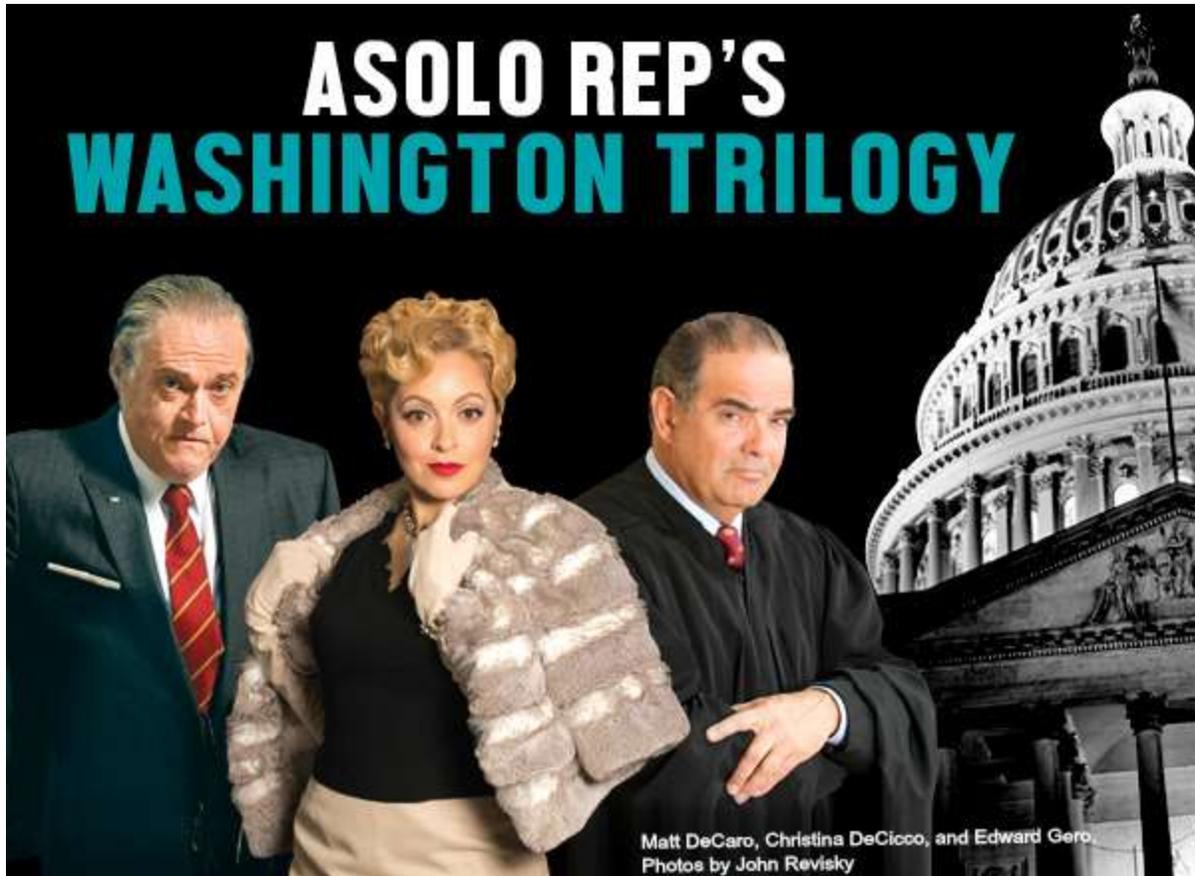


# ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL DONALD EDWARDS • MANAGING DIRECTOR LINDA DIGABRIELE



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

February 1, 2017

**THIS FEBRUARY, ASOLO REP PRESENTS THE WASHINGTON TRILOGY:  
THE GREAT SOCIETY, THE ORIGINALIST AND BORN YESTERDAY;  
THREE HOT SHOWS – ONE BLAZING CITY**

**(SARASOTA, February 1, 2017)** — This season at Asolo Rep, in celebration of the fifth and final year of its American Character Project, the theatre's three winter repertory shows are all set in the political hotbed of the nation's capital: Washington, D.C. The winter rep season began on January 13 with **THE GREAT SOCIETY**, Robert Schenkkan's thrilling depiction of LBJ's divisive presidency. On Inauguration Day, January 20, the theatre opened **THE ORIGINALIST**, John Strand's remarkably timely play about Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and the search for the political middle. **BORN YESTERDAY**, Garson Kanin's beloved classic comedy about a not-so-dumb blonde's journey into Washington high society, opens February 10 – officially kicking off **The Washington Trilogy: Three Hot Shows – One Blazing City**.

"It is a very exciting time here at Asolo Rep. We are producing three extraordinary productions set in Washington, D.C. – two new plays and one American classic," said Michael Donald Edwards, Producing Artistic Director of Asolo Rep. "Not only is this trilogy

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thoroughly entertaining and connected, but each of the three plays promote open and important dialogue. They remind us of the collective challenges we've faced as a nation while encouraging us to continue evolving. I urge our community to experience **The Washington Trilogy** at Asolo Rep in its entirety."

As one of the few true rotating repertory theaters in the country, Asolo Rep patrons have the unique opportunity to experience up to three different productions on the same stage in the span of a few days. Audiences will have several opportunities to see these three Washington D.C. gems within a 48-hour period. **THE ORIGINALIST** runs through March 7, **THE GREAT SOCIETY** runs through April 2 and **BORN YESTERDAY** runs through April 15. Bold, adventurous and visionary, **The Washington Trilogy** can only be seen at Asolo Rep.

"I had such a great time with the Asolo Rep community directing **THE ORIGINALIST**. I am proud to be one of a team that brought Washington, D.C. to Sarasota," said Molly Smith, Director of **THE ORIGINALIST** and Artistic Director of Washington, D.C.'s Arena Stage. "The connection to Washington continues with Asolo Rep's productions of **THE GREAT SOCIETY** and **BORN YESTERDAY** — I know we are connected through our stories and I love that Sarasota is channeling Washington during this critical political moment in time."



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## **ABOUT THE GREAT SOCIETY**

January 11–April 2

By Robert Schenkkan

Directed by Nicole A. Watson

Based on the original production directed by Bill Rauch

On the heels of Asolo Rep's wildly successful *All the Way*, **THE GREAT SOCIETY** continues Robert Schenkkan's profound exploration of President Lyndon Johnson's turbulent years in the White House. Besieged by political opponents, Johnson

summons all his political wives to advance his vision of a Great Society. Despite deep division over the Vietnam War and ongoing civil rights battles, Johnson championed the most ambitious effort ever to test what American government is capable of achieving. By looking back, **THE GREAT SOCIETY** examines who we are, asks how we got here, and dreams of what we could yet become.

Contains strong language including racial epithets, as well as mature themes

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## **ABOUT THE ORIGINALIST**

**January 18–March 7**

**By John Strand**

**Directed by Molly Smith**

**A Co-Production with Pasadena Playhouse and Arena Stage**

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's unexpected death threw a wrench into the political arena, and brought intense interest to this daring new play that had its hit world premiere at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. last spring. When a bright, liberal law school graduate embarks on a nerve-wracking clerkship with Justice Scalia, she discovers him to be both an infuriating sparring partner and unexpected mentor. Written by Charles MacArthur Award-winning playwright John Strand and starring four-time Helen Hayes Award winner Edward Gero (who bears an uncanny resemblance to Scalia), this powerful work depicts passionate people risking heart and soul to defend their interpretation of the truth.

Contains mature language and themes.

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## **ABOUT BORN YESTERDAY**

**February 8–April 15**

**By Garson Kanin**

**Directed by Peter Amster**

A Broadway triumph and 1950 Academy Award®-nominated film, this deliciously witty comedy is also a biting commentary on politics and the power of female persuasion. With his ex-showgirl girlfriend Billie Dawn in tow, junkyard magnate Harry Brock moves to Washington, D.C. where he hopes to break into some "special interest" business with an ethically challenged senator. When Billie's lack of social graces embarrasses even him, Harry hires a young reporter to give her the polish she needs to get ahead in D.C. society. But Harry gets more than he bargained for when, in a deliriously funny turn of events, he discovers a little bit of learning can be a dangerous thing.

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## **TICKETS**

Tickets for **THE GREAT SOCIETY**, **THE ORIGINALIST**, **BORN YESTERDAY** and the entire 2016-2017 Asolo Repertory Theatre season are on sale now.

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.

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## **SPONSORS**

Corporate sponsors for **THE GREAT SOCIETY** are Plumbing Today, Innovative Dining, Williams Parker and SNN. Corporate sponsors for **THE ORIGINALIST** are the Observer and Modern Events. Corporate sponsors for **BORN YESTERDAY** are Morton's Gourmet Market and Catering, Tidewell Hospice, ABC 7, and WUSF Public Media. Asolo Rep 2016-17 Major Season Sponsors are Florida State University, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, the Huisking Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Designing Women Boutique, Woman's Exchange, Inc., and Sunset Cadillac of Bradenton. Asolo Rep's artistic programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues. Asolo Rep is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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## **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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