

# ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL DONALD EDWARDS • MANAGING DIRECTOR LINDA DIGABRIELE



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<https://asolorep.smugmug.com/Twenty-Thousand-Leagues/>

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\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*

May 16, 2017

**Asolo Rep Presents Final Production of its 2016-17 Season:  
TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA;  
Adventure Awaits in this Stunning Theatrical Reimagination  
of Jules Verne's Classic Deep Sea Tale**

"Real feast for the senses. This is brilliant theatre." – CBC Radio

(SARASOTA, May 16, 2017) — Asolo Rep proudly presents the final production of its 2016-17 season: **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA**, the stunning new theatrical re-imagination of Jules Verne's classic deep sea tale created by **Craig Francis** and **Rick Miller**, who will direct the production, presented by Canada's family-focused entertainment production company Kidoons and WYRD Productions and produced by **Jeff Lord**. **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** comes to life on stage by way of visually striking multimedia storytelling, with vivid projections that will take the audience on the voyage of a lifetime. Previews are **Wednesday, June 7** and **Thursday, June 8 at 7pm**, opening night is **Friday, June 9 at 7pm** and the production runs through **Saturday, July 1** in the Mertz Theatre, located in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts.

Magnificent sea creatures! A spectacular submarine! Time travel! Take a plunge into the pages of Jules Verne's classic science fiction story and get swept away in this dazzling

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multisensory experience. Our modern-day storyteller Jules finds himself transported on board the Nautilus submarine, where he joins the mysterious Captain Nemo on a journey to the depths of the sea. Brought to stunning life through a mix of unforgettable characters, eye-popping projections and interactive technology, this time-honored tale explores our place in time and space, and illuminates the mysteries of the deep blue sea. The perfect family summer outing, **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** continues Asolo Rep's ongoing commitment to present engaging theatrical work for families, and is recommended for ages 7 and up.

Actor **Serafín Falcón** portrays the mysterious Captain Nemo. A Florida native, Mr. Falcon has appeared on *The Sopranos*, *Graceland*, *Burn Notice*, and others. He also originated the role of Forest Hunter in Pulitzer Prize-winner Nilo Cruz's *Hurricane*. **Suzy Jane Hunt** plays Professor Aronnax. She has appeared as Viola in *Twelfth Night* at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival and on Broadway in Theresa Rebeck's *Dead Accounts*. She also has a recurring role on the Emmy-nominated FX hit *The Americans*.

**Brendan McMahon** takes on the role of Jules. His New York City credits include *The Rite of Spring* and *The Firebird* at Lincoln Center, *La Divina Caricatura* at the Public Theater and *Manipulation* at the Cherry Lane Theatre. **Marcel Jeannin** rounds out the cast as Ned Land. He is a past member of the Stratford Festival and National Arts Centre of Canada acting companies, and his recent credits include Karl/Steve in *Clybourne Park* at Centaur Theatre and Trigorin in *The Seagull* at the Segal Centre in Montreal.

Co-creator/producer **Craig Francis** is a writer, performer, visual artist and storyteller. The co-creative director of the Kidoons Network, he is an accomplished cartoonist and the creator of animated series including Jerry Muskrat's *The Greatest Lakes Adventure*, and Grandfather Frog's *Water Wonderful World*. Co-creator, director and producer **Rick Miller** is a winner of Canada's Dora and Gemini Awards. Hailed as "one of the 100 most creative people alive today" by *Entertainment Weekly*, he has performed in five languages on five continents. He serves as the artistic director of WYRD Productions and co-creative director of the Kidoons Network.

**"TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** is a classic for a good reason: it is an adventure with great love of science, and has one of the most mysterious anti-heroes of all time in Captain Nemo," said co-creator Craig Francis "We wanted to honor Jules Verne's vision and also plunge the story into the technology of today: the screen. Will you use the screen to connect, or disconnect? This is an incredibly visual, multi-media experience created by a team of passionate artists. I've seen grandkids and their grandparents get lost in the production together... with lots to talk about and explore after!"

"When Craig Francis and I talked about collaborating on new shows that cross barriers between media, cultures and languages, **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** sparked us both as a perfect fit," said director and co-creator Rick Miller. "Our vision is to create an immersive family experience that not only captures the magic of live theater, but extends beyond the stage as a trans-media experience. Hopefully, when you come out of the show as a 'New Atlantean,' you'll feel inspired to take action on today's water issues, and to connect with people doing great work all over Florida — and around the world!"

Asolo Rep has proudly partnered with several community organizations in celebration of this underwater adventure. Partners include Mote Marine Laboratory, South Florida Museum, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, and Sarasota and Manatee County Libraries and Schools. Organizations will host special events themed to connect with **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA**. On May 19, Mote Marine will host a screening

of the **20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** Disney film for its monthly Mote Member Movie Night, and Mote's annual World Oceans Day Family Festival takes "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" as this year's theme. Libraries will also host Twenty Thousand Adventures workshops throughout May and June. Activities also include Family Night: Magic, Myths and Monsters at South Florida Museum on June 3, featuring a special screening of the Disney film.

In conjunction with its partner organizations, Asolo Rep will also host **Family Day at TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** on Saturday, June 17 beginning at 12:30pm. This special matinee performance will provide theatre-loving families an affordable way to see this transporting production, and welcomes them to learn more through special pre-show activities. Tickets for Family Day start at \$10 for children and \$20 for adults. Ticket packages are available and start at \$30.

With donor support, Asolo Rep is providing more than 1,000 youth and family members with free tickets to **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA**, as well as souvenir knapsacks, each stuffed with a book, activity sheets, and more. Partner organizations include ALSO Youth; Big Brothers Big Sisters; Booker Middle School; Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee and Sarasota Counties; Girls, Inc.; Jewish Family and Children's Services; Prism Youth Initiative; Visible Men Academy; and Sarasota County Libraries. Asolo Rep is also conducting educational workshops in Manatee and Sarasota County Schools, including Rowlett Academy and Pine View School.

"We're thrilled to present this brand new, boldly reimagined stage adaptation of an iconic novel. Not only is it a treat for the senses, but it's also an innovative and profoundly engaging new piece of theatre. It will enthrall audiences of all ages," said **Michael Donald Edwards**, Producing Artistic Director of Asolo Rep. "Infused with timely ecological conservation themes, **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** is particularly relevant for us right here in Sarasota, a beachfront community dedicated to preserving and protecting our oceans."

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### **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA PERFORMANCE TIMES**

- Wednesdays at 1:30pm and 7pm (excluding June 7, which only has an evening performance)
- Thursdays at 7pm
- Fridays at 7pm
- Saturdays at 2pm and 7pm
- Sundays at 2pm (no performance on Sunday, June 4 or June 11)

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMMING: TWENTY THOUSAND ADVENTURES!**

Our community partners provide opportunities to learn and explore this spring and summer.

Event listings current as of 5.15.17

For most current listing please visit [www.asolorep.org/education/family-programs](http://www.asolorep.org/education/family-programs)

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### **ASOLO REP**

#### **Family Day at *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea***

Asolo Repertory Theatre

June 17, 2pm performance, with pre-show activities beginning at 12:30pm, and post-show activities

Explorations of marine life, ecology, and storytelling fill the lobby before the Family Day performance, in partnership with Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium, Sarasota County Libraries, and South Florida Museum. Special ticket packages make a festive and fun day for the whole family.

Tickets and more information: [asolorep.org](http://asolorep.org)

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### **SOUTH FLORIDA MUSEUM**

**May 10, 7pm: Think Drink (Science) - from bioluminescence to glow sticks – stories of fluorescence in everyday life.** A monthly series to learn about cutting-edge science in a relaxed, informal setting.

**June 3, 3-8pm: Family Night: Magic, Myths and Monsters**

The ocean is a world of mystery – who lives there, why, and how? Challenge yourself to imagine life below the waves as you discover the truth about the ocean's amazing creatures. Special Movie Screening: *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. Admission is half-priced at the door after 3pm, and free to Museum Members.

**June 10, 4-8pm: iQuest: Wonders of the Deep (and Shallow)**

iQuest is a monthly program for middle school students grades 6-8. Who lives under the sea and how? What would it be like to never leave the depths? Explore the ocean's mysteries and the importance of the ocean to life on earth.

Tickets and more information for South Florida Museum events: [southfloridamuseum.org](http://southfloridamuseum.org)

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### **MOTE MARINE LABORATORY & AQUARIUM**

**May 19, 6:30pm: Mote Member Movie Night - *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea***

Mote Members are invited to explore *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*! Reservations

available to Mote members: [mote.org](http://mote.org)

**June 3, 10am-1pm: World Oceans Day Family Festival**

Mote's World Oceans Day event will spotlight the ocean's deep connection to the human spirit and the boundless inspirational power of our natural world's greatest resource. Free with regular paid admission to Mote and free for Mote Members.

Tickets and more information for Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium events: [mote.org](http://mote.org)

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**SARASOTA & MANATEE COUNTY LIBRARIES**

**Twenty Thousand Adventures workshops**

Asolo Rep's creative storytelling workshops use the classic Jules Verne novel and non-fiction research to inspire curiosity about ocean life and exploration, adding elements of character development and drama to create new stories.

May 24: North Port Library

May 27: North Port Library

June 9: Fruitville Library

June 10: Elsie Quirk Library

June 15: North Sarasota Library

June 20: Gulf Gate Library

June 24: Jacaranda Library

June 27: Elsie Quirk Library

June 29: Bradenton Downtown Central Library

**Contact individual libraries for further information.**

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**CAST**

*(In order of appearance)*

BRENDAN McMAHON\* .....Jules

SUZY JANE HUNT\* .....Professor Aronnax

MARCEL JEANNIN\* .....Ned Land

SERAFÍN FALCÓN.....Captain Nemo

\*Kidoons and WYRD Productions engage, under the terms of the Independent Theatre Agreement, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association. Backstage and Crew are members of IATSE Local 412.

## **SELECTED CREATIVE TEAM**

Co-Creator..... Craig Francis\*

Director/Co-Creator.....Rick Miller\*

Scenic, Prop & Costume Designer.....Yannik Larivée

Lighting Designer.....Itai Erdal

Projection Designer.....Deco Dawson

Composer & Sound Designer.....Richard Feren

Puppet Designers.....Shawn Kettner & Marcus Jamin

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## **SELECTED ARTISTIC BIOS**

(In Alphabetical Order)

**SERAFÍN FALCÓN** (Captain Nemo) Cuban-American, born and raised in Miami, Florida, Serafín Falcón graduated from the University of Florida with a communications degree. Falcon's first acting role was one line in *Transporter 2*. This led to guest roles in *The Sopranos* (HBO), *Graceland* (Fox), and *Burn Notice* (USA), among others. When Serafín played the leading role in *The Imaginary Life of Street Sweeper August G* at the Casa 0101 Theatre in Los Angeles, Nilo Cruz was in the audience and was taken with Falcon's performance. One year later, Cruz hired Falcon to play Forest Hunter in the premiere of *Hurricane* at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. Subsequently, Falcon played Palomo in Cruz's *Anna in the Tropics*, and several roles recently in Cruz's *Tsunami* at the Dade Cultural Arts Center. He just finished shooting two films: *Vandal* in Miami, Florida and *Puppet Master-The Littlest Reich* in Dallas, Texas. Falcon resides in Los Angeles, California.

**CRAIG FRANCIS** (Co-Creator/Assistant Stage Manager) is a writer, performer, visual artist and storyteller whose works have been enjoyed by millions of children worldwide. Co-creative director of the Kidoons Network and an accomplished cartoonist, he is the creator of animated series including Jerry Muskrat's *The Greatest Lakes Adventure*, Grandfather Frog's *Water Wonderful World* with museums and historic sites nationwide. He is a co-producer and stage manager with the hit show *BOOM* (Kidoons/WYRD Productions) and the co-creator with Rick Miller of new theatrical productions: *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*, the Star Wars/ Game of Thrones parody *GAME of CLONES*, *Frankenstein* (with Paul Van Dyck), and the upcoming *Jungle Book* and *Rose Red*. Craig has developed marketing for performing arts centers, illustrated several books, and appeared as a guest on CBC, CTV, Global, and Showtime. His voices can be heard in animated series and video games.

**SUZY JANE HUNT** (Professor Aronnax) is so excited to work with this great team on **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA**. Some of her favorite credits

include Viola in *Twelfth Night* at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Annie in *The Real Thing* at The Wilma in Philadelphia, Penny in *rogerandtom* at HERE Arts Center, *Dead Accounts* by Theresa Rebeck on Broadway, and Martha in Jim Leonard's *Battle Hymn* in Los Angeles. Suzy recurs as Pastor Tim's wife Alice on the Emmy-nominated FX series *The Americans*. Some other favorite TV credits include Schiffman on *Person of Interest*, *The Good Wife*, *The Blacklist*, *Blindspot*, *Believe*, and *Elementary*, as well as the film *Collateral Beauty*. Suzy grew up in Murfreesboro, TN, studied theatre at the University of Evansville and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Theatre Education at NYU. She is a proud member of The Actors Center.

**MARCEL JEANNIN** (Ned Land) Based in Montreal, Marcel has performed in various theatres across Canada and Europe, and is a past member of both the Stratford Festival and National Arts Centre of Canada acting companies. Recent credits include Karl/Steve in *Clybourne Park* (Centaur Theatre, Montreal), Sigmund Freud in *Unconscious at the Sistine Chapel* (2b Theatre, Halifax), and Trigorin in *The Seagull* (Segal Centre, Montreal). Film and television credits include *Taking Lives*, *Wicker Park*, *300*, *Snakes and Ladders*, and the upcoming miniseries *Insomnia*. He is a frequent guest-artist at the National Theatre School of Canada, and a proud member of Playwrights' Workshop Montréal. [www.marceljeannin.com](http://www.marceljeannin.com)

**BRENDAN MCMAHON** (Jules) is so thrilled to be joining this amazing ensemble and creative team, and to be performing at Asolo Rep! His credits include *The Rite of Spring* (Lincoln Center, NYC), *The Firebird* (Lincoln Center, NYC), *La Divina Caricatura* (Public Theater, NYC), *Manipulation* (Cherry Lane Theatre, NYC), *The Tempest*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Playing Moliere* (New York Classical, NYC), *The Cat Who Went to Heaven* (Brooklyn Academy of Music), *Henrietta Hermaline's Fall From Great Heights* (Ensemble Studio Theater, NYC), *Don Cristobal* (St. Ann's Warehouse, NYC), *The Maids* (Egress Theatre, NYC), *Petrushka* (Shakespeare Theater, Washington DC), *Parlour Song* (Quantum Theatre, Pittsburgh), *l'Arbre Enchanté* (Fire Island Opera Festival), *Aladdin* (Emerald City, Chicago), *Romeo and Juliet* (Jewish Ensemble Theatre, Detroit), *Médée* (Theatre Lumen, Brussels, Belgium). He is also a theater director and a professor of Theatre Performance at SUNY Purchase, New York. He lives in Brooklyn with his incredible and beautiful wife, Angie.

**RICK MILLER** (Co-Creator/Director) is a Dora and Gemini award-winning writer/director/actor/musician/educator who has performed on five continents and who Entertainment Weekly called "one of the 100 most creative people alive today." He has created and toured solo shows such as *MacHomer*, and (w. Daniel Brooks) *Bigger Than Jesus* and *HARDSELL*. With Robert Lepage, he has collaborated on *Geometry of Miracles*, *Zulu Time*, *Lipsynch*, and on the film *Possible Worlds*. As the artistic director of WYRD Productions and co-creative director of the Kidoons Network, Rick has most recently developed the stage shows *BOOM*, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*, and *GAME of CLONES*, as well as several web series that educate, enlighten, empower, and entertain young people. He also teaches an interdisciplinary class at the University of Toronto called "The Architecture of Creativity." Ricks is from Montreal, and lives in Toronto with his wife Stephanie Baptist and their two daughters.

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## TICKETS

Tickets range from \$10 to \$38 for children 18 and younger and \$20 - \$48 for adults. Donors and subscribers receive a 15 percent discount for **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES**

**UNDER THE SEA.** Tickets are available by calling or visiting the box office (941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388; 5555 N. Tamiami Trail) or online at [www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org). 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. 2017-18 season subscription packages are also available online and by visiting or calling the box office.

**TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA FAMILY DAY TICKET PACKAGES**

4 tickets for \$60  
3 tickets for \$45  
2 tickets for \$30

At least one person in the party must be 18 or younger in order to receive Family Package pricing.

For tickets and more information about Asolo Rep visit [www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org).

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**SPONSORS**

Asolo Rep is able to present the production of **TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA**, Family Day, and related programs and outreach with generous support from the community. Sponsors for **TWENTY LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** are Energy Today, SunTrust Foundation, 941 CEO, Hyatt Place, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, Linnie E. Dalbeck Memorial Foundation Trust, and Joy McCann Culverhouse Charitable Trust. 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 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.

**TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA** outreach activities are made possible with support from the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation, Energy Today, Manatee Community Foundation, Our Sarasota Fund and McCauley-Brown Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, SunTrust Foundation, and through gifts from individual donors.

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