



Ana Isabelle as Eva Perón. Photo by John Revisky

For high-res pre-production *EVITA* photos, visit: <https://asolorep.smugmug.com/Ana-Isabelle-EVITA-Photos/>

\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*

October 12, 2017

## Complete Casting Announced for Asolo Rep's *EVITA* The Josh Rhodes-Helmed Production runs Nov. 14 - Dec. 30

(SARASOTA, October 12, 2017) — Asolo Rep proudly announces complete casting for its production of **Tim Rice** and **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** Tony Award®-winning masterpiece *EVITA*. Directed and choreographed by **Josh Rhodes** (Broadway: *Bright Star, It Shoulda Been You, Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella, First Date*; West End: *Carousel, Sweeney Todd*; Asolo Rep: *Guys and Dolls*), the musical previews November 14 - 17, opens November 18 and runs through December 30 in the Mertz Theatre, located in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts.

Winner of seven Tony Awards, including best musical and best score, *EVITA* chronicles the electric rise and fall of Eva Perón, who used her beauty and charisma to climb from her poverty-stricken roots on the outskirts of Buenos Aires to become the powerful and polarizing First Lady of Argentina at the age of 27.

The previously announced acclaimed Puerto Rican recording artist and actress **Ana Isabelle** leads the all-star cast as Eva Perón, Argentina's magnetic and mesmerizing First Lady. **Justin Gregory Lopez**, who most recently portrayed Usnavi in Lin-Manuel Miranda's *In the Heights* (Ordway Center) plays Che. **Nick Duckart**, whose regional credits include Usnavi in *In the Heights* (Actors Playhouse), and the world premiere of *Carmen* (Olney Theatre), plays Juan Perón. **Gizel Jimenez**, who plays Perón's Mistress, recently played Rosalia in the National Tour of *West Side Story*. **Victor Souffrant**, who was most recently seen in Orlando Shakespeare Theater's production of *Man of La Mancha*, plays Agustín Magaldi. **Tori Bates** (Asolo Rep: *Josephine*), who recently made history as the first bi-racial actress to play the lead in *Annie*, will be a member of the children's choir.

The cast also features **Andrés Acosta, Enrique Brown, Juan Caballer, Sophia Cavalluzzi, Junior Cervila, Ben Chavez, Emma Diner, Mica Dominquez-Robinson, Guadalupe Garcia, Gabriela Gomez, Tori Lee Greenlaw, Kourtney Keitt, Caleb Marshall, Trina Mills, Ryan Modjeski, Brandon Michael Nase, Marina Pires, Kyle Ramon, Santina Umbach, Salvatore Vieira, Sharrod Williams, Kristin Yancy, and Alexa Ziff.**

Director/choreographer Josh Rhodes received Outer Critics Circle Award, Astaire Award and Drama Desk Award nominations and an LA Critics Circle Award for his choreography of the hit Broadway production of *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*. He also choreographed the Emmy-award winning production of *Sweeney Todd*. He received Outer Critics Circle and Astaire Award nominations for his choreography of *Bright Star* on Broadway.

"The most incredible part of this process has been finding the talent," said Director/Choreographer Josh Rhodes. "The score is extremely demanding and the scale of this production needs endless charisma from the actors – and this cast has enough talent and electrifying charisma to set the stage on fire. At its core, **EVITA** tells the story of high ambition and the price we pay to climb closer to the light. With the musical's design team, we have created a production that heightens the towering myth of an ambitious and passionate woman, while still allowing history and story to shine through."

The creative team includes Scenic Designer **Paul Tate DePoo III** (Asolo Rep: *Josephine*); Costume Designer **Brian C. Hemesath**, a two-time Emmy Award winner, (*SNL*, Broadway: *Honeymoon in Vegas*, Asolo Rep: *Guys and Dolls*); Sound Designer **Will Pickens** (Broadway: *M. Butterfly, Indecent, Dames At Sea, Honeymoon In Vegas, The Realistic Joneses, Bronx Bombers, A Time To Kill, Death of a Salesman*); Lighting Designer **Paul Miller** (Broadway: *Amazing Grace, The Illusionists, Legally Blonde, Freshly Squeezed, Laughing Room Only*; Asolo Rep: *Guys and Dolls, The Great Society, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, and more); Music Director **Sinai Tabak** (Asolo Rep's *Guys and Dolls, Josephine, Luck Be a Lady*); and Projection Designer **Alex Basco Koch** (Broadway: *Irena's Vow*, Asolo Rep: *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity, Josephine*).

"With a cast of 29 and an orchestra of 12, this production will be one of the largest in Asolo Rep's history," said Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards. "I could not be prouder of the diverse, talented, world class company of actors and artists we've assembled to bring this musical to life. With a creative team helmed by Broadway's brilliant Josh Rhodes and a cast led by triple threat Ana Isabelle, who fully embodies the passion of Evita on and off stage, we are thrilled to present a brand new production of this profoundly pertinent and moving musical."

Hailed as "An Artist to Watch" by *Billboard* magazine, Ana Isabelle shot to stardom as the winner of the popular Univision musical reality show *Viva el Sueño*, when more than 30 million viewers voted to crown her the next Latin music superstar. She has performed to sold-out stadiums throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico, including Madison Square Garden. Feature film roles include the upcoming *Imprisoned*, starring Laurence Fishburne, and the remake of Francis Ford Coppola's *Dementia 13*. Her Off-Broadway credits include the musical *I Like it Like That* with Tito Nieves.

Asolo Rep will proudly host a special Family Day at **EVITA** on Sunday, December 3, when families can take part in family-friendly activities that explore the world of the musical prior to the performance, experience the performance with discounted tickets, and join a post-performance discussion with the cast. Throughout Asolo Rep's run of **EVITA**, the theatre will provide more than 1,000 students access to the world-class production through student matinee performances and public performances.

**CAST**  
(In order of appearance)

ANA ISABELLE*	Eva Perón
JUSTIN GREGORY LOPEZ*	Che
ANDRÉS ACOSTA*	Ensemble
ENRIQUE BROWN*	Ensemble
JUAN CABALLER*	Ensemble
BEN CHAVEZ*	Ensemble
EMMA DINER	Ensemble
GABRIELA GOMEZ	Ensemble
KOURTNEY KEITT	Ensemble
CALEB MARSHALL	Ensemble
TRINA MILLS*†	Ensemble
BRANDON MICHAEL NASE*	Ensemble
MARINA PIRES	Ensemble
MICA DOMINGUEZ-ROBINSON	Ensemble
SANTINA UMBACH*	Ensemble
SALVATORE VIEIRA*	Ensemble
SHARROD WILLIAMS*	Ensemble
KRISTIN YANCY*	Ensemble
VICTOR SOUFFRANT	Agustín Magaldi/Ensemble
JUNIOR CERVILA	Tango Dancer/Ensemble
GUADALUPE GARCIA	Tango Dancer/Ensemble
NICK DUCKART*	Juan Perón
GIZEL JIMENEZ*	Perón's Mistress/Ensemble
TORI BATES	Children's Choir
SOPHIA CAVALLUZZI	Children's Choir
TORI LEE GREENLAW	Children's Choir
RYAN MODJESKI	Children's Choir
KYLE RAMON	Children's Choir
ALEXA ZIFF	Children's Choir

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

† Dance Captain

## SELECTED CREATIVE TEAM

Director/Choreographer.....	Josh Rhodes
Scenic Designer.....	Paul Tate DePoo III
Costume Designer.....	Brian C. Hemesath
Lighting Designer.....	Paul Miller
Sound Designer.....	Will Pickens
Projection Designer.....	Alex Basco Koch
Hair/Wig & Make-up Designer.....	Michelle Hart
Music Director/Additional Arrangements.....	Sinai Tabak

---

## SELECTED ARTISTIC BIOS

(In Alphabetical Order)

**NICK DUCKART\*** (Juan Perón) is thrilled to be making his Asolo Rep debut. Past Regional credits include: *Carmen*, *An Afro-Cuban Jazz Musical* (Directed by Moisés Kaufman, Choreographed by Sergio Trujillo), *In the Heights*, *Next to Normal*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Zorba!*, *Company*, *Carousel*, *First Date*, *Assassins*, *Venus in Fur*, *A View From the Bridge*, among others. TV credits include: *Burn Notice* and *The Arrangement*. [www.nickduckart.com](http://www.nickduckart.com)

**ANA ISABELLE\*** (Eva Perón) is a Puerto Rican actress, singer/songwriter who won Univision's *Viva el Sueño* with over 30 million votes and was hailed as "An Artist to Watch" by *Billboard* Magazine. Ana has released three highly successful albums, including "*Mi Sueño*", which debuted #3 on Billboard Top Latin Chart. Upcoming Films: *Imprisoned*, *Sol De Medianoche*, *Dementia 13*. TV: *Big Dogs*, *Seasons of Love*. NY Theatre: Off Broadway: *I Like It Like That* with Tito Nieves. Duets with Plácido Domingo, José Feliciano, Luis Fonsi, and Gilberto Santa Rosa. Ana has performed to sold-out audiences throughout Puerto Rico and U.S., including Carnegie Hall. As the first Latina artist, she starred with Chazz Palminteri in the TNT opening of NBA All Star Games. Ana was named Best New Artist at Premios Texas and nominated as Best New Artist in Premios Lo Nuestro.

**JUSTIN GREGORY LOPEZ\*** (Che) is proudly making his debut with Asolo Rep, Justin was most recently seen playing Usnavi in *In The Heights* at the Ordway Center (MN) and the Victoria Theatre (OH). Regionally, he was also featured in the 5th Avenue Theatre's revival of *Paint Your Wagon*, originating the role of Armando, which earned him two Seattle-area award nominations for his work in a supporting role. Other notable credits include off-Broadway's *Bare*, NBC's *Law & Order: SVU*, developmental work on *Hamilton*, Frank Wildhorn's *The Song of Bernadette*, and the new musical *Other World*.

**JOSH RHODES** (Director/Choreographer) Asolo Rep: *Barnum*, *Working*, *Yentl*, *My Fair Lady*, *Guys and Dolls*. On Broadway, Josh choreographed *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Outer Critics Circle, Astaire Award, 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 (Screenvision/PBS), the Emmy winning production of "Sondheim's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Concert" (PBS), *Zorba* and *Big River* (Encores), *The Landing* (Vineyard Theater),

“Broadway: Three Generations” (Kennedy Center), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Shakespeare Theatre Company) and the Drama Desk award-winning production of *Working* (Prospect Theater). Josh directed Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville* (Old Globe), *Spamalot* (5<sup>th</sup> Avenue), *Guys and Dolls* (Old Globe) and *Celestina Warbeck and the Banshees* in Diagon Alley at The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. A proud graduate of the University of Michigan.

---

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMMING**

### **Inside Asolo Rep: *EVITA***

Thursday, November 2 at 11am

Cook Theatre

Panel discussions are \$5; and free for all donors and Asolo Rep Guild Members

Get rare insights into the artistic process, hear directly from the people responsible for producing *EVITA*, and engage in stimulating discussion inspired by the musical's themes and issues.

**Inside Asolo Rep is sponsored by Hotel Indigo and the Observer**

### **Family Day at *EVITA***

Sunday, December 3 at 2pm; pre-show activities at 1pm

Asolo Repertory Theatre

Tickets are \$60-\$80 for a family of four. Additional children's tickets can be purchased for \$15-\$20. One ticket must be for a patron under the age of 18.

Enter the Promo Code **EVFAMILY** to unlock Family Day pricing and seats!

A special matinee performance offers theatre-loving families an affordable way to see this iconic musical, and welcomes you to learn more about how the magic is made at Asolo Rep. With four tickets for the price of one, bring the whole family!

***EVITA* Family Day is made possible, in part with lead support from Community Foundation of Sarasota County and additional support from Publix Super Markets Charities.**

### ***EVITA* IllumiNation Event**

Wednesday, December 6 at 6:30pm

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. IllumiNation also includes the Faces of Change performance on April 9 in the Cook Theatre, with additional TBA performances in the Sarasota community.

**IllumiNation is sponsored by Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering and Capstan Financial Consulting Group**

**Meet the Actors**

Sunday, December 10 at 2pm  
Asolo Rep's Mertz Theatre

Immediately following the 2pm matinee, ask questions and learn more from members of the cast in a facilitated discussion.

**OUT@AsoloRep: EVITA**

Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30pm; show starts at 7:30pm  
Asolo Rep's Mezzanine  
Contact Asolo Rep's Box Office for subscription and ticket information

Now in its eighth 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 **EVITA** from the creative team and cast members.

**OUT@AsoloRep is sponsored by Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering.**

**The Scoop**

One hour prior to every performance of **EVITA**

Arrive one hour before curtain to hear the ideas and inspirations that contributed to the making of **EVITA**. (Opening Night, November 18, is excluded.)

**Tuesday Talkbacks**

Every Tuesday throughout the run  
Asolo Rep's Mezzanine

Join us for an intimate post-show discussion with featured actors or guests following every Tuesday performance of **EVITA**.

---

**TICKETS**

Tickets for **EVITA** and the entire 2017-18 Asolo Repertory Theatre season are on sale now. Tickets for **EVITA** start at \$32.

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.

Through October 29, the box office is open Monday – Friday, 10am – 5pm. Beginning October 30, 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.

---

## **SPONSORS**

Asolo Rep is able to present **EVITA** because of the generosity of its sponsors. Corporate sponsors for **EVITA** are Plumbing Today, Sarasota Magazine, Herald Tribune, SNN, and Innovative Dining. Asolo Rep 2017-18 Major Season Sponsors are Florida State University, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Designing Women Boutique, Woman's Exchange, Inc., 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. Asolo Rep is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

**EVITA** Youth and Family Programs Major Sponsors are: Lead Sponsor Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Publix Super Markets Charities, Charles Henry Leach II Fund, Linnie E. Dalbeck Memorial Foundation Trust, Cordelia Lee Beattie Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Koski Family Foundation Fund for New Audiences, Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation, Andrew R. Ferrell Foundation, Huisking Foundation, Audrey Robbins Fund of Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and Asolo Repertory Theatre Guild. Community Foundation of Sarasota County support is made possible through the Joseph and Sylvia Bloom Unrestricted Fund, John and Dorothy Brennan Charitable Fund, Lola G. Hanna Fund, Walter Haskins Fund in memory of Stacey K. Haskins, and Thomas and Lola Seligman Fund.

---

## **About Asolo Repertory Theatre**

Now in its 59th 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 15 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 outreach programming engage audiences and ensure its lasting legacy for future generations.

###

---

**Media Contact:**  
Sasha Goodrich  
Public Relations Manager  
941.351.9010 x4800  
[Sasha\\_Goodrich@asolo.org](mailto:Sasha_Goodrich@asolo.org)