

Asolo Rep Announces Panelists for *ROE* IllumiNation Event to be held on Wednesday, March 21

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 16, 2018*****

WHAT:

Asolo Rep's ***ROE* IllumiNation** event will be held on Wednesday, March 21. Lisa Loomer's ***ROE*** (March 14 - April 15) is a poignant new play that humanizes and examines both sides of one of the most polarizing Supreme Court cases of all time: *Roe v. Wade*. A stimulating series of theatre and conversation exploring the topical and social themes threaded throughout the season, IllumiNation events begin one hour prior to curtain with a ticketed reception on the mezzanine, continue with the performance, and conclude with a free, open-to-the-public conversation.

For each IllumiNation performance, a block of seats will be held in the mezzanine and balcony for **PAY WHAT YOU CAN** (minimum of \$5 per ticket). These tickets can only be reserved on the day of the show starting at 10am by phone or at the box office.

The March 21 conversation will be moderated by **IllumiNation** committee member **Rosenda Calloway**, a 30-year resident of Sarasota and longtime Asolo Rep patron. The panel will feature former Maryland State Senator **Paula Hollinger**, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida **Stephanie Kight** and Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court **Chief Judge Charles E. Williams**.

WHO:

Rosenda Calloway is a 30 year resident of Sarasota and has enjoyed the Asolo Repertory Theatre with her husband as a season ticket holder for the past 22 years. Rosenda is employed by AAA as their Manager of home based travel agents for 11 states and Puerto Rico.

Paula Hollinger is a Democratic Party politician from Maryland. She most recently served as the associate director for health workforce in the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, retiring in 2015. Until 2007, she

served in the Maryland State Senate as a Senate Committee Chair, and was a candidate for Maryland's third congressional district in 2006. The seat was being vacated by Ben Cardin, who was seeking the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate seat being vacated by Senator Paul Sarbanes. She came in third place in a field of eight other Democrats, garnering 21.3% of the vote. Hollinger was in the General Assembly for 26 years. She was elected as a delegate in 1979, and became a state senator in 1986. Hollinger chaired the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee in the Maryland General Assembly, serving as the only woman to chair one of the four standing senate committees.

Stephanie Kight is President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida. She is an experienced health care leader and a lifelong champion for equity. Stephanie has decades of experience in health care business strategy, brand and marketing, public policy advocacy, and program development, and her commitment to this work stems from her deep belief that women should be trusted to make their own decisions. Stephanie has held senior leadership roles at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and at Planned Parenthood affiliates in Ohio and California. Most recently, at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, she initiated and implemented many of Planned Parenthood's new national marketing and communications approaches. She has refined Planned Parenthood's brand nationwide and launched the federation's first sex education text messaging program.

Judge Charles E. Williams was born in North Carolina, raised in St. Petersburg, Florida and graduated from Howard University in Washington D.C.; He earned his law degree from the University of Florida. His past awards include the Community Service Award from the Manatee County Bar Association, and the Manatee County NAACP Public Service Award. He is a recipient of the Sarasota County NAACP 2014 Public Service Award and also the recipient of the Sarasota County Branch NAACP's 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the recipient of the C.L. McKaig Award, presented by the Sarasota County Bar Association in recognition and appreciation of his tireless dedication to promoting the ideals of equality, justice, and professionalism. Judge Williams has been elected twice by his fellow judges to serve as Chief Judge for the 12th Judicial Circuit.

WHEN:

Wednesday, March 21 at 6:30pm

WHERE:

Asolo Repertory Theatre

5555 N. Tamiami Trail

Sarasota, FL 34243

Pre-show reception and a post-show community conversation held on the Mezzanine

Performance in the Mertz Theatre

HOW:

IllumiNation Ticket Packages:

3 Play Package

Section A: \$195 (\$65 per ticket)

Section B: \$150 (\$50 per ticket)

Section C: \$90 (\$30 per ticket)

Section D: \$63 (\$21 per ticket)

For each **IllumiNation** performance, a block of seats will be held in the mezzanine and balcony for **PAY WHAT YOU CAN** (minimum of \$5 per ticket - phone fees apply). These tickets can only be reserved on the day of the show starting at 10am. Reservations made by phone (941.351.8000) or at the main box office.

The pre-performance reception is free for series ticket package holders and \$10 for ticket holders to that evening's performance. Asolo Rep subscribers are welcome to change their performance dates to the **IllumiNation Series** dates and pay the additional \$10 fee for the pre-show reception. Please contact the box office directly at 941.351.8000. The post-performance discussion is free and open to all.

IllumiNation is sponsored by Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering and Capstan Financial Consulting Group

ABOUT ROE

March 14 - April 15

By Lisa Loomer

Based on the original production directed by Bill Rauch

The lawyer: a young, courageous woman arguing her case before the Supreme Court. The plaintiff: a hard-living, single woman hoping for a quick end to an unwanted pregnancy. The aftermath: a place in American judicial history and a lifetime of inescapable notoriety. Lisa Loomer cuts through the headlines to deliver a clever, comic and poignant portrayal of the two women at the center of one of the most infamous court cases of all time. Taking place from the 1970s to the present with characters on both sides of the issue spanning from decidedly pro-choice to decidedly pro-life, **ROE** reflects the polarization in America today while illuminating the heart and passion each person has for their cause.

CONTAINS MATURE LANGUAGE AND THEMES.

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.

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION](#)

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