

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

**December 11, 2018**

## **Asolo Rep Kicks off its Repertory Season with *THE CRUCIBLE*, Helmed by Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards**

**(SARASOTA, December 11, 2018)** — Asolo Rep continues its celebration of 60 years on stage with a world-class production of Pulitzer Prize-winner Arthur Miller's Tony Award®-winning masterwork ***THE CRUCIBLE***. Helmed by Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director **Michael Donald Edwards**, this chillingly timeless drama previews January 9 and 10, opens January 11 and runs through March 10 in rotating repertory in the Mertz Theatre, located in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts.

Under the veil of night, a group of teenage girls are caught dancing devilishly around a fire in the woods, and so begins the unraveling of the tightly wound village of Salem. The girls' ringleader, Abigail Williams, will do whatever it takes to win the heart of John Proctor, a married farmer with whom she had an affair. But the girls' accusations spiral out of control, pitting neighbor against neighbor, until no one is safe from the baseless finger pointing. Inspired by the "witch hunt" atmosphere of McCarthy-era America, ***THE CRUCIBLE*** premiered on Broadway in 1953 and remains a harrowing parable of the dangers of fear and hatred of the unknown.

“What makes ***THE CRUCIBLE*** a great play is not that it is about Salem and Puritanism, and not that it is a metaphor for McCarthyism or even today's political climate, but that it's about real humans,” said Michael Donald Edwards, Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director and Director of ***THE CRUCIBLE***. “At its core, it is the story of people who have to go through a tremendous crisis to find out what matters — that to live is to love —and Arthur Miller insists on that in this thrilling American masterpiece.”

A Garland Award and Drama Logue Award-winner, Michael Donald Edwards is in his 13th season as Producing Artistic Director of Asolo Rep. At Asolo Rep, he previously directed *Disgraced*; *Our Betters*; *The Grapes of Wrath*; *Clybourne Park*; *My Brilliant Divorce*; *Hamlet*; *Prince of Cuba*; *Las Meninas*; *La Bête*; *The Last Five Years*; *The Life of Galileo*; *Perfect Mendacity*; *The Winter's Tale*; *Equus*; *A Tale of Two Cities*; *Darwin in Malibu*; *Nobody Don't Like Yogi*; *Amadeus*; and *The Smell of the Kill*. He has also directed at Cleveland

## **THE CRUCIBLE**

Page 2 of 8

Play House; Indiana Repertory Theatre; Geva Theatre; Syracuse Stage; The Shakespeare Theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; the Old Globe in San Diego, the Metropolitan Opera and more.

**Amanda Fallon Smith's** (Abigail Williams) regional credits include Aggie Wheeler (*The Game's Afoot*, Gretna Theatre), Ariel (*The Little Mermaid*, Gretna Theatre), and Belle (*Beauty and the Beast*, West Virginia Public Theatre).

**Coburn Goss** (John Proctor) was seen Off-Broadway in Steppenwolf's *When the Messenger Is Hot* at 59E59. His recent credits include *The Columnist* (American Blues Theater), *The Burials* (Steppenwolf Theatre), and *Chimerica* (TimeLine Theatre). His film credits include *Man of Steel*, *Batman v Superman*, *The Lucky Ones*, *Once Upon a River* and *Widows*. His TV credits include *The Red Line*, *The Chi*, *Chicago Med* and *Empire*.

**Laura Rook** (Elizabeth Proctor) returns to Asolo Rep after appearing as Viola de Lesseps in *Shakespeare in Love* and Daisy in *Rhinoceros* last season. Her credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Othello*, *Henry V*, and *Romeo and Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *The Liar* (Writers Theatre); and *Skylight* (Court Theatre).

Several Asolo Rep favorites also lead the cast, including **David Breitbarth** (Reverend Samuel Parris), **Matt DeCaro** (Deputy-Governor Danforth) and **Peggy Roeder** (Rebecca Nurse).

The cast also features **John Wilson Bennett** (Hopkins), **Dylan Crow** (Marshal Herrick), **Danielle Lee Greaves** (Tituba), **Andrew Hardaway** (Judge Hathorne), **Steve Hendrickson** (Francis Nurse), **Carolyn Ann Hoerdemann** (Mrs. Ann Putnam), **Matthew Kresch** (Puritan Man 1), **Gabriel Lawrence** (Reverend John Hale), **Sara Linares** (Mary Warren), **Erik Meixelsperger** (Ezekiel Cheever), **Olivia Osol** (Sarah Good), **Paul Romero** (Thomas Putnam), **Katie Sah** (Susanna Walcott), **Scott Shomaker** (Puritan Man 2), **Anika Trout** (Betty Paris), **Jenny Vallancourt** (Mercy Lewis), and **Bruce A. Young** (Giles Corey).

One of the pillars of American theater, Arthur Miller also penned the Tony Award-winning *All My Sons* and *Death of a Salesman*, which also won the Pulitzer Prize. His work also includes *A View from the Bridge* and *After The Fall*. The 2016 Broadway revival of **THE CRUCIBLE** was nominated for four Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Play.

Throughout the run of **THE CRUCIBLE**, Asolo Rep will host three student matinees dedicated for local middle and high school students. These

performances will be supplemented with classroom workshops and study guides. The theatre will also provide additional tickets for students during public performances.

---

**CAST**

(In Order of Appearance)

ANIKA TROUT.....	Betty Parris
DAVID BREITBARTH* .....	Reverend Samuel Parris
DANIELLE LEE GREAVES* .....	Tituba
AMANDA FALLON SMITH*.....	Abigail Williams
KATIE SAH.....	Susanna Walcott
CAROLYN ANN HOERDEMANN* .....	Mrs. Ann Putnam
PAUL ROMERO*.....	Thomas Putnam
JENNY VALLANCOURT≠.....	Mercy Lewis
SARA LINARES .....	Mary Warren
COBURN GOSS* .....	John Proctor
PEGGY ROEDER*.....	Rebecca Nurse
BRUCE A. YOUNG*.....	Giles Corey
GABRIEL LAWRENCE* .....	Reverend John Hale
LAURA ROOK*.....	Elizabeth Proctor
STEVE HENDRICKSON* .....	Francis Nurse
ERIK MEIXELSPERGER.....	Ezekiel Cheever
DYLAN CROW.....	Marshal Herrick
ANDREW HARDAWAY.....	Judge Hathorne
MATT DECARO*.....	Deputy-Governor Danforth
OLIVIA OSOL≠.....	Sarah Good
JOHN WILSON BENNETT.....	Hopkins
MATTHEW KRESCH.....	Puritan Man 1
SCOTT SHOMAKER.....	Puritan Man 2

\*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.....	MICHAEL DONALD EDWARDS
Scenic Designer.....	LEE SAVAGE
Costume Designer.....	TRACY DORMAN
Lighting Designer.....	JEN SCHRIEVER
Sound Designer & Original Composition.....	FABIAN OBISPO
Hair/Wig & Make-up Designer.....	MICHELLE HART

---

## **SELECTED ARTISTIC BIOS**

**MICHAEL DONALD EDWARDS** (Producing Artistic Director; Director, *The Crucible*) is in his thirteenth season as producing artistic director of Asolo Repertory Theatre. He was previously the associate artistic director of Syracuse Stage and served as artistic director of Shakespeare Santa Cruz. A Garland Award and Drama Logue Award winning director, Mr. Edwards has directed at Cleveland Play House; Indiana Repertory Theatre; Geva Theatre; Syracuse Stage; The Shakespeare Theatre; San Jose Rep; Opera San Jose; the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; the Old Globe in San Diego; Virginia Stage Company; the Virginia Opera; the State Theatre of South Australia; Opera Australia; Victoria State Opera; and the Metropolitan Opera. In previous seasons for Asolo Rep, Mr. Edwards has directed *Disgraced*; *Our Betters*; *The Grapes of Wrath*; *Clybourne Park*; *My Brilliant Divorce*; *Hamlet*, *Prince of Cuba*; *Las Meninas*; *La Bête*; *The Last Five Years*; *The Life of Galileo*; *Perfect Mendacity*; *The Winter's Tale*; *Equus*; *A Tale of Two Cities*; *Darwin in Malibu*; *Nobody Don't Like Yogi*; *Amadeus*; *The Smell of the Kill*; and pieces in the Unplugged festival of new plays, including the world premiere reading of John Guare's *Eddie in the Andes*.

**COBURN GOSS\*** (John Proctor, **THE CRUCIBLE**) is thrilled to be making his Asolo Rep debut. His recent credits include *The Columnist* at American Blues Theater, *The Burials* at Steppenwolf Theatre, and *Chimerica* at TimeLine Theatre. He played C.S. Lewis in the long-running *Freud's Last Session* for CRC Productions at the Mercury Theater, and was seen Off-Broadway in Steppenwolf's *When the Messenger Is Hot* at 59E59, and additionally at Goodman Theatre, Writers Theatre, Seattle Repertory and Arkansas Repertory. His film credits include *Man of Steel*, *Batman v Superman*, *The Lucky Ones*, *Once Upon a River* and *Widows*. His TV credits include *The Red Line*, *The Chi*, *Chicago Med* and *Empire*.

**LAURA ROOK\*** (Elizabeth Proctor, **THE CRUCIBLE**) is back at Asolo Repertory Theatre after last year's *Shakespeare in Love* and *Rhinoceros*. Favorite Chicago and regional credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Othello*, *Henry V*, and *Romeo and Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *The Liar* (Writers Theatre); *Skylight* (Court Theatre); *Three Sisters*, *Cyrano De Bergerac*, *Mary's Wedding*, *King Lear*, *Othello*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Seagull*, and *Troilus and Cressida* (American Players Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Winter's Tale* (Illinois Shakespeare Theater); *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Romeo and Juliet* (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks). [www.Laurarook.com](http://www.Laurarook.com)

**AMANDA FALLON SMITH\*** (Abigail Williams, **THE CRUCIBLE**) is ecstatic to be making her Asolo Rep debut! Favorite regional credits include: Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*, Aggie Wheeler in *The Game's Afoot*, Jane in *Tarzan*, Evelyn Nesbit in *Ragtime*, Agnes in *Wife U*, among others. Amanda was fortunate to be crowned Miss Pennsylvania in 2014 and later went on to compete in the iconic Miss America pageant—where she won the award for Talent. She is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University (BFA Musical Theatre) and a proud member of Actor's Equity. [www.Amandafallonsmith.com](http://www.Amandafallonsmith.com)

---

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMMING**

### **The Scoop**

#### **One hour prior to every performance of *THE CRUCIBLE***

Arrive one hour before curtain to hear the ideas and inspirations that contributed to the making of **THE CRUCIBLE** (Opening Night, January 11, 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 29, February 12, March 5**

**Asolo Rep's Mezzanine**

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

**Sunday Salon**

**Sunday, January 20**

**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: THE CRUCIBLE [Sold Out]**

**Thursday, January 24 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 **THE CRUCIBLE** from the creative team and cast members.

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

**THE CRUCIBLE IllumiNation Event**

**Saturday, February 9 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 **THE CRUCIBLE** and the entire 2018-19 Asolo Repertory Theatre season are on sale now. Tickets for **THE CRUCIBLE** 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.

---

## **SPONSORS**

Asolo Rep is able to present **THE CRUCIBLE** because of the generosity of its sponsors. The corporate sponsors for **THE CRUCIBLE** are Energy Today, SNN, Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering, 107.9 WSRZ, and Hampton Inn & Suites.

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 Huisling 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](http://www.asolorep.org)

---

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Sasha Goodrich

Public Relations Manager

941.351.9010 x 4800

[Sasha\\_Goodrich@asolo.org](mailto:Sasha_Goodrich@asolo.org)