

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****
January 8, 2019

**Asolo Rep Continues its 60th Season with
Pulitzer Prize-winner *SWEAT*; Directed by Nicole A. Watson
February 6 - April 13**

(**SARASOTA, January 8, 2019**) — Asolo Repertory Theatre proudly presents the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama winner and Tony nominee for Best Play: ***SWEAT***, penned by one of today's foremost playwrights, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner **Lynn Nottage**. Directed by **Nicole A. Watson**, this poignant new drama humanizes the U.S. labor crisis and its impact on Reading, Pennsylvania. ***SWEAT*** previews February 6 and 7, opens February 8 and runs through April 13 in rotating repertory in the Mertz Theatre, located in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts.

Set during the economic collapses of 2000 and 2008, ***SWEAT*** chronicles the stories of the resilient people of Reading, a steel town in Pennsylvania and one of the poorest in the nation. For decades, generation after generation has worked at the same factories with the promise of the American Dream. But mass layoffs, salary cuts, and factory closures mean a new status quo for the Reading community and for Tracy and Cynthia, whose friendship and families are tested when their jobs and futures are on the line. The second most produced play in the U.S. for the 2018-19 season, ***SWEAT*** dynamically magnifies the domino effect of economic downturn in the heart of working-class America.

"The beauty of ***SWEAT*** is that it vividly captures the soul of the Pennsylvania community during one of the greatest recessions in our nation's history. The brilliant Lynn Nottage breathes life into these real people, who are filled with tremendous heart, humor and hope despite their seemingly insurmountable obstacles," said Producing Artistic Director **Michael Donald Edwards**. "I urge our community to experience ***SWEAT***, a compelling and heartfelt masterpiece that could not be more timely."

The cast features **Carolyn Ann Hoerdmann** (Tracy), who is also in *The Crucible* at Asolo Rep this season. She has previously been seen at American Players Theatre (*Measure for Measure*), the Goodman (*Camino Real*, *Measure for Measure*, *Feathers and Teeth*) Steppenwolf Garage (*Venus*), Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and more. Her television credits include *Chicago Fire* and *Empire*. **Danielle Lee Greaves** (Cynthia), also in *The Crucible*, returns to Asolo Rep after appearing in the theatre's 2008 production of *Working*. She has been seen on Broadway in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Hairspray*, *Rent*, *Show Boat* and *Sunset Boulevard*. Her television credits include *The Blacklist*, *The Americans*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Smash* and more.

The cast also includes **Matt DeCaro** (Stan, a bartender), who previously appeared in *The Great Society*, *The Little Foxes* and *Rhinoceros* and more at Asolo Rep, **Gabriel Lawrence** (Evan, a parole officer), **Matthew Kresch** (Jason, Tracy's son), **Bruce A. Young** (Brucie, Cynthia's husband), who all appear in *The Crucible* this season. It also features **Rudy Galvan** (Oscar, a busboy at the bar), **Kevin Minor** (Chris, Cynthia's son) and **Liz Zweifler** (Jessie, a factory worker and Tracy and Cynthia's friend).

Nottage was inspired by a *New York Times* article on Reading and the Occupy Wall Street grassroots movement and spent years interviewing the people of Reading in order to authentically tell their stories on stage. Her other works include the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Ruined* as well as *Intimate Apparel* (New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play); *Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine* (Obie Award); *Crumbs From the Table of Joy*; *Las Meninas* (produced by Asolo Rep in 2011); *Mud, River, Stone*; *Por'knockers*; and *Poof!*

Nicole A. Watson, who directed *The Great Society* at Asolo Rep in 2017, is the Associate Artistic Director at Round House Theatre in Washington, D.C. She has also helmed *Skeleton Crew* (Baltimore Center Stage), *Dot* (Playmakers Rep), the world premieres of *Fear City* and *World Builders* (CATF) *Night of The Living N-Word* and more. She has been a guest director at A.C.T., Smith College, UNCSA, NYU and Long Island University.

"In Lynn Nottage's **SWEAT**, the people of Reading do what so many people in this country do: work hard and try to take care of their families. They are not asking for pity or handouts. They are asking for a fair deal. They are asking for promises to be kept," said Director Nicole A. Watson. "Lynn's play highlights the declining power of unions in favor of increased profits for the one percent and, in doing that, sheds light on the fallacy of the American Dream. The play takes place between 2000 and 2008, following the election and presidency of George W. Bush. I hope that seeing the past through our political and economic cycles sheds light on our present moment."

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

GABRIEL LAWRENCE*Evan
MATTHEW KRESCH.....	Jason
KEVIN MINOR.....	Chris
DANIELLE LEE GREAVES*.....	Cynthia
CAROLYN ANN HOERDEMANN*.....	Tracey
MATT DECARO*.....	Stan
LIZ ZWEIFLER.....	Jessie
RUDY GALVAN*.....	Oscar
BRUCE A. YOUNG*.....	Brucie

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

SELECTED CREATIVE TEAM MEMBERS

Director.....	Nicole A. Watson
Scenic Designer.....	Paige Hathaway
Costume Designer.....	Trevor Bowen
Lighting Designer.....	Andrew F. Griffin
Sound Designer.....	Kate Marvin
Projection Designer.....	Matt Parker
Hair/Wig & Make-up Designer.....	Michelle Hart

SELECTED ARTISTIC BIOS

DANIELLE LEE GREAVES* (Cynthia, *Sweat*; Tituba, *The Crucible*) is thrilled to return to Asolo Rep. Her Broadway credits are *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Revival OBC), *Rent*, *Hairspray* (OBC), *Sunset Boulevard*, and *Show Boat* (Revival OBC). Her tour credits are *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, *The Lion King* and *Rent*. Her regional credits include *Fences*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Ethel Waters- His Eye is on the Sparrow*, and *Caroline, or Change*. Her film and TV credits include *Growing Up (And Other Lies)*, *The Blacklist*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Affair*, *The Americans*, *Elementary*, *Show Me A Hero*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Smash*, *The Big C*, *Rescue Me*, *Damages*, *Whoopi*, and *100 Centre Street*.

CAROLYN ANN HOERDEMANN* (Tracy, *Sweat*; Mrs. Anne Putnam, *The Crucible*) is making her Asolo Rep debut. She was last seen in *Measure for Measure* at American Players Theatre. Carolyn has been seen at the Goodman Theatre (*Camino Real*, *Measure for Measure*, *Feathers and Teeth*); the Steppenwolf Garage (*Venus*); Chicago Shakespeare; Door County Shakespeare; Trap Door Theatre; European Repertory; Chicago Children's Theatre and others. She has received an After Dark award for her role in *Madame De Sade* and the production *Scenes from an Execution*. Carolyn has been seen on *Chicago Fire* (NBC) and *Empire* (Fox), and the short films *Alien Brides* and *Home*, which she co-wrote.

NICOLE A. WATSON (Director, *SWEAT*) is the Associate Artistic Director at Round House Theatre. Selected credits: *Skeleton Crew* (Baltimore Center Stage); *Dot* (Playmakers Rep); world premieres of *Welcome to Fear City* and *World Builders* (CATF); *The Great Society* (Asolo Rep); world premiere of *Night of the Living N-Word* (FringeNYC); world premiere of *Approaching Ali* (WNO); a workshop of *Gun and Powder* (Theater Latté Da). She has been a guest director at A.C.T., Smith College, UNCSA, NYU, and Long Island University. She was an Artist in Residence and Directing Fellow at the Drama League, and a recipient of the League of Professional Theatre Women's Josephine Abady Award. Nicole is a New Georges Affiliated Artist, an alum of both the Lincoln Center and Women's Project Directors Labs, and a member of SDC. BA: History, Yale. MA: NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study.

www.nicoleawatson.com

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

The Scoop

One hour prior to every performance of *SWEAT*

Arrive one hour before curtain to hear the ideas and inspirations that contributed to the making of *SWEAT* (Opening Night, February 8, is excluded.)

Tuesday Talkbacks

February 26, March 26, April 2

Asolo Rep's Mezzanine

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

Inside Asolo Rep: *SWEAT* and *NOISES OFF*

Wednesday, February 27 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 Angels level and higher and Asolo Rep Guild Members

Get rare insights into the artistic process, hear directly from the people responsible for producing *SWEAT* and *NOISES OFF* 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

Sunday Salon

Sunday, March 3

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: *SWEAT* [Sold Out]

Wednesday, March 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 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 *SWEAT* from the creative team and cast members.

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

SWEAT IllumiNation Event

Saturday, April 6 at 1pm; performance at 2pm

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

TICKETS

Tickets for **SWEAT** and the entire 2018-19 Asolo Repertory Theatre season are on sale now. Tickets for **SWEAT** start at \$29. To purchase tickets, call 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388, visit 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.

SPONSORS

Asolo Rep is able to present **SWEAT** because of the generosity of its sponsors. The corporate sponsors for **SWEAT** are Sarasota Magazine, and Gold Coast Eagle Distributor. 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.

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

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