

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

**April 29, 2020**

## **Asolo Rep Costume Shop Sews Face Masks for Local Organizations**

(SARASOTA, FL) – Just six weeks ago the costume shop at Asolo Repertory Theatre was busy putting final touches on costumes for *The Great Leap* and *Knoxville*. When the season was cut short and the theatre closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 1980s basketball jerseys and 1915 dresses and suits were put into storage. Beginning last week, the now at-home workers are sewing face masks that are being distributed to organizations-in-need in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

“When it became obvious that face masks were in high demand and that, for the foreseeable future, would become a key part in keeping us safe from the spread of the virus, we all felt this was the perfect way to help out,” said David Covach, Costume Shop Manager. “This project is a wonderful opportunity for everyone involved. My team had been homebound for several weeks, in a state of abrupt confusion to their daily routines. Now we all have a purpose again and feel the joy of contributing to the greater needs of our community.”

Using materials from its vast collection of extra costume fabrics and scraps from productions, so far the staff has generated roughly 750 masks. From cutting to completion, each mask takes 25-30 minutes to make and each staff person is using CDC-approved patterns to build their masks.

Ten costumers are working from their homes including Teresa Consolvo, Laine Marr, Dee Sullivan, Jessica Hayes, Skyler Niedziela, Maureen Klein, June Elisabeth Taylor, Sofia Gonzalez, Kaitlin Jones, and Deb Kelly. Click [here](#) for photos.

“The costume shop deserves credit for generously offering to create cloth masks for our community during a time of such uncertainty,” said Asolo Rep Managing Director Linda DiGabriele. “The supply chain for masks of any kind is severely limited and we’ve been able to find good homes for the masks as quickly as our staff can make them. This is truly a wonderful service to our community.”

To date, distribution of the masks includes: Senior Friendship Center, Safe Children Coalition, Meals on Wheels of Sarasota, Visible Men’s Academy, Girls Inc. of Sarasota, and ALSO Youth. Most of these organizations are using the masks for their food delivery programs and volunteers. Local organizations in need of masks are asked to email: [Cameron\\_Thorp@asolo.org](mailto:Cameron_Thorp@asolo.org).

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## **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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