

For Immediate Release

November 20, 2017

Asolo Rep Announces 2017-18 IllumiNation Series: Kicks off with Spanish Supertitled *EVITA* on December 6

(SARASOTA, November 20, 2017) — Asolo Rep proudly announces its 2017-18 **IllumiNation Series**, promoting cross-cultural conversations in the community. Held during select Wednesday and Saturday performances throughout the 2017-18 season, **IllumiNation** events begin one hour prior to curtain with a reception on the mezzanine, continue with the performance, and conclude with a free and open-to-the-public community conversation where audience members can further explore the topical and social issues that they have just seen played out on stage. Five-play and three-play ticket packages are available for the series.

The first event of the season kicks off on December 6 at 6:30pm with ***Evita*** and features pre-show tango lessons and dancing, and Argentinean light bites. The 7:30pm performance features Spanish supertitles. Following the performance, audience members will have the opportunity to reflect upon and discuss the topical and social issues in ***Evita*** in a community conversation facilitated by Maria Schaedler-Luera. Maria Schaedler-Luera is the Program Manager for Arts Integration with Any Given Child Sarasota at the Sarasota County Schools and the Managing Director of Atomica Arts. She is a Brazilian-born educator administrator, and performing artist with extensive work experience and knowledge in theater, music, arts and literacy, cross-cultural engagement, ESOL, interpreting, and immigrant communities.

"In addition to producing great stories brilliantly told, Asolo Rep believes theatre can be a critical part of building social capital. Every show is an opportunity to create connectivity, enhance mutual understanding and, most vitally, develop true empathy," said Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards. "Our **IllumiNation Series** is at the heart of this mission. Along with our other community programming, we aim to deepen the experience for all who come to see the work, as well as to reach new audiences."

This season's **IllumiNation** events also include ***Morning After Grace, Roe, Gloria*** and ***Ragtime***. In order to effectively reach these audiences, Asolo Rep is working closely with an **IllumiNation** Advisory Committee, comprised of community pillars who are committed to broadening the diversity of the theatre.

The committee is headed this season by Mary Braxton-Joseph, an Emmy Award-winning journalist and media consultant. An Asolo Rep Board member, Mary Braxton-Joseph is Immediate Past Chair of the Lillian's List Action Fund of North Carolina.

"The **IllumiNation** Series provides an opportunity for a public conversation about race, identity and cultural intersection," said committee chair Mary Braxton-Joseph. "I got involved because I wanted to participate in the dialogue and move the conversation forward. I have been amazed and uplifted by the quality of the conversations that take place after the performances."

The **IllumiNation** series is sponsored by Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering, Capstan Financial Consulting Group, and Observer Media Group, Inc.

2017-18 IllumiNation Series Schedule

EVITA

Lyrics by TIM RICE
Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Directed and Choreographed by JOSH RHODES
Wednesday, December 6, 7:30pm performance

MORNING AFTER GRACE

By CAREY CRIM
Directed by PETER AMSTER
Saturday, February 17, 2:00pm performance

ROE

By LISA LOOMER
Directed by LAVINA JADHWANI
Based on the original production directed by BILL RAUCH
Wednesday March 21, 7:30pm performance

GLORIA

By BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS
Directed by GREG LEAMING
Saturday, April 21, 2:00pm performance

RAGTIME

Book by TERRENCE MCNALLY
Music by STEPHEN FLAHERTY
Lyrics by LYNN AHRENS
Based on the novel "Ragtime" by E.L. DOCTOROW
Directed by PETER ROTHSTEIN
A collaboration with Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre
Wednesday, May 16, 7:30pm performance

IllumiNation Tickets

IllumiNation Package Prices:

5 Play Package

Section A: \$320 (\$64 per ticket)
Section B: \$245 (\$49 per ticket)
Section C: \$150 (\$30 per ticket)
Section D: \$100 (\$20 per ticket)

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)

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. All ticket-holders for the **IllumiNation** date performances may attend the pre-show reception for an additional \$10 fee. Please contact the box office directly at 941.351.8000. The post-performance discussion is free and open to all.

Visit http://www.asolorep.org/illumination_series.

2017-18 IllumiNation Committee

Mary Braxton-Joseph, Chair

Peggy Abt

Judy Amores

Dr. Brenda B. Brown

Rosenda Calloway

Audrey Coleman

Caroline Taylor Ellerson

Charlie Huisking

Charlayne Hunter-Gault

Tomeika Hunter-Koski

Kelly Kirschner

Melanie Natarajan

Audrey Robbins

Mary Lou Winnick

About Asolo Repertory Theatre

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.

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