

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

**December 19, 2018**

**Asolo Rep Continues its 60th Season  
with the 2017 Broadway Smash Hit *A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2*;  
Helmed by Asolo Rep Favorite Peter Amster**

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**[Pre-production Photos Available for Download](#)**

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(SARASOTA, December 19, 2018) — Asolo Repertory Theatre proudly continues its 60th season with Lucas Hnath's *A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2*. The 2017 Broadway premiere was nominated for 8 Tony Awards, including Best Play, and garnered a Best Actress Tony Award for Laurie Metcalf. Helmed by longtime Asolo Rep favorite **Peter Amster**, this hilariously imagined sequel to the Ibsen classic previews January 16 and 17, opens January 18 and runs through March 31 in rotating repertory in the Mertz Theatre, located in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts.

It was the door slam heard around the world: Nora Helmer did the unthinkable when she abandoned her husband, Torvald, and children to put her own happiness first. *A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2* picks up 15 years later in the Helmer home where, in some ways, time has stood still. Nora, who has a successful career and exciting life of her own, returns to her former home in need of help from the man she walked away from. A poignant look at the ways women's roles in and out of the home have and have not changed, this surprisingly fresh new comedy turns the Ibsen classic on its head.

"We are fascinated by Nora because the epiphany she has at the end of Ibsen's original is so trenchant and volcanic," said Director Peter Amster. "Ibsen's *A Doll's House* is a domestic comic drama up until the moment that Torvald reacts to the revelation of Nora's forgery. From that point on, the character of Nora starts to expand. She makes a huge, brave, dangerous choice. And then she disappears. It's like someone suddenly turning into superman and flying away. What does Nora experience after the final curtain falls? A tragedy? A romance? An adventure? Our imaginations are irresistibly pulled by Nora out that door."

At Asolo Rep, Peter Amster's productions are a highlight each season, including *Born Yesterday* (2017) and *You Can't Take it With You* (2013), which were both praised by the *Wall Street Journal*. His other work at the theatre includes *Morning After Grace*,

*The Matchmaker, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Fallen Angels* and more. His work has also been seen at Steppenwolf, the Goodman, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, ACT, Syracuse Stage, Geva Theatre and Indiana Repertory Theatre.

"The brilliant Peter Amster has a way of making every comedy a fresh, fun surprise for our audiences," said Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director **Michael Donald Edwards**. "I am thrilled for our audiences to see his extraordinary vision for **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2**; which is not only one of the smartest comedies that I've seen in years but also a compelling look at the evolution of gender roles and stereotypes."

Real life married couple **Kate Hampton** and **David Breitbarth** star as Nora and Torvald. Kate Hampton returns to Asolo Rep, where she previously appeared in *Fallen Angels, God of Carnage, Once in a Lifetime*, and more. Her New York theater credits include *The Master Builder* (BAM), *All My Sons* (Roundabout), and *The Typographer's Dream* (Clubbed Thumb). Regionally she has appeared at Florida Rep, Palm Beach Dramaworks, Peterborough Players, Williamstown and more. David Breitbarth has performed in more than 80 productions at Asolo Rep, including *Rhinoceros, The Little Foxes, The Grapes of Wrath, Twelve Angry Men* and more.

**Peggy Roeder** plays the Helmer family's longtime housekeeper Anne Marie. At Asolo Rep, she previously appeared in *Shakespeare in Love, The Grapes of Wrath, The Matchmaker, Good People* and more. Regionally she has performed at Steppenwolf, the Goodman, Milwaukee Rep, the Muny and more. Third year FSU/Asolo Conservatory student **Olivia Osol**, who makes her Asolo Rep debut this season, plays Nora and Torvald's daughter, Emmy.

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## CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

PEGGY ROEDER*	.....	Anne Marie
KATE HAMPTON*	.....	Nora
DAVID BREITBARTH*	.....	Torvald
OLIVIA OSOL‡	.....	Emmy

\*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

‡Appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

## **SELECTED CREATIVE TEAM MEMBERS**

Director.....PETER AMSTER  
Scenic & Costume Designer.....ROBERT PERDZIOLA  
Lighting Designer.....CHRISTOPHER OSTROM  
Sound Designer..... MATTHEW PARKER  
Hair/Wig & Make-up Designer.....MICHELLE HART

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## **SELECTED ARTISTIC BIOS**

**PETER AMSTER** (Director, **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2**) returns to Asolo Rep where he directed *Morning After Grace*, *Born Yesterday*, *Living on Love*, *The Matchmaker*, *Vanya and Sonya* and *Masha and Spike*, *You Can't Take it With You*, *Fallen Angels*, *Deathtrap*, *The Perfume Shop*, *This Wonderful Life* and choreographed *1776*. In Chicago, he was nominated for Joseph Jefferson Awards for directing *Once on this Island*, *The World Goes Round*, *The Rothschilds* (Apple Tree Theatre), and *Pride and Prejudice* (Northlight Theatre). Other Chicago area theatres include Steppenwolf, the Goodman, Court Theatre, Live Bait, Pegasus, and Route 66. Regional theatres include the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Utah Shakespeare Festival, A.C.T., Syracuse Stage, Geva Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, American Repertory Theater, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Peninsula Players, Weston Playhouse, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, and Laguna Playhouse. Peter has directed and choreographed operas for the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Opera Theater, Skylight Opera in Milwaukee, and Light Opera Works in Evanston, IL.

**DAVID BREITBARTH\*** (Torvald, **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2**) Over 80 productions at Asolo Rep include: *Rhinoceros*, *The Little Foxes*, *Both Your Houses*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Clybourne Park*, *God of Carnage*, *Once in a Lifetime*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *The Immigrant*, world premieres of *Men of Tortuga* and *Perfect Mendacity*, *A Few Good Men*, *Laughing Stock*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Rounding Third*, *Art*, *Hobson's Choice*, and *Nicholas Nickleby*. Broadway 1st National Tour: *Spring Awakening*. Off-Broadway: *Short Change*, *Perfect Crime*, *Fluorescent Hunger*, and *This Hard Life*. Los Angeles: *Life in the Trees* (West Coast premiere) and *David's Mother*. Film and television: *Frasier*, *Taken!*, *Law & Order*, and *Fame*. He has appeared regionally around the country and is a member of Florida Repertory Theatre's Ensemble of Theatre Artists. David is a proud 2013 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow selected by the prestigious Ten Chimneys Foundation. This season is for Jimmy Clarke.

**KATE HAMPTON\*** (Nora, **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2**) Asolo Rep: *Fallen Angels, God of Carnage, Once in a Lifetime, The Innocents, Las Meninas, Boeing Boeing, La Bête, Pride and Prejudice, Expecting Isabel*. Broadway: *The Best Man, The Deep Blue Sea*. First National Tour: *Spring Awakening*. NYC: *The Master Builder* (BAM); *All My Sons* (Roundabout); *The Typographer's Dream* (Clubbed Thumb). Regional: *How the Other Half Loves, The Cocktail Hour* (Florida Rep); *Gidion's Knot* (FST); *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Palm Beach Dramaworks); *Talley's Folly* (Peterborough Players); *Absurd Person Singular* (Bristol Rep); *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom (Humana)*; *Loot* (Arden); *The Real Thing* (Olney); *All My Sons* (Williamstown). TV: *Bones, Law & Order, Sex and the City*.

**OLIVIA OSOL≠** (Emmy, **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2**) is delighted to make her Asolo Rep debut this season. She was last seen in the Conservatory season as Jocasta in *Oedipus*, The Countess in *The Rehearsal*, and Dona Petra in *Much Ado About Nothing*. AEA member. She received her BFA from SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Theatre Arts and Film. [www.OliviaOsol.com](http://www.OliviaOsol.com)

**PEGGY ROEDER\*** (Anne Marie, **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2**) has appeared at Asolo Rep in *Shakespeare in Love; The Grapes of Wrath; The Matchmaker, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike; Good People*; and *Ah, Wilderness!* She has performed in *Into the Breeches* (Chautauqua Theater Company); *The Dresser* (Steppenwolf); *Romeo and Juliet* (Goodman); *Clean House* (Milwaukee Rep); *Kabuki Macbeth* (Chicago Shakespeare); *Cider House Rules* (Atlantic Theater Company); *Wizard of Oz* (Muny); *Big Meal* (ATC); and *Outside Mullingar* (Peninsula Players). Her work has garnered four Jeff Awards, three Artisan Awards, two After Dark Awards. Film and TV credits include *Groundhog Day, Road to Perdition, An Acceptable Loss, Stranger than Fiction, Star Trek: DS9*, and *Law & Order*.

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## **PUBLIC PROGRAMMING**

### **The Scoop**

#### **One hour prior to every performance of *A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2***

Arrive one hour before curtain to hear the ideas and inspirations that contributed to the making of ***A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2*** (Opening Night, January 18, is excluded.)

#### **Inside Asolo Rep: *THE CRUCIBLE* and *A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2***

**Tuesday, January 22 at 11am**

**Cook Theatre**

**10:30am: Enjoy coffee and light bites by Muse at the Ringling, and visit the Designing Women Boutique Pop-Up Shop**

**Panel discussions are \$5; and free for all donors at the Cherubim Angles level and higher and Asolo Rep Guild Members**

Get rare insights into the artistic process, hear directly from the people responsible for producing *THE CRUCIBLE* and *A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2* and engage in stimulating discussion inspired by the plays' themes and issues.

**Inside Asolo Rep is sponsored by Muse at the Ringling, Designing Women Boutique and The Observer**

### **Tuesday Talkbacks**

**January 22, February 19, March 12**

**Asolo Rep's Mezzanine**

Join us for an intimate post-show discussion with featured actors following every Tuesday performance of *A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2*.

### **Sunday Salon**

**Sunday, February 24**

**Asolo Rep's Mezzanine**

Reflect on your experience through a lively and informative post-show discussion following select Sunday matinees in the Mertz and Cook Theatres. Featuring members of Asolo Rep's Artistic Department and special guests.

### **OUT@AsoloRep: *A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2* [Sold Out]**

**Thursday, February 21 at 6:30pm; performance at 7:30pm**

**Asolo Rep's Mezzanine**

**Contact Asolo Rep's Box Office for subscription and ticket information.**

Now in its ninth season, OUT@AsoloRep is Sarasota's premier cultural event connecting local Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities with fantastic theatre. Enjoy a pre-show reception and learn about participating LGBT organizations, and gain personal insight into *A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2* from the creative team and cast members.

**OUT@AsoloRep is sponsored by Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering, CAN Community Health and Sabal Palm Bank.**

### ***A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2* IllumiNation Event**

**Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30pm; performance at 7:30pm**

**Pre-show reception and a post-show community conversation held on the Mezzanine**

**Performance in the Mertz Theatre**

**Contact Asolo Rep's Box Office for series package information and single performance tickets.**

A stimulating series of theatre and conversation exploring the topical and social themes threaded throughout our season. IllumiNation events begin one hour prior to curtain with a reception on the mezzanine, continue with the performance, and conclude with a conversation.

**The IllumiNation series is made possible, in part, with support from the Koski Family Foundation, Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering, and The Observer**

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## **TICKETS**

Tickets for **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2** and the entire 2018-19 Asolo Repertory Theatre season are on sale now. Tickets for **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2** start at \$29. To purchase tickets, call 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388, visit [www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org), or visit the Asolo Repertory Theatre Box Office, located in the lobby of the theatre. Asolo Repertory Theatre is located at 5555 North Tamiami Trail in the Florida State University Center for the Performing Arts.

The Box Office is open Monday 10am – 5pm, Tuesday – Thursday 10am - 7:30pm, Friday – Saturday 10am – 8pm, and Sunday 10am – 2pm. The box office closes at 5pm when there are no evening performances and phone lines close one hour prior to the start of any performance. Season subscription packages are also available online and by visiting or calling the box office.

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## **SPONSORS**

Asolo Rep is able to present **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2** because of the generosity of its sponsors. The corporate sponsors for **A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2** are SRQ Media, the Observer, WUSF Public Media, and The Resort at Longboat Key Club.

Asolo Rep 2018-19 Major Season Sponsors are Florida State University, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, The Shubert Foundation, Designing Women Boutique, The Exchange, the Huisking Foundation, and Sunset Cadillac of Bradenton. Asolo Rep's artistic programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues.

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## **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](http://www.asolorep.org)

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