than *Fools* (especially as directed and performed by our priceless Play Readers)? OMG, did we laugh! Sometimes I think I laugh harder at our monthly gatherings than anyplace else. We should congratulate OURSELVES!

Huge applause to director David Meyersburg for the countless hours he spent prepping this play for our group. If you've never done it, YOU HAVE NO IDEA how much effort is required. But the result was/is the big payoff! Beaucoup thanks to David AND to all past and future directors.

Thanks as well to our ever loyal hostess Louise Mazius who bakes all those lovely goodies and coordinates her hospitality team. They are all unsung heroines. And did you catch Louise's porcelain portrait earrings?

A well-deserved shout-out also goes to new literary intern Annie Dent who smoothly assists Louise and carries out copying efforts and other behind the scenes needs.

Be sure to check out the information on page 8 about *Flowers for Agernon*, the play to be read at our November 11 meeting. Muster up your courage and volunteer to read. We love new readers!

Outreach Performances

If you really have the acting bug, auditions will take place for our outreach performances of *A Bintel Brief: A bundle of letters, Squabbles,* and *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women* after our November meeting. See page 8 for more information about these plays and cast requirements.

See all you thespians soon.

Make a calendar note to drop in on our Play Readers Library Booking in December! TUESDAY, DEC 3

Twist of the Dial

2:00 PM | Fruitville Library

100 Coburn Road, Sarasota

941-861-2500

These readings are free and open to the public!



Patti Kitching and Terry Picard



Kathy Chesley, David Coe, Ann Forwand, Carole Leving and Neil Levine



Appreciative Audience



TOP ROW: Pat Anderson; Jenny Aldrich and Frank Motz; Karen Nee, Sandi Cooper, Jan Zipper and Barbara Knode SECOND ROW: Nancy Hanks, David Coe and Louise Mazius; Annie Dent; Susan Mauntel, Bill Bordy, Kathy Chesley and Alice Cotman



Dianne Brin; David Meyersburg, Annette Fortier, Frank Motz and Lizzie Brown



Neil Levine, Terry Langlois, Betty Robinson, Ray Crucet and Madeleine Poole; Lenee Owens and Sharon Erickson

GUILD

PLAY READERS' CALENDAR

NEXT MEETINGMONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019

Frankel Annex
9:30 AM | Coffee and Conversation
10:00 AM | Jenny Aldrich Walker and
Karen Nee will direct a reading of
Flowers for Algernon by David Rogers

Flowers for Algernon tells the story of Charlie, a mentally deficient man, and the interweaving of his life with that of Algernon, a lab mouse. Algernon has received an experimental procedure that increased his intelligence. The procedure is performed on Charlie, who changes from moron to genius, becoming more intelligent than Alice, his teacher and love, and the doctors who created the procedure. As Charlie approaches brilliance, Algernon begins to regress. Can Charlie keep his intelligence long enough to save himself? Funny, romantic and poignant, the story has been re-imagined for theater, film and television for over 45 years.

CAST | Eleven

Charlie (male), a handsome, eager man, aged 32

 $\textbf{Alice} \ (\text{female}), \ a \ \text{pretty, young teacher of mentally challenged children}$

Dr. Strauss (male), a neurosurgeon

Professor Nemur (female), somewhat older than Dr. Strauss

Burt (male), a young lab assistant

Mrs. Donner (female), motherly, owner of the bakery

Joe (male), a bakery employee

Gina (female), a bakery employee

Mother (female), a memory of Charlie, various ages

Father (male), a memory of Charlie, various ages

Norma (female), Charlie's sister, various ages

Play Readers' Schedule for the

remainder of the season

DECEMBER 9, 2019

Harvey by Mary Chase

Directed by Terry Langlois and Betty Robinson

JANUARY 13, 2020

Over the River and Through the Woods by Joe DiPietro

Directed by Gary Lee and Frank Motz

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

God/Address Unknown by Woody Allen and Kathryn Kressman Taylor

Directed by Den Nee and Don Walker

MARCH 9, 2020

Born Yesterday by Garson Kanin Directed by Miriam Ring and Jan Zipper

APRIL 13, 2020

The Golden Age of Radio

Directed by Dianne Brin

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Dianne Brin at dibrin@aol.com

Our thoughts are with Miriam Ring, former Chair of the Play Readers, who has suffered two recent accidents. Her most recent injury is a broken arm. She is being cared for at the Benderson Rehabilitation Facility in Sarasota. Miriam was the original director/adapter of Send Me No Flowers, Sylvia and several other shows over the past many years. Currently she plays the Mother in Sons, Mothers and Others, a long standing play in our outreach roster. We wish her a quick recovery.

Auditions for outreach performances of the following plays will take place immediately following our meeting.

A BINTEL BRIEF: A bundle of letters

Directed by Alice Cotman. Often separated from family and bewildered by life in a new country, thousands of Jewish immigrants wrote the *Jewish Daily Forward* for advice. "A Bintel Brief" was a Yiddish advice column in the paper for these immigrants to help with their new lives. Not surprisingly, the advice was helpful to all new immigrants. Theatrical readings of actual letters interspersed with Yiddish music.

Cast: 3 men, 3 women to read letters.

SQUABBLES Directed by David Lionel. Jerry and Alice have a small house in Connecticut. Alice's father moves in with them. When Jerry's mother's house burns down and she has nowhere else to go, the fun and squabbles begin.

Cast: One man to play Jerry Sloan, an open-minded jingle writer with a pregnant wife who tries to make peace between the two squabbling in-laws.

THE RADIUM GIRLS:

The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore. Directed by Dianne Brin. This is the One Book One Community library selection for 2020. Further information to follow in an email blast in November.

Guild Fall Luncheon a Rousing Success

By Nanette Crist









ABOVE: Annie Morrison and Pat Anderson; ABOVE RIGHT: Arthur and Marcella Levin; Judith Yeager, Lou Schwartz, Andrew Dixon and Judith Lambert; BOTTOM ROW: Patti Kitching, Connie McManus and Terry Picard; Sharon Erickson, Stevie Rawlings, Louise Mazius and Wilmer Pearson; Emilie Robinson and Kendra Meinert







Pat Anderson always manages to find an interesting speaker for our Guild luncheons. But she outdid herself this time. As Pat said, the multi-talented Annie Morrison gave the liveliest talk in Guild luncheon history.

Pat kicked off the event by inviting audience members to sing a few bars of their favorite tune from The Sound of Music. Her husband Dick jumped up, grabbed the mic, and sang a few bars from "The Goatherder." Carole Lieving and Stevie Rawlings were up next with a rendition of "Do-Re-Mi." Things ratcheted up a notch when Annie belted out the refrain from "Climb Ev'ry Mountain." We were off to an excellent start.

Annie shared a bit of her history on Broadway and the West End, with a highlight being her award-winning

performance as Mary Flynn in Stephen Sondheim and Hal Price's Merrily We Roll Along. But she realized along the way that what she really wanted to spend her time doing was "theater with a purpose." Enter Asolo Rep's Kaleidoscope program for developmentally disabled people.

Annie co-founded the program in 1995 and said her involvement has been a "life changing experience." Each year, the theatre hosts Kaleidoscope actors as they perform a work of musical theater. It takes a village to put on one of these shows, with volunteers required to help the actors hit their marks on stage at the appropriate time. (More about opportunities for Guild members to help out when this season's program gets underway.)

Each member of the Kaleidoscope ensemble has a place in Annie's heart, but she developed a special connection with Linda, a woman with Down Syndrome who was a Kaleidoscope performer for ten years. In fact, Linda inspired Annie to write her one woman show entitled "Linda Lovely Goes to Broadway."

Annie performed the show at the United Solo Festival in New York in 2012 and won that year's best actress award. Guild members had the chance to see why the show has resonated with audiences as Annie shared an excerpt of the play with us. It was wonderful.

A huge thanks to Annie for making the Guild luncheon truly an event to remember. Be on the look-out for her as Frau Schmidt (and the occasional nun) in The Sound of Music.

asolorep



NOVEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 28

Previews November 13, 14 & 15

Music by RICHARD RODGERS
Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
Book by HOWARD LINDSAY AND RUSSEL CROUSE
Suggested by The Trapp Family Singers
by MARIA AUGUSTA TRAPP

Directed & choreographed by **JOSH RHODES**

Like a breath of fresh Alpine air, this beloved musical masterpiece sweeps onto the Asolo Rep stage just in time for the holidays. Maria, a young nun causing trouble at the abbey, is sent off to be governess to Captain Von Trapp's seven children. She brings much-needed love and joy to the family—and the widowed captain—and transforms their world and hers through the power of music. But the looming threat of Nazi Germany's invasion of their native Austria darkens their future. Overflowing with some of the most iconic songs of all time, this heartwarming family musical will be helmed by Josh Rhodes, returning on the heels of his spectacular production of Evita in 2017.

EVENTS | OFFERINGS

Take advantage of the Asolo Rep 2019-20 Season programming.

THE SCOOP

Pre-show talk 1 hour before curtain – FREE (Opening Nights excluded)

DESIGNER BRUNCH

A catered brunch and Q&A with designers. Tickets: \$25/Donors, \$35/general public *The Sound of Music*

November 13, 2019 | 10:30 AM

TUESDAY TALKBACKS

Post-show discussion with featured actors following the performance – FREE *The Sound of Music*November 19, 26, December 3,10,17

INSIDE ASOLO REP

Coffee and pastries in the lobby followed by a panel discussion with the creative artists. FREE for donors and Guild members.

The Sound of Music November 21 | 10:30 AM

SUNDAY SALONS

Following the performance – FREE *The Sound of Music* **December 8**



Sponsors











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*Email *By providing an email address, you will automatically be sent the monthly newsletter to that address. If you would like to have a hard copy delivered by regular mail, please check this box. Guild Member Name Badge Yes, I would like to order a Guild Member name badge (for \$10), printed as above VOLUNTEERING The Guild's many volunteers make our exciting events possible. Let us know how you would like to be involved. Guild Event Planning: Plan and execute events for Guild members Play Readers: Perform in staged readings out in the community Membership: Actively recruit new members and contact members to increase involvement Hospitality: Meet and greet members, circulate during meetings/functions, make everyone feel welcome and involved Cast & Crew Dinners: Assist with registration, set up and tear down Newsletter: Assist editor of The Guilder with articles and photography						
ANNUAL DUES	ANNUAL DUES November 1- October 31					
BY MAIL: Return form with check to Asolo Rep Guild, Attention Membership Chair, 555 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243 BY PHONE: Call Frank Kelly at 941-351-9010 ext. 4714 and charge your membership dues ONLINE: Go to asolorep.org/support-us/individual-giving, click on "Donate Now" button and scroll down to "Guild Dues."						
PAYMENT OPTIONS Select one method of payment. Check enclosed for \$ Credit Card for \$ VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER (circle one)	DATE NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Name on card Account # Expires / / Verification # Signature					

Asolo Rep GUILD FSU Center for the Performing Arts 5555 N. Tamiami Trail Sarasota, FL 34243

GUILD EVENTS!

INSIDE asolorep

Come glimpse what goes on behind the curtain in this special series featuring the directors, designers, and other creative artists from Asolo Rep's dazzling productions. All sessions take place in the morning following a Guild-sponsored coffee and a short business meeting. FREE for donors and Guild members. Learn more at asolorep.org/inside.

> **GAIN INSIGHTS MEET ARTISTS BE INSPIRED**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Thursday, November 21- The Sound of Music Join Dramaturg & Literary Manager James Monaghan as he talks with the directors and actors.

Tuesday, February 4- The Lifespan of a Fact and Murder on the Orient Express Wednesday, February 26- Into the Breeches! and The Great Leap Tuesday, April 21- Knoxville









Every Asolo Rep production requires at least one 12-hour day from its actors and crew for a tech runthrough. To break up this grueling marathon, Guilders provide a sumptuous potluck feast for them. Sitting across the table hearing stories about their lives in theatre brings the artists up close and personal. These events have become actor favorites!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Tuesday, November 12 - The Sound of Music Tuesday, January 7 – *Murder on the Orient Express* Tuesday, January 21 - The Lifespan of a Fact Tuesday, February 11 - Into the Breeches! Tuesday, March 17 - The Great Leap Tuesday, March 31 - Knoxville Tuesday, May 5 - Hood: A Robin Hood

Musical Adventure