

ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL DONALD EDWARDS • MANAGING DIRECTOR LINDA DIGABRIELE



Natalie Novacek



Celine Rosenthal



Ed Gero



A.K. Murtadha

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2017

ASOLO REP PRESENTS INSIDE ASOLO REP: THE GREAT SOCIETY AND THE ORIGINALIST ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

WHAT:

Get rare insights into the artistic process, hear directly from the people responsible for producing **THE GREAT SOCIETY** and **THE ORIGINALIST**, and engage in stimulating discussion inspired by the plays' themes and issues. January's panel features Asolo Rep actors Ed Gero (Justice Antonin Scalia, **THE ORIGINALIST**) and A.K. Murtadha (Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., **THE GREAT SOCIETY**), and Directing Fellows Natalie Novacek (**THE GREAT SOCIETY**) and Celine Rosenthal (**THE ORIGINALIST**). Guests are invited to arrive early to enjoy coffee and pastries in the lobby.

WHO:

EDWARD GERO* (Antonin Scalia, **THE ORIGINALIST**) is the recipient of four Helen Hayes awards and 16 nominations, including Justice Scalia. Other: Mark Rothko – *RED*, Goodman Theatre/Arena Stage; Gloucester (*King Lear*) with Stacy Keach, Goodman Theatre/Shakespeare Theatre Company; Richard Nixon (*Nixon's Nixon*), Salieri (*Amadeus*), Roundhouse Theatre; Scrooge (*A Christmas Carol*), Ford's Theatre; Sweeney Todd (*Sweeney Todd*), Signature Theatre. 75 roles since 1983 with Shakespeare Theatre Company, most recently King – *Henry IV* with Stacy Keach. Film and TV: *House of Cards*, *Turn: Washington's Spies*, *Striking Distance* and *Die Hard II*. Professor of Theater – George Mason University; 2015 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow.

A.K. MURTADHA* (Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., **THE GREAT SOCIETY**) has enjoyed various classic and contemporary roles in regional and repertory theatres. He joined Asolo Rep last season as MLK in *All the Way* and Dr. Prentice in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. He most recently played Macduff in *Macbeth* at the Ensemble

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Theatre Company of Santa Barbara. TV/Film credits include *NCIS: LA*, *Raising the Bar*, *The Unit*, *Medium*, *Numb3rs*, and the horror movie *8989 Redstone* (Amazon). Awards include Best Actor - New Orleans Short film festival - *In the Wind*; NAACP Award: Best Ensemble - *All My Sons*. (MFA – UC San Diego) www.akmurtadha.com

NATALIE NOVACEK (Directing Fellow, THE GREAT SOCIETY; BORN YESTERDAY) is a freelance director based in Minneapolis, MN. Her intimate productions have garnered critical acclaim for their precise balance of humor and heart. She received her M.F.A. in Directing from the University of Texas at Austin and her B.A. in Theatre Arts from Minnesota State University Moorhead. She is an Associate Member of the Stage Director and Choreographers Society. www.nnovacek.com

CELINE ROSENTHAL (Directing Fellow, THE ORIGINALIST; THE LITTLE FOXES) is thrilled to be working with Asolo Rep this season. Celine is a freelance director and teacher based in New York City. She is an NYU Tisch alum, Tony Nominated Producer (*Leap of Faith*, *Seminar*), and graduate of The New School for Drama's MFA Directing program. She is a founding member of Neela Theatre Project in Mumbai, and her work has been seen at NYMF, New York City Center, MMAC, 54 Below, and 59E59.

WHEN:

Wednesday, January 25
Refreshments: 10am
Panel Discussion: 11am

WHERE:

FSU Center for the Performing Arts
Cook Theatre
5555 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34243

HOW:

Panel discussion tickets are just \$5 for the general public and are free for all donors and Asolo Rep Guild members. To reserve your tickets, call the Asolo Rep Box Office at 941.351.8000 or visit www.asolorep.org.

Inside Asolo Rep is sponsored by Hotel Indigo and the Observer

ABOUT ASOLO REP

Now in its 58th 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.

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