

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

**March 21, 2019**

**Asolo Repertory Theatre to Host  
A Braw Wee Scottish Heritage Celebration  
in Honor of 30th Anniversary of the Mertz Theatre on Thursday, April 11**

**(SARASOTA, March 21, 2019)** — In partnership with the **Caledonian Club of Florida West**, Asolo Rep will proudly host **A Braw Wee Scottish Heritage Celebration** on Thursday, April 11.

This special event will celebrate Sarasota's Scottish heritage and the 30th birthday of the installation of Scotland's Dunfermline Opera House, which has become The Harold and Esther Mertz Theatre. The Mertz is an elegant 500-seat theatre that has served as the company's main performing space since 1990. The event will also commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the Caledonian Club of Florida West.

The celebration will surround both the matinee of Lynn Nottage's *Sweat* and evening performance of Michael Frayn's *Noises Off*. There will be Scottish bagpipers prior to each performance and a post-show reception and toast on the Mezzanine following the 7:30 performance. The Scoop (Asolo Rep's insightful pre-show discussion series) preceding the evening show will focus on the history of the Mertz and its journey from Scotland to Sarasota. Asolo Rep is also offering special reduced theatre ticket prices for the evening performance.

Sarasota has a rich history with Scotland, beginning in 1885 when colonists traveled from Scotland to Sarasota. Sarasota was chartered by a group of Scottish businessmen in 1903. Located in West Fife, Dunfermline is one of Sarasota's Sister Cities. This relationship was solidified by the Caledonian Club of Florida West. The Club, which takes its name from the Roman name for the geographic area that became Scotland, strives to promote Sarasota's Scottish roots and fellowship through various educational, cultural and social functions.

"Asolo Rep is incredibly proud of its Scottish connection and history and is thrilled to celebrate this milestone with the Caledonian Club," said Asolo Rep Managing Director **Linda DiGabriele**. "We encourage everyone to attend not only for a wonderfully entertaining theatrical experience but also to learn more about Asolo Rep and Sarasota's historical roots and how our beautiful Mertz Theatre journeyed from Dunfermline to become the performing space it is today."

"We are delighted to celebrate our 33rd anniversary with Asolo Repertory Theatre," said **Bill Wallace**, Director of the Caledonian Club of Sarasota. "We hope that we are able to shed light on Sarasota's Scottish history at this joyful event filled with great music, food and theatre!"

To purchase discounted tickets, use the promo code: SCOT [online](#), by phone (941.351.8000), or in person at the box office (5555 N. Tamiami Trail). Seating is limited.

### **ABOUT THE CALEDONIAN CLUB OF FLORIDA WEST, INC.**

The Caledonian Club of Florida West is a Scottish oriented social club located in the Sarasota area. Founded in 1986, the Club welcomes everyone, regardless of ethnic background, who enjoys being among friends with a Scottish interest. The Club conducts an annual series of Scottish social events, including the Heritage Luncheon, the Holiday Luncheon, the Thistle Ball, and Piper in the Park (Sunday evenings in season). The Caledonian Club strives to promote Sarasota's rich Scottish history and the Scot's role in the settlement and growth of the area. [www.caledonianclub.org](http://www.caledonianclub.org)

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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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