

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

**May 3, 2018**

**Asolo Repertory Theatre Proudly Presents:  
*Kaleidoscope: Wheels of a Dream*  
on Monday, May 14**

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**(SARASOTA, May 3, 2018)** — Asolo Rep's Education department proudly presents *Kaleidoscope: Wheels of a Dream* on Monday, May 14 at 6pm in the Mertz Theatre, on the set of Asolo Rep's May production of *Ragtime*. The performance is the culmination of this season's Kaleidoscope, an award-winning annual program founded by Broadway veteran **Ann Morrison** in 1995, which serves individuals with special needs from local community organizations and schools to discover creative and personal expression through performance.

This year's Kaleidoscope participants come from three partner organizations and schools: Bayshore High School, Easterseals Southwest Florida, and Oak Park School. Throughout the months of each residency, participants explore movement, music and acting, led by Asolo Rep teaching artists. Ann Morrison continues her founding role leading the work for adult and student participants at Easterseals. **Benjamin Howe** and **Rick Levine**, guest teaching artists and dancers with Sarasota Contemporary Dance, lead the work for students at Oak Park School and Bayshore High School respectively. The Haven, a group which has worked with Kaleidoscope since its founding, will be represented by veteran performers working at the event as special guests. The Heavenly Haven bakery will also provide desserts for the reception following the performance.

The *Kaleidoscope: Wheels of a Dream* showcase presents a glimpse into varied artistic styles of each group's explorations. Some ensembles will demonstrate the classroom exercises they have been using in their workshop sessions, including movement and vocal activities. Others will perform their own short musical, with a script generated by the participants themselves. The showcase performance is free and followed by a dessert.

"Once a year we have the opportunity to turn over our beautiful theatre to these performers who are rarely featured on public stages," said **Kathryn Moroney**,

Asolo Rep Education Director. “*Ragtime* features a beloved song that describes traveling into the future ‘on the wheels of a dream’, and that has inspired us to showcase all the different places these artists can travel with the fuel of their imaginations. This year’s Kaleidoscope program features three exuberant ensembles working with three distinctly creative teaching artists, and the wide variety of the work they have created together promises to be an energizing evening for family, friends, and our community.”

Tickets are free but reservations are required. To reserve tickets, please call the box office at 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388 or visit <http://asolorep.org/Kaleidoscope>

Kaleidoscope is made possible, in part, with support from: Leona Hughes Trust of the Bank of America Client Foundation, Eluned and Edward Russell Charitable Foundation, The Z Foundation, The Joy McCann Foundation, Tegna Foundation, and the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs.

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## ABOUT THE FOUNDER

**ANN MORRISON** (Kaleidoscope Founder and Teaching Artist) has starred on Broadway, Off Broadway, the West End in London, regional, cabaret, solo plays, and furniture stores. She won the 1981 Theatre World Award for her role of Mary Flynn in Sondheim’s *Merrily We Roll Along*. She is featured in the documentary “Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened” about what happened to the original Broadway cast of *Merrily*. Ann is Co-Founder of Kaleidoscope, through which she serves Easter Seals and The Haven as Artistic Director of a musical theatre troupe for persons with developmental differences, and is Co-Founder/Artistic Director of the SaraSolo Festival, celebrating solo performances that illuminate the human condition especially that of those who are perceived as “other than.”

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## ABOUT THE PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

The mission of **Bayshore High School** is to provide to all students an education that prepares them to be college and career ready by engaging them in rigorous academic work that promotes student achievement. The vision of Bayshore High School is to build relationships with all students to ensure academic success.

Through the support of the community and the generosity of its donors, **Community Haven** empowers independence and inclusion in all aspects of society for children, teenagers, and adults with disabilities by meeting their needs for therapy, education, socialization, housing, fitness, vocational training, job placement, and recreation.

Since 1946, **Easterseals Southwest Florida** has been providing services to help abilities shine for individuals with disabilities and their families. Key services include development and early intervention in the Lily Preschool and Children's Therapy program, elementary after-school program and summer camp, VIP Academy High School and an Adult Day Program. Life and job skills are developed and on-site employment services cultivate employment opportunities and transitional support for our students and adults.

**The Haven** exists as a resource for independence and a champion for inclusion, in all aspects of life, for people with disabilities. We envision a world where people with disabilities are included and valued members of society.

The mission of **Oak Park School** is to provide exceptional students with experiences leading to successful interactions with others, functional independence, and continued education or post-school employment suited to their individual needs.

**Sarasota Contemporary Dance** (SCD) was Formed in 2002 as Fuzión Dance Artists by Co-Founders Leymis Bolaños Wilmot and Rachael Inman, as Sarasota's first contemporary dance company. Now in its 12th season, SCD continues to bring dance to the community through eclectic performances and educational programming, while collaborating with artists and community groups to enrich the human experience. SCD is recognized for its extraordinary level of high-energy, contemporary dance and collaborative performances with artists of various genres. In addition to a variety of community collaborations and performances at local venues, SCD has also been presented at the Alabama Ballet Center for Dance, John F. Kennedy Center, Merce Cunningham Studio Theatre, and the Ailey Citygroup Theatre. The company presents a combination of works by the Artistic Director and Guest Choreographers. Recent Guest Choreographers include Douglas Gillespie, Millicent Johnnie, Lucy Bowen McCauley, Jennifer Archibald, Michael Foley, Adele Myers, Gerri Houlihan, and Larry Keigwin. Additionally, the company offers a variety of physically integrated dance and movement modalities to people in different stages of their lives and abilities, including an

established ongoing weekly Dance for Parkinson's class at the Parkinson Place.

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## **ABOUT ASOLO REP**

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 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.

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**For more information, visit [www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org)**

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