

The Quilter

A monthly glimpse into the Asolo Rep Guild, its members' passion for theater and their commitment to its future in our community

GUILD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Must See Theatre

Kudos and many thanks to all of the great cooks and industrious sous-chefs who provided food and encouragement to the seventy cast and crew members of *The Sound of Music*. These dinners are always a very welcome respite during this particular work day, which is twelve hours long. They must run through the entire production twice. Everything—the lines, the lights, the music and the movements—needs to coalesce into a sparkling performance for opening night.

At least, during this two hour break, they can visit the laden buffet multiple times and chat with admiring Guild members whilst letting us in on some entertaining, behind the scenes anecdotes.

On stage, the von Trapp children are well behaved, if a little sly and impish at times, and quite sweet to watch. At the dinner they were even more endearing as they

visited each table to thank us individually for our efforts and generosity. Naturally, we all fell in love with each of them and with their artless good manners and grace.

This socializing was great preparation for the grand event – Opening Night at the Asolo! If you think you have seen this iconic musical often enough, please believe that you need to see this production. Every song is a joy to hear. Every voice is outstanding. Maria is as charmingly rambunctious as the children. There is an enchanting pas de deux on a bicycle. And, of course, the Captain is stirringly emotive while singing Austria's favorite song, "Edelweiss."

But let's be clear—this is not some saccharine rehash of the movie. It's a freshly realized production that sharply contrasts the blossoming romance and the innocent children of the first act with the emerging menace of the Nazi regime. The moment the swastika banners are unfurled is heart-wrenching and makes the von Trapps' ultimate escape even more triumphant than it is on screen.

You shouldn't miss any of these moments!



Pat

Pat Anderson, President



Maddie Shea Baldwin, Pat Anderson and Tally Sessions at Inside Asolo Rep

GUILD HAPPENINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THESE EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS!

MONDAY, DEC 9 Play Readers Meeting & Holiday Gathering Cook Theatre

9:30 AM-Coffee & Conversation
10:00 AM-Harvey by Mary Chase
12:00 PM-ish-Holiday Potluck
More info: Play Readers' Corner, p.6

TUESDAY, JAN 7 Cast & Crew Tech Dinner Murder on the Orient Express Asolo Rep Theatre

4:45 PM-ish
Come chat with – and feed – the hungry cast and crew!

MONDAY, JAN 13 Play Readers Meeting Frankel Annex

9:30 AM-Coffee & Conversation
10:00 AM-Over the River and Through the Woods by Joe DiPietro.
More info: Play Readers' Corner, p.6

TUESDAY, JAN 21 Cast & Crew Tech Dinner The Lifespan of a Fact Asolo Rep Theatre

4:45 PM-ish
Come chat with – and feed – the hungry cast and crew!

PLAYING AT ASOLO REP
SEE PAGE 10

GUILD **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 19/20



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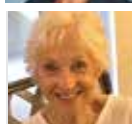
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Be our Facebook friend!

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

asolorep *Guild* MEMBERSHIP

19
20

CONTACT INFORMATION Please print

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr.

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*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

BY MAIL: Return form with check to Asolo Rep Guild, Attention: Membership Chair, 5555 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."

ANNUAL DUES November 1– October 31

REGULAR / INDIVIDUAL	\$35	\$50 per couple
SUSTAINING* LEVEL	\$110	\$125 per couple
PATRON* LEVEL	\$135	\$150 per couple

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

DATE _____ ☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ RENEWAL

PAYMENT OPTIONS Select one method of payment.

☐ Check enclosed for \$ _____

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VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER (circle one)

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RETURN FORM TO: Asolo Rep Guild | Attention: Membership Chair | 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243



NOW THRU – DECEMBER 28

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**

Sponsors



Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation



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)

TUESDAY TALKBACKS

Post-show discussion with featured actors following the performance – FREE

***The Sound of Music* | December 3, 10, 17**

SUNDAY SALONS

Following the performance – FREE

***The Sound of Music* | December 8**

EVENTS | OFFERINGS

THE SCOOP

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

DESIGNER BRUNCH

January 8 – 10:30am

Q&A with acclaimed designers

SUNDAY SALON

January 12

Following the performance – FREE

TUESDAY TALKBACKS

January 14, February 4, March 3

Following the performance – FREE

INSIDE ASOLO REP

Combined with *The Lifespan of a Fact*

February 4

FREE for donors and Guild members



JANUARY 10 – MARCH 8

Previews January 8 & 9

Adapted by **KEN LUDWIG**
 Directed by **PETER AMSTER**

Sponsors



Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation



Talking Scenic Design and Music at *The Sound of Music* Designer Brunch

By Nanette Crist

"*The Sound of Music*. Really?" thought scenic designer Paul Tate dePoo III when Michael Donald Edwards called him about the gig. Despite his lack of immediate enthusiasm, he signed on for the project. Josh Rhodes was directing, after all, and their prior collaborations for *Evita* and *Josephine* had been both successful and creatively satisfying.

Having made this confession, it meant much more when dePoo told the brunch attendees, "I can't remember when I've been this excited about a production – maybe never." In fact, he's so enthused that his mother is flying down from Boston to see the musical.

DePoo says Rhodes' vision for the show was to make it "different from what people expect without reinventing it." The pre-design discussions included a lot of talk about Maria being "over the walls of the abbey." DePoo built on that concept in his design, which features an ambiguous fresco wall that serves as the backdrop for the church, the abbey, the interior of the von Trapp home and the landscape. The results are glorious.

As a bit of an aside, dePoo had a surprising response to Dramaturg James Monaghan's question about how he became interested in theater. He grew

up in Key West, and his parents took him on an annual outing to Miami for a performance by either the Ringling Circus or David Copperfield. DePoo remembers coming home and, at the tender age of four, trying to figure out the logistics of the shows. Clearly, he was destined for a career making the magic of performance happen.

**"I can't remember
when I've been
this excited about
a production
—maybe never."**

—Scenic designer Paul Tate dePoo III

The brunch also featured Music Supervisor Sinai Tabak. Like dePoo, Tabak has worked on several productions at Asolo Rep, including *Evita* and *Guys and Dolls*. But he's previously been in the role of Music Director. We learned that's an entirely different job from serving as Music Supervisor.

A show's Music Director plays the piano, conducts the orchestra and teaches the musicians and actors their parts. The director is on site from the first day of rehearsal to closing night.

As Music Supervisor for *The Sound of Music*, Tabak had the Herculean task of



Paul Tate dePoo III,
James Monaghan and Sinai Tabak.

converting the orchestration from a work for a 30 piece orchestra to one containing a mere ten members. As I understood it, this involves going through the music and identifying every single note that each instrument plays. Tabak said—with a smile—that it took him eight-ten hours to arrange the 45 second dance break in "*Sixteen Going on Seventeen*." Wow.

Tabak explained that music directors often rely heavily on synthesizers when creating new arrangements. One keyboard might "play" as many as ten string instruments. But Tabak decided to go with a more acoustic approach for *The Sound of Music*. The audience will hear more guitar than usual. There will also be piano, an instrument not in the original orchestration.

In sharp contrast to when serving as Music Director, Tabak's only time spent "in the room" for the show had been a couple of weeks earlier to rehearse with the orchestra. At that point, he made some changes so the music would be consistent with the way he heard it in his head. Having sat in on the run-through the prior evening—the first in which the orchestra joined the actors—he was full of excitement.

"I'm always inspired by seeing what Josh Rhodes does," he said. Tabak noted one moment during which he was struck by the way Maria looks at Captain von Trapp. A violin solo was clearly required. The change was incorporated in time for opening night.

As always, it was a treat to hear directly from key members of the production team who aren't often front and center. I can't wait to see—and hear—their work onstage.





By June Aloia

GUILD MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A great time was had by all at our potluck for the cast and crew of *The Sound of Music*. My mother, Corrine and I were having such fun talking with several of the cast members that we looked up and realized the mezzanine had cleared out without our noticing! Thanks to Glo and her helpers for organizing and to everyone who contributed to making the evening such a success.

While on the topic of *The Sound of Music*, I was delighted to recently attend An Evening of Conversation with Julie Andrews and her daughter Emma Walton Hamilton. The program included a montage of photos and movie clips that had the audience cheering. Of course *The Sound of Music* was featured prominently. Andrews shared that her favorite song from the movie is "Edelweiss." We also learned that Andrews and Hamilton have written over 30 books together, including her biographies and many titles for children. Their relationship is inspirational. But back to Guild business....

If you haven't paid your 2019-2020 dues yet, please do so. Membership levels and ways to pay are listed below. Please consider renewing at the Angel level!

Don't miss our holiday potluck immediately following the Play Readers meeting on Dec. 9th. We'd love to have you join us for both the reading and the party, but you're welcome to come just for the festivities. See the Play Readers' Corner for more information.

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: Paula Bitzer | Darlene Carroll
Elizabeth Ferguson | Roger Lippincott | Jan Mallory-Wood | Alicia Wickliffe

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SUSTAINING* LEVEL	\$110	\$125 per couple
PATRON* LEVEL	\$135	\$150 per couple

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Memberships are available online at asolorep.org!

1 Click the Guild banner (shown below) on the home page. Scroll down to **MEMBERSHIP DUES**.

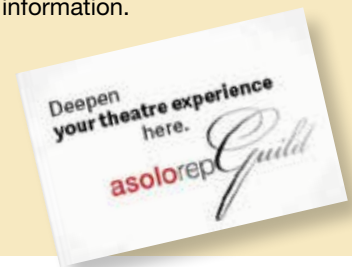
2 Click on **ONLINE PAYMENTS**.

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.



Membership forms are in every issue of The Guilder. Complete the form if you are a new member, 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.



04 Seen at Inside Asolo Rep for *The Sound of Music*:
Eva Slane and Jenny Aldrich, Judith Yeager and Lou Schwartz, and Jan Zipper and David Lionel

Feeding the Cast and Crew of *The Sound of Music* By Nanette Crist

We did it again! The cast and crew of *The Sound of Music* delighted in the variety of delicious dishes Guild members brought for the first potluck of the season. The food and camaraderie were just what the actors and tech folks needed to sustain them for the long evening ahead.

As always, the event was a great opportunity for Guild members to chat with the people that make the magic happen. And a few lucky Guild members got a sneak peek at the final scene of the show, which was wrapping up as we arrived. Spoiler alert: Tears were flowing. Mark your calendar now for the potluck for *Murder on the Orient Express* on Tuesday, January 7. Don't miss the fun!



CLOCKWISE, top right: Allie McLaughlin (Marta), Cora Jane Messner (Gretl) and Lota Mushaw; Sophie Lee Morris (Liesl) and Chong Rim; Glo Reber and Tally Sessions (Capt. von Trapp); Sophie Cavaluti (Brigitta), Tyler Gevas (Kurt), Raina Lynn Khatami (Louisa) and Judah Immanuel (Friedrich); Tally Sessions (Capt. von Trapp) and Ann Morrison (Frau Schmidt); Linda DiGabriele; Sharon Erickson and Darren Mathias (Max Detweiler); Annie Dent and Barbara Young; Susan Mauntel and Trina Mills (Dance Captain)

GUILD PLAY READERS' CALENDAR

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019

Cook Theatre

9:30 AM | Coffee and Conversation

10:00 AM | Terry Langlois and

Betty Robinson will direct a

reading of *Harvey* by Mary Chase

12:00 PM-ish | Holiday Party



HARVEY SYNOPSIS:

Elwood P. Dowd is a lovable eccentric who has an imaginary friend—Harvey, a 6'3" rabbit. Elwood introduces Harvey to everyone he meets. Elwood's sister Veta becomes increasingly embarrassed by Elwood's behavior and decides to have him committed to Chumley's Rest, a sanitarium. The young psychiatrist mistakenly commits Veta instead of Elwood. When the truth comes out, a search begins for Elwood and Harvey. Elwood arrives at Chumley's Rest looking for Harvey. All the staff, including Dr. Chumley, begin to act strangely. They decide to inject Elwood with Dr. Chumley's "Formula 977" to make him a normal person. But a cab driver points out, "a perfectly normal human being? *You know what bastards they are!*" Veta decides that she would rather have Elwood the same as he has always been—carefree and kind—even if it means living with Harvey.

CAST | Eleven

Ethel Chauvenet: an old friend of the family

Betty Chumley: socializing wife of Dr. Chumley

Dr. William Chumley: psychiatrist, head of Chumley's Rest Home

Elwood P. Dowd: a friendly eccentric who spends his time in the taverns of his town with his friend Harvey the rabbit

Judge Gaffney: an old friend of the family and Veta's lawyer

Nurse Ruth Kelly: nurse at Chumley's Rest Home

E. J. Lofgren: a cab driver

Wilson: the muscle of Chumley's Rest Home

Dr. Lyman Sanders: psychiatrist, infatuated with Nurse Kelly

Myrtle: Veta's daughter

Veta Louise Simmons: Elwood's sister

Upcoming Play Readers' Schedule

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

PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

Our free library presentations by the Play Readers are a great opportunity to introduce your friends to the Guild. Mark your calendar now to join the fun!

TUESDAY, DEC 3*

Twist of the Dial

2:00 PM | Fruitville Library

100 Coburn Road, Sarasota

THURSDAY, JAN 9

Fractured Fairy Tales

1:00 PM | Rocky Bluff Library

6750 US Highway 301 N., Ellenton

TUESDAY, JAN 14*

Send Me No Flowers

2:00 PM | Fruitville Library

100 Coburn Road, Sarasota

SATURDAY, JAN 18

Dixie Swim Club

10:00 AM | Braden River Library

4915 53rd Ave. E., Bradenton

SATURDAY, JAN 25

Dixie Swim Club

10:30 AM | Palmetto Library

923 6th St. W., Palmetto

*REGISTRATION REQUIRED

The Fruitville Library requires prior registration.

ONLINE: www.scgov.net/government/departments/libraries. Scroll to "Library Events," select Fruitville Library and click on the applicable date on the calendar.

BY PHONE:

Call the library directly at 941-861-2500.

We were saddened to learn that friend and colleague Jack Mansbach passed away suddenly at the end of October. He was a devoted Play Reader, father and significant other. He will undoubtedly be remembered for his performances in two popular Outreach Programs, *Sons, Mothers and Others* and *Squabbles*, in which he had commanding lead roles. He will be missed for his friendship, easy-going manner and sense of humor.

GUILD HONOR ROLL

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

PATRON MEMBERS

Peggy and Ken Abt–
Education & Engagement, Special Events
June and Joseph Aloia–Angels
***Patricia and Richard Anderson**–AES, Special Events
Suzi Barbee–Angel
Ruth Barker–Directors' Society, Special Events
Jerome and Kathryn Chesley–London Program
Jerry and Joe Conn–Angel
Alexandra and Stephen Cooper–Angels
Sharon and Ron Erickson–Angel
Vicky Feazell–Angel
Joanna Glass and Roger Stover–Angels
Ann Forward–Angel
Nancy Hanks–Angel
Janice Kunkel–Student Fellowship, Angel
Jenique Leblonde–Angel
Marcella and Arthur Levin–Angels, Special Events
Anna Martin–Angel
Gary McKinstry–Angel
Mary Ellen and Frank McMahon–Angels
Jennifer Meinert–Angel
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–Directors' Society, Special Events
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Penny Upton–Angel
Jenny and Don Walker–Angels
Marysue and Leon Wechsler–Co-producers,
Education & Engagement, Student Fellowship, Special Events
Florence Wildner–Angel
Jan and Paul Zipper–Angels

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Ruth Bolin–Angel
Dianne and Hal Brin–Angels
Nanette Crist–Angel, Student Fellowship
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Jill and Jacob Goodwin–Angels
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Carole and Edward Kay–Angels
Carole and Larry Lieving–Angels
Lois Lucek–Angel
Louise Mazius–Angel
Leanne McKaig–Angel
David Meyersburg–Angel
Sandy Miranda–Special Events
Karen and Dennis Nee–Angels
Terry Neis and Evans Tilles–Angels
Lou Richardson–Angel
Leneé and Conrad Owens–Angels
Charles Albers and Julie Planck
–Directors' Society, Special Events
***Eva Slane**–Crystal Society,
Angel, Special Events, Student Fellowship
Cynthia Smyth–Angel

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Stanley Cramer–Angel
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Judy Hall–Angel
Karen and Bert Harris–Angels
Janet Huelster–Special Events
Vladimira Ivanisevic–Angel
Barbara Knode–Angel
Barbara and Hal Laeger–Angels
Helen Martin–Angel
John Matta–Co-Producer
Gary McKinstry–Angel
Joseph Rhyne and Lou Richardson–Angels
Vicki Rudnitsky–Angel
Carole and Mal Schwartz–Angels, Student Fellowship
Marilyn Stamberg–Angel
***Joan Wood**–Co-Producer, Special Events

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

GUILD

PLAY READERS' CORNER

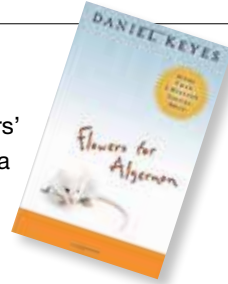
Article and Photographs by Susan Mauntel



By Susan Mauntel

Scenes from November

Following a VERY sociable half-hour mingle, Play Readers' Chair Dianne Brin, Guild membership maven June Aloia and literary intern Annie Dent reminded us of the many opportunities available to Guild members in addition to Play Readers' monthly meetings. The Inside Asolo Rep panel discussions, led by Dramaturg & Literary Manager James Monaghan, provide a unique chance to hear from actors, directors and others involved in each production. And our meet-and-feed potlucks for the cast and crew of these shows, where we get to sit, dine and visit with these delightful actors and stage wizards, are great fun. (The cast and crew, by the way, are in the middle of a grueling 12-hour rehearsal day and are VERY appreciative of a bountiful meal!)



David Coe and Bill Brody

Then our main event—

Flowers for Algernon by David Rogers. The play was beautifully edited and directed by Jenny Aldridge and Karen Nee and took us in a very different direction from our usual hilarity. A large and talented cast of volunteers drew us into the riveting and heart-wrenching story of a mentally disabled boy who becomes a guinea pig in a scientific experiment, with unexpected consequences.

NEXT MEETING, READING & HOLIDAY GATHERING

MONDAY, DEC 9 | Cook Theatre
9:30 AM-Coffee & Conversation
10:00 AM-*Harvey* by Mary Chase
12:00 PM-ish-Holiday Potluck

Our featured play will take another tack this time. Who doesn't remember the movie version of *Harvey* by Mary Chase, starring Jimmy Stewart. Or maybe you're too young. In any case, Betty Robinson and Terry Langlois will direct this endearing and zany play. See page 8 for information about the play and its cast requirements. Think about volunteering to read!

But wait...there's more! Let's celebrate the holiday season with a light luncheon and social hour on the mezzanine following the reading. Please bring LIGHTER FARE rather than too many desserts. And Louise would love a few volunteers to help her set up before the reading. Thanks in advance for pitching in!



Alice Cotman



Quay Houchen and David Lionel



TOP ROW: Nancy Hanks, Louise Mazius and David Meyersburg; Carole Lieving and Barbara Alexander; Annie Dent and David Coe
SECOND ROW: Alan Brasington and Susan Mauntel; Karen Nee, Carole Lieving and Jenny Aldrich; Madeleine Poole and Dar Carroll



Nancy Hanks and Jan Zipper; Alan Brasington and Wilmer Pearson; Sharon Erickson, Barbara Alexander and Lenee Owens



David Coe and Sirena Esper; Frank Motz and Jan Zipper



Kathy Chesley and Dianne Brin; Neil Levine and June Aloia



Appreciative Audience



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

Join Dramaturg & Literary Manager James Monaghan as he talks with the director, actors, and other members of the creative team.

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***

SPONSORS



cast & crew TECH DINNERS

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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