

ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE

For Immediate Release
Monday, November 16, 2015

Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards to be Honored at Equality Florida's Annual Suncoast Celebration on Saturday, November 21

WHAT

Asolo Repertory Theatre's Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards will be honored on Saturday, November 21 at Equality Florida's annual Suncoast Celebration. Mr. Edwards will receive Equality Florida's highest honor, the Voice for Equality Award, for his instrumental work with the theatre's innovative OUT@AsoloRep program, Sarasota's premier cultural event connecting local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities with fantastic theatre.

American lawyer and civil rights activist Mary Bonauto will also be honored at the event, receiving the Equality Florida Lifetime Achievement Award for her incredible contributions to the LGBT equality movement, including winning the case that brought marriage to Massachusetts in 2004, making that state the first in the U.S. to legalize the freedom to marry. In 2015, Ms. Bonauto argued the marriage case that won the freedom to marry throughout the country before the U.S. Supreme Court with *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

The annual Suncoast Celebration will also feature live musical entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, an open bar and a State of the State address by Equality Florida co-founder and Deputy Director Stratton Pollitzer.

WHEN

Saturday, November 21 at 5pm

WHERE

The Roof of the Palm Avenue Parking Garage
1289 N. Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236

HOW

Advance tickets: \$125
At the door: \$150

Tickets are available by visiting <http://www.eqfl.org/suncoastcelebration>.

For more information about Equality Florida, call 813-870-EQFL (3735) or visit <http://www.eqfl.org>.

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ABOUT MICHAEL DONALD EDWARDS

MICHAEL DONALD EDWARDS is in his tenth season as Producing Artistic Director of Asolo Repertory Theatre. He was previously the Associate Artistic Director of Syracuse Stage and served as Artistic Director of Shakespeare Santa Cruz. A Garland Award and DramaLogue Award winning director, Mr. Edwards has directed at Cleveland Play House; Indiana Repertory Theatre; Geva Theatre; Syracuse Stage; The Shakespeare Theatre; San Jose Rep; Opera San Jose; the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; the Old Globe in San Diego; Virginia Stage Company; the Virginia Opera; the State Theatre of South Australia; Opera Australia; Victoria State Opera; and the Metropolitan Opera. In previous seasons for Asolo Rep, Mr. Edwards has directed *Our Betters*; *The Grapes of Wrath*; *Clybourne Park*; *My Brilliant Divorce*; *Hamlet*, *Prince of Cuba*; *Las Meninas*; *La Bête*; *The Last Five Years*; *The Life of Galileo*; *Perfect Mendacity*; *The Winter's Tale*; *Equus*; *A Tale of Two Cities*; *Darwin in Malibu*; *Nobody Don't Like Yogi*; *Amadeus*; *The Smell of the Kill*; and pieces in the annual Unplugged festival of new plays, including the world premiere reading of *John Guare's Eddie in the Andes*.

ABOUT EQUALITY FLORIDA

Equality Florida Institute is the largest civil rights organization dedicated to securing full equality for Florida's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. For more information, visit www.eqfl.org

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MEDIA CONTACT

Sasha Fields
Public Relations Manager
941.351.9010 x4800
sasha_fields@asolo.org