

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

**May 19, 2020**

## **Asolo Rep Awarded \$70,000 from Gulf Coast Community Foundation**

**(SARASOTA, FL)** – Asolo Repertory Theatre has been awarded an additional \$70,000 Arts Appreciation Grant from Gulf Coast Community Foundation. The grant is intended to help the theatre fulfill its mission during the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This generous support will help us create a bridge between this curtailed season and the creation of a successful season next year,” said Asolo Rep managing director Linda DiGabriele. “We are very grateful for the timeliness of this generous gift and the foundation’s ongoing support.”

GCCF President and CEO Dr. Mark S. Pritchett and Jon Thaxton, Senior Vice President for Community Investment, informed Asolo Rep leadership of the award on April 22.

“Our Board appreciates the vital role your organization plays in our region’s cultural life and economy,” said Thaxton in a statement to Asolo Rep representatives. “We encourage you to utilize this grant to further energize your donor base at a time when their support is needed most.”

On March 19, following the guidelines of public health officials and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Asolo Rep leadership suspended the remainder of its 2019-2020 season due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The season was originally scheduled to run through June 28, and more than 100 performances were cancelled, including productions of *The Great Leap*, *Hood*, and *Snow White*, and the world premiere of the musical *Knoxville* from Lynn Ahrens, Stephen Flaherty and Frank Galati. *Hood* and *Knoxville* will now be presented as part of the theatre’s 2020-2021 season.

Asolo Rep ticket holders were encouraged to convert the price of their tickets to a full, tax-deductible donation to Asolo Rep.

Added DiGabriele, “Gulf Coast’s faith in Asolo Rep and our community will inspire others to follow their lead and help make it possible for us to do what we do best: present theatre that builds connections and strengthens our bonds to one another, inspires empathy and understanding, and brings us moments of magic and wonder.”

## **ABOUT ASOLO REP**

Now looking forward to its 62nd season, Asolo Repertory Theatre is recognized as one of the premier professional theatres in America and one of the largest in the Southeastern United States. One of the few select theatres in the nation that performs in true rotating repertory, Asolo Rep’s highly skilled acting company and extensive craftsmanship bring to life this unique performance method that gives audiences the opportunity to see multiple productions in the span of a few days. Asolo Rep presents up to 10

productions each season including contemporary and classic works and provocative musical theatre experiences. A theatre district in and of itself, Asolo Rep is committed to expanding its reach into the community, furthering its collaboration with the best theatre artists working in the industry today and cultivating new artists through its affiliation with the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards and Managing Director Linda DiGabriele, Asolo Rep's ambitious theatrical offerings and groundbreaking education and community programming engage audiences and ensure its lasting legacy for future generations. [asolorep.org](http://asolorep.org).

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