

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

April 10, 2019

Asolo Rep Presents Artist's Take Panel Discussion on April 29
Panelists include Michael Donald Edwards, Tom Kirdahy,
Josh Rhodes and Peter Rothstein

WHAT:

Asolo Repertory Theatre and its Artistic Excellence Society will proudly host a free **Artist's Take Panel Discussion** on Monday, April 29. This special creative conversation will feature some of Asolo Rep's most influential artists from its current and upcoming seasons and will be moderated by Asolo Rep Associate Artistic Director **Celine Rosenthal**.

Panelists include **Michael Donald Edwards**, Producing Artistic Director of Asolo Rep; **Tom Kirdahy**, President of Tom Kirdahy Productions and Producer of *Hood: A Robin Hood Musical Adventure* (May 2020); **Josh Rhodes**, Director and Choreographer of *The Sound of Music* (Nov. - Dec. 2019) and Choreographer of the world premiere of *Knoxville* (April 2020); and **Peter Rothstein**, Founding Artistic Director of Theater Latté Da and Director and Choreographer of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (May 2019).

The Artistic Excellence Society is an intimate group of supporters committed to supporting Asolo Rep's Producing Artistic Director in choosing shows that exemplify a spirit of risk-taking and innovation. Donations allow for higher production values, stellar creative teams, and the development of new works.

WHEN:

Monday, April 29 at 6pm
Doors open at 5:30pm

WHERE:

Asolo Repertory Theatre
5555 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34243

HOW:

Tickets are free but limited and will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

RSVP by Wednesday, April 24 to SpecialEvents@asolo.org or 941.351.9010 ext. 4702

WHO:

MICHAEL DONALD EDWARDS (Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director) is in his thirteenth 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 Drama Logue 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. At Asolo Rep, Mr. Edwards has directed *The Crucible*; *Disgraced*; *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 Unplugged festival of new plays, including the world premiere reading of John Guare's *Eddie in the Andes*.

TOM KIRDAHY (Producer, *Hood: A Robin Hood Musical Adventure*) is producing *Hadestown* and the upcoming revival of *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair De Lune* on Broadway. In the last year, he produced *Anastasia* (Broadway, National Tour, Madrid, Stuttgart) as well as *The Inheritance* (8 Olivier noms.) and *The Jungle* in the West End. In 2017, he produced Edward Albee's *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* in London's West End. He was lead producer of the 2015 Broadway hit *It's Only A Play* and Kander and Ebb's Tony nominated *The Visit*. Off-Broadway: *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*. Additional Tony nominations: *Mothers and Sons*, *After Midnight*, *Ragtime*, *Master Class*. He serves as Chairperson of the Broadway League Government Relations Committee and is a founding director of the nonprofit Berwin Lee London New York Playwrights, Inc., which supports emerging playwrights. On May 22, Kirdahy will be presented the Commercial Theater Institute's Robert Whitehead Award for Outstanding Achievement in Commercial Theater Producing.

JOSH RHODES (Director/Choreographer, *The Sound of Music*; Choreographer, Knoxville) Asolo Rep: *Barnum*, *Working*, *Yentl*, *My Fair Lady*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Evita*. On Broadway, Josh choreographed *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Outer Critic Circle, Astaire, Drama Desk Award nominations and LA Critics Circle Award winner), *It Shoulda Been You*, *First Date*, and *Bright Star* (Outer Critics Circle, Astaire Award nominations). On the West End in London, he choreographed the Emmy award-winning production of *Sweeney Todd* starring Emma Thompson and *Carousel* at the English National Opera. Other stage credits include *Company* starring Neil Patrick Harris, the Emmy-winning production of "Sondheim's 80th Birthday Concert", *Zorba*, *Big River*, *The Landing*, "Broadway: Three Generations", *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and the Drama Desk Award-winning production of *Working*. A proud graduate of the University of Michigan.

PETER ROTHSTEIN (Director/Choreographer, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*) directed last year's production of *Ragtime*. He is the Founding Artistic Director of Theater Latté Da, a Twin Cities-based company dedicated to new and adventurous musical theater. Other collaborations include the Guthrie Theater, the

Children's Theater Company, Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Orchestra, Utah Shakespeare Festival and Seattle's 5th Avenue Theater. He is the creator of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. Peter was named the 2015 Minnesota Artist of the Year from the Star Tribune, and has been awarded grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, the Minnesota State Arts Board and the McKnight Foundation. www.Peter-Rothstein.com

ABOUT ASOLO REP

Now in its 60th 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 ground-breaking education and community programming engage audiences and ensure its lasting legacy for future generations. www.asolorep.org

MEDIA CONTACT:

Sasha Goodrich
Public Relations Manager
941.351.9010 x 4800

Sasha_Goodrich@asolo.org