

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****
June 22, 2020

Asolo Rep Presents **JOHNNY AND THE DEVIL'S BOX –**

Part Two of its Ground Floor Series: Making Musicals

(SARASOTA, FL) – Asolo Rep continues its **GROUND FLOOR SERIES: MAKING MUSICALS**, on Thursday, June 25 at 6pm with a preview of *JOHNNY AND THE DEVIL'S BOX*, a new bluegrass musical with book, music and lyrics by Douglas Waterbury-Thieman:

In the dark days of the Great Depression, a beacon of hope shines from the depths of the Georgia foothills: Johnny Baker plays the meanest fiddle the world has ever seen. When a mysterious preacher rolls into the small town of Crossings and threatens to destroy what little they have, Johnny teams up with the no-nonsense Abigail to wage the next war in the ultimate battle of Good versus Evil with nothing but his fiddle for a weapon. Infused with American folk and bluegrass, this gripping tale will have you stomping your feet and clapping your hands in no time.

The four-part **MAKING MUSICALS** competition, designed specifically for an online audience, previews four new and original musicals broadcast live on Asolo Rep's Facebook and YouTube pages. Upcoming musicals include *MAYA*, which takes place during Gandhi's Salt March, with book and music by Cheeyang Ng, book and lyrics by Eric Sorrels, on July 9; and *FOUNTAIN*, a new musical set in Florida with book, music and lyrics by Christopher Anselmo and Jared Corak, on July 23. The series debuted May 21 with *SOPHIE BLANCHARD'S HIGH FLYIN' ROCK AND ROLL EXTRAVAGANZA*, book, music and lyrics by Lizzie Hagstedt.

Each 30-minute session consists of a fifteen-minute preview performance of one musical, followed by a fifteen-minute discussion with the playwright/composer and James Monaghan, Asolo Rep Dramaturg and Literary Manager, and Celine Rosenthal, Asolo Rep Associate Artistic Director, who serves as the Director of the Ground Floor Series and is also directing all four musicals. After the four musicals have aired, the audience will be asked to vote for their favorite and the winner will receive a full staged reading at Asolo Rep.

To add to the fun, the Theatre is incorporating a Virtual Happy Hour into the presentation. One day prior to each performance, patrons will receive an email notice of the broadcast that includes a cocktail recipe specifically chosen to compliment the theme of that week's new musical. The cocktail recipe can also be found on Asolo Rep's Facebook page the day before the event.

Patrons wishing to vote for their favorite musical are required to register online through a link on Asolo Rep's website: www.asolorep.org. Following the last performance, registered patrons will be emailed a ballot to be filled out and submitted to the theatre within 48 hours. To qualify to vote, patrons must be registered, they must have viewed all four performances and they will only be able to vote once.

JOHNNY AND THE DEVIL'S BOX Bios:

George Abud is an Arab-American actor, Nominated for a 2020 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical for *Emojiland* (Nerd Face, Original Cast Recording). Broadway: *The Band's Visit* starring Katrina Lenk & Tony Shalhoub (Daytime Emmy Award, OBC Recording); *The Visit* starring Chita Rivera & Roger Rees (OBC Recording). Off-Broadway: *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* opposite Raúl Esparza, *Nathan The Wise* opposite F. Murray Abraham, *Peer Gynt* opposite Gabriel Ebert, and *Allegro* directed by John Doyle (Classic Stage Company).

Annabelle Fox was last seen as Jeanette in the Off Broadway revival of *No Strings*, directed by Deidre Goodwin. In February she originated the role of Zuzu in *The Journey at The Tank*. Favorite NY credits include *Wendla* (*Spring Awakening*), *Dana* (*Peter In Pieces*), and *Anne Brontë* (*The Brontë Girls*). Select regional: Savannah (*Disney's Freaky Friday*, NSMT), *Kathy Selden* (*Singin' in the Rain*, Critics Circle Nom), and *Magnolia* (*Show Boat*). Join Annabelle in elevating black voices and make a donation to @colorofchange. BFA MT Belmont University. IG: @annabellefoxtieman & @thefiddlinproject.

Jennifer Fouché is an ensemble member of New York's critically acclaimed Amoralists Theatre Company, a former member of The Bats, at The Flea Theatre and a member of The Broadway Inspirational Voices. Some credits include: *CHICAGO* (Broadway National Tour), *Chicken and Biscuits* (Queens Theatre), *Sistas The Musical* (Original Off B'Way Cast), *Babes In Toyland* (Lincoln Center) *Half Me Half You* (Original Off West End Cast & Original New York Cast), *Henry Box Brown* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival) Television: *Wu Tang: An American Saga*, *Jessica Jones*, *Quantico*, *SMASH*, *The Mysteries of Laura*, *Person of Interest* *Pinkalicious* & *Peteriffic*. Film: *Crown Heights*, *Judy's Child* and *White Pickett Fence*.

Lizzie Hagstedt is an actor/singer/musician/composer from Sayville, New York. Performing credits include: *Southern Comfort* (The Public, Barrington, CAP21), *Sweet Charity* (New Group starring Sutton Foster), *Sweeney Todd* (National Tour), *August Rush* (World Premiere), *The Black Crook* (Abrons Arts), *1969: Second Man* (NYTW), *Taming of the Shrew* (Virginia Stage), and *The Music Man* and her own musical *Sophie Blanchard's High-Flyin' Rock'n'Roll Extravaganza* with Asolo Rep. www.lizziehagstedt.com

Tina Stafford is a New York based actor-musician. She spent two years on the road with the first national tour of the Broadway musical *Once*. Recent appearances include *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Into the Breeches!* at Asolo Repertory Theatre. She has played leading roles around the country, and is proud to partner with Asolo Rep to keep theatre alive virtually until the time when we can be together in the theatre again.

Larry Tobias Larry is thrilled to be joining Asolo for this wonderfully creative outreach/engagement program during this difficult and trying time. Regional credits include work at The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Baltimore Centerstage, The Mountain Playhouse, and many others. TV and Film work incorporate appearances in Nashville, Donnie Brasco, Ball of Wax, The Angel Doll, etc. In addition to acting, Larry is the front man and lead singer for The Grand Tour, a celebration of the music of the King of Country Music, George Jones. He lives in New Jersey with his wife and their miraculous 2 year-old daughter (also 1 cat).

Douglas Waterbury-Tieman Originally from Lexington, KY. BM in Musical Theatre: Belmont University. Off-Broadway: *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Soot and Spit*. Regional: *Once*, *Sunset Blvd.* TV: *Succession*. Fiddler for Clint Black's *Looking For Christmas* and *The Disney Magic*. Member of *The Lobbyists* and *The Playbillies*. Creator of *Johnny & the Devil's Box*, recently in cabaret at *Goodspeed* thanks to a NAMT Frank Young Fund grant. Please consider supporting the important community building theatre work of *The Monkey Dumplin's* via *Stay in Clay*. @thefiddlinproject. @jdwtieman

Patrons may access the livestream by visiting the Asolo Rep [Facebook page](#) where the video will appear at the top of the page starting at 6pm on Thursday, June 25.

Viewers can also watch on Asolo Rep's [YouTube Live](#).

Asolo Rep will also post a recording of each broadcast on its Facebook and YouTube channels and on its [website](#).

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

Media Contact:

Judith Lambert, *Marketing Director*
judith_lambert@asolo.org | cell: (319) 325-1123

world class theatre

asolorep

made in sarasota



5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota FL 34243 | boxoffice@asolo.org

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward](#) | [View in browser](#)