2026/7 SEASON



FSU | ASOLO CONSERVATORY FOR ACTOR TRAINING

A Midsummer Night's Dream. Photo by Adrian Van Stee

WELCOME



JAMES FRAZIER
Dean, College of Fine Arts
Florida State University

On behalf of the Florida State University College of Fine Arts, welcome to another FSU/Asolo Conservatory season.

For more than 50 years, Florida State University and Asolo Repertory Theatre have shared a commitment to artistic excellence and meaningful engagement with the Sarasota community. That enduring partnership brings together accomplished artists, talented graduate students of the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training, and audiences in celebration of live theatre.

The productions you will experience this season offer more than memorable performances. They invite us to see the world from new perspectives, engage with ideas that matter, and celebrate the imagination, craft, and humanity that define the theatrical experience.

We are thrilled to be part of this community, and we thank you for joining us. Your continued support of our students and programming is greatly appreciated, and it is our hope that these performances inspire, challenge, and delight you.



MARCUS DENARD JOHNSON
Assistant Professor of Theatre
Director
FSU/Asolo Conservatory
for Actor Training

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training is an incubator of artistic excellence and exploration. Thanks to the extraordinary talent of our graduate student-actors, the caliber of our faculty, and our unique relationship with Asolo Repertory Theatre, we are proud to bring world-class theatre to the Sarasota/Bradenton community.

Each play this season was carefully selected with our actors' growth in mind. We look for roles that stretch their abilities, allowing them to utilize the vital skills they've developed in their Movement, Voice, and Acting classes. You will witness these practical classroom skills brought to life on stage, shaped by our expert faculty and visionary guest directors like Max Raymond. Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous philanthropic support of our sponsors, who are deeply invested in the education of these artists.

Finally, you—our audience—play a critical role in this training. An actor's process has many layers. First, they must develop a deep relationship with the text. Next, they build connections with the physical stage and their fellow actors. But the final, most sacred layer happens when you enter the theatre. That is when the actor truly communes with the audience, giving way to a shared emotional experience—a collective laugh, a synchronized breath. Thank you for playing your vital part and thank you for supporting live theatre. Enjoy the show.

STAFF

MARCUS DENARD JOHNSON
Conservatory Director
Text Analysis

ANDREI MALAEV-BABEL
Head of Acting
First-Year Acting

JONATHAN EPSTEIN
Second-Year Acting

PATRICIA DELOREY
Voice, Speech, and Dialect

JASON PAUL TATE
Movement and Physical Theatre

SUMMER DAWN WALLACE
Business of Acting

DON BRYN
Singing

CHRISTOPHER MCVICKER
Technical Director / Production Manager

GABRIELA GORKA
Production Stage Manager

LISA BEGGY
Student Services Coordinator

MARK WHEATLEY
Coordinator of London Studies

FSU COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

DR. JAMES FRAZIER
Dean, College of Fine Arts

DR. BRAD BROCK
Director of the School of Theatre

For more information, please contact:

info@conservatory.fsu.edu

MISSION STATEMENT

For over 50 years, the FSU/Asolo Conservatory and Asolo Rep have been linked in a unique collaboration that combines a classical academic training program with a professional regional theatre company. It is one of the last remaining conservatory programs in the United States, offering a sophisticated combination of graduate classroom training with professional performance opportunities at Asolo Rep.

www.asolorep.org/conservatory



Emma by Kate Hamill. Photo by Adrian Van Stee

CLASS OF 2028

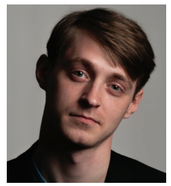
SECOND-YEAR ENSEMBLE



ARMANDO GONZÁLEZ NARANJO is a Costa Rican actor and MFA candidate at Florida State University's Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. He began his acting training at the British Cultural Center in Costa Rica, where he studied the Meisner Technique. His work includes multiple short films and web series, as well as stage training in movement, voice, and stage combat. Armando is passionate about bringing authenticity, vulnerability, and physicality to his work, and is particularly interested in stories that explore identity, human connection, and the Latin American experience. He is thrilled to be part of the FSU/Asolo Conservatory's 2026–2027 season.



EMELIE O'HARA Regional theatre credits include Utah Shakespeare Festival, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival, Sierra Repertory Theatre, Arvada Center, Drive Theatre, Local Theatre Co., Theatricum Botanicum, Adobe Theatre, Colorado Music Festival, and Redhouse Arts Center. Film credits include *Don't Blink* and *Stained Glass Windows*. TV credits include Starz, USA, and Lifetime. International credits include Kerry Tribe's *Critical Mass* in London. Training credits include Moscow Art Theatre and the Gaiety School of Acting.



PAVEL HOLOVCHENKO is a Ukrainian actor from Kharkiv. He earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Acting from Kharkiv National University of Arts. He later joined the company of an academic drama theatre in his hometown. After moving to Hamburg, Germany, Pavel collaborated with German artists on international theatre and performance projects and worked as an actor with the Hamburg State Opera. He subsequently moved to Toronto, where he continued his training with Michael Chekhov Canada. Pavel is currently in his second year at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training, where he continues his professional training as an actor.



ARIA RAYES is overjoyed to take the stage with her incredible cohort. Raised in Dallas, Texas, she earned her BFA in acting at Azusa Pacific University. Selected undergrad credits include Mary Hatch in *It's a Wonderful Life* and Caroline Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice*. Most recently, she played Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* (Asolo Rep). Her heart goes out to the masters of this craft who dedicate their lives to the pursuit of truth, and to the support system that allows her to do the same. IG: @ariarayes



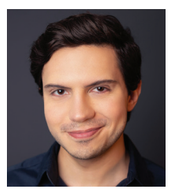
EREN PAGAN-OVERMYER (they/them) is a second-year student at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory. Previous credits include *The Book of Silence*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Tempest, Private Lives, Clue,* and *On the Town* (Western Michigan Univ.), *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (Commonwealth Shakes), *Man and Moon and Taproot* (Queer Theatre Kalamazoo), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Dingbat Theatre Project) BFA: Western Michigan University. Thank you to everyone who's ever supported me and allowed me to dream with them <3 @eren_gabriel | erenpaganovermyer.com.



LIA RODRIGUEZ is a Miami based actress excited to be performing on the Cook Stage. She has received her BFA in Acting at Florida International University. Recent local credits would be understudying for *Primary Trust* (Asolo Rep) and taking part in the New Works Play Lab (FSU/Asolo Conservatory). Her undergrad credits include *Clybourne Park, The Mousetrap, Necessary Targets, Passage,* and *The House of Bernarda Alba*. She has dubbing credits in the animated film *Anpanman: Twinkle Princess Vanilla of the Land of Ice Cream.* She's eternally grateful for the love and support of her family. Gracias familia! IG: liarodgz16



CHARLIE LAVARONI is a second-year at the Conservatory. As a bi-coastal actor they have proudly worked with: SPARC, Shakespeare & Co., SFBATCO, Pacific Repertory Theatre, and the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. Some of their favorite recent credits include: Guildenstern (*Hamlet*); Puck (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*); Clown (*The 39 Steps*); and Nell Gwyn (*Charlie and Nell*). Protect the Dolls! www.charlielavaroni.com



RICARDO CIONI GARCIA is an actor, screenwriter, and filmmaker with over 20 awards in 8 countries for his short film *I Loved To See You,* and a JCSI Emmy Young Creative Award for *What If.* Educated in Brazil, China, Canada, and the USA, he has performance credits in all four countries and in five languages. Ricardo was the sole Latin American recipient of the Ficmonterrey Full Scholarship at Vancouver Film School. Additionally, he leads an innovative filmmaking program for deaf students in Brazil. He is currently training as part of the FSU/Asolo Rep MFA program.

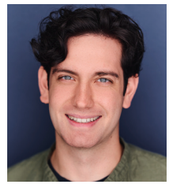


BIANCA UTSET is a Cuban-Mexican American actress from Miami, Florida and is thrilled to be making her Cook Stage debut. She holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Florida International University and is a company member of Miami-based absurdist theatre company LakeHouseRanchDotPNG. Recent credits include Lola (U/S) in *Agatha Christie's The Mirror Crack'd* at Asolo Rep, Gertrude in *Hamlet* at GableStage, and as Lady in *Gay Cowboys* at the Orlando Fringe Festival. Bianca is grateful for the support from all her Professors at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory and her mom and sister. She hopes you enjoy the show! IG: @bibi.utset

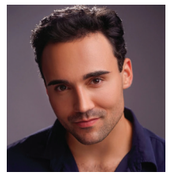
GUEST ARTISTS



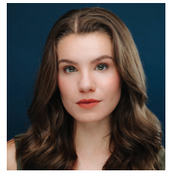
TREZURE B. COLES (GUEST ARTIST) was recently in New York rehearsing for the new production of *Dreamgirls* as one of the youngest cast members. Previously, she served as an ensemble member and a repeated swing for the supporting and lead roles of I3 and Hope in the world premiere immersive experience, *Bob Marley: Hope Road* in Las Vegas. Based in Las Vegas, Trezure is a triple threat with extensive starring roles on stage. She is a versatile singer, proficient in everything from soulful ballads and reggae to rap and rhyme, and is also skilled in spoken word and poetry. A proud native of Newport News, VA, she is an alumna of both Norfolk State University and the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training.



JACKSON PURDY (GUEST ARTIST) is a Philadelphia-based actor/writer and graduate of the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training (Class of 2024). He recently premiered his original work, *Submission,* in Philadelphia's Variety Pack Festival, and has been a ground floor artist for several new works, including: *The Black Pearl and the Frivolous Prince, Othello vs. the Military Industrial Complex,* and *The Superconductor* (Cannonball Festival). Regional Credits: *Romeo and Juliet* (Arden Theatre Company), *Inheritors* (Philadelphia Artists Collective), *Inherit the Wind, Dial M for Murder* (Asolo Repertory Theatre). In honor and love to his friends, family, and Imani.





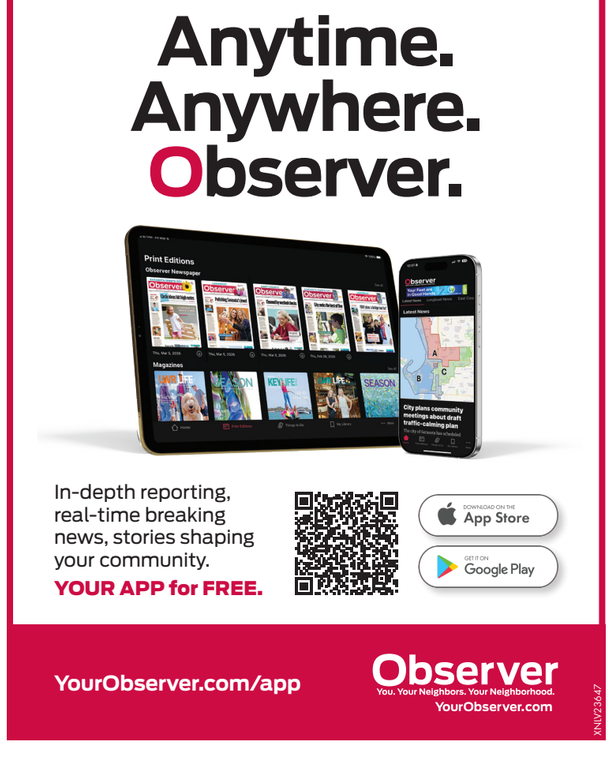







CLASS OF 2029

(LEFT TO RIGHT) Sam Brock, Jason Budahazy, Lydia Sophia Christensen, Savanna Cole, Natasha Dias, Aréanna Hope Kroll, Alejandro Navarro, Tessa Kaplan Nesbet, Caroline Thompson, and Malia Vargas





ANGEL HISSOM

EDUCATION CIRCLE

The Angel Hissom Education Circle was established upon Angel Hissom's retirement from Asolo Rep and honors her nearly two decades of impact on Asolo Repertory Theatre by providing a meaningful opportunity for donors to invest in education and artist development across Asolo Rep, including the extraordinary training of MFA actors at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training.

Angel understood that theatre education is a lifelong journey—one that nurtures curiosity, creativity, discipline, and artistic excellence. Through the Angel Hissom Education Circle, donors help ensure that the next generation of artists has the training, mentorship, and opportunities needed to develop their craft and build meaningful careers in the theatre.

In many ways, this initiative reflects Angel herself: a deep belief in the transformative power of education and in the importance of investing in the artists who will shape the future of our field. Her legacy lives on in every student inspired, every actor trained, and every audience member whose life is touched by their work.

This list recognizes gifts directed to the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training received between October 15, 2025 and October 15, 2026.

$125+

E.L. "Sam" DiGiammarino, Jr. and Brenda Lee
Joanna McClelland Glass, in memory of Eva Slane
David C. Ochs and Ana M. Hirsch
John Teryek
Alan Trench, in memory of Robert (Bob) Maloney
David A. Wright and Marc C. Erwin

$250+

Lynn C. Chancer
Deborah A. Farrington
Ben Huberman, in loving memory of Gigi Huberman
Ruth Kreindler
John and Myrna Welch
Jim and Annette West
Deborah and Rick Yaryura

$500+

Anonymous
Nanette Crist
Thalia Dorwick
Sue Jacobson
Joyce and Jim McAlpine
Alan and Sunny Pervil
Paul Vincent, in memory of Bill Byrnes

$1000+

Terry O. Brackett
Don and Jo Ann Burhart
Gary and Joanne Cook
Edward and Annette Eliasberg
Karl Fedronas and Kathy Kelle
Tom Lyons
Ingrid Nutter
Dr. R. Paul Urbanick
Geri and Ron Yonover
Stanley Zielinski

$2,500+

Jack E Block Fund at Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Nancy and Barry Shapiro
George Steitz

$5,000+

Carol Gilbert and Matty Matheson
Charlie Huisking, Huisking Foundation
Dr. Randell Johnson and Bobby Jensen
Muriel O'Neil Fund for the Performing Arts of Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Leon Sickles and Donald Lara-Gagne
Eva T. and Stephen Slane Fund at Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Leon and Marysue Wechsler

$10,000+

Jody Beresford and Robert Mayer
Walt and Pam Hunt
Barbara Jacob and Karen Lichtig
Sandra Miranda

$15,000+

Gerald and Sondra Biller
Dr. Richard and Pamela Mones

$25,000+

Ron Banyay
The Eva T and Stephan Slane Foundation



FSU/Asolo Conservatory students on their annual London trip.

THANK YOU

WHERE DOES YOUR CONTRIBUTION GO?

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory exists thanks to your support of the partnership between Florida State and Asolo Rep. Your gift can benefit many different areas of need. We are grateful for all of your help!

A gift to the FSU/ASOLO CONSERVATORY via the FSU Foundation will help cover annual needs such as visiting artist workshops, production expenses, senior showcase and capital expenses like upgrades to the Cook Theatre.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JESSICA COMAS: JCOMAS@FSU.EDU | 850.645.0701

The 2026 Giving Challenge was a Great Success!

Your incredible generosity to the FSU/Asolo Conservatory, through the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, directly supports our students' hands-on learning in the 2026/2027 production season. We are so grateful for the support from our students, faculty, staff, alumni, board members, families, and friends!

Thank you to our Giving Challenge Donors!

Ron Banyay
Betty-Jean Bavar, in memory of David Bavar
John & Stacy Berteau
Terry O. Brackett
Robert Bradbury
Judy Christian
Jessica Comas
Gary and Joanne Cook
Linda DiGabriele and Gary Sweetman
Katherine Flattery
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Judith Schwartzbaum
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John L and Judith T Snow
Debra Steines
Paul & Sharon Steinwachs Steinwachs Family Foundation
Ann Syring
Michael and Jacqueline Vlaming
Summer Dawn Wallace

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS CAMPAIGN THE CONSERVATORY GRATEFULLY RECOGNIZES GIFTS OF $100+ IN THIS PLAYBILL

GIFTS RECEIVED FROM MARCH 13, 2026 - OCTOBER 13, 2026

Walt and Pam Hunt | Dr. Randell Johnson and Bobby Jensen
Nancy A. Gold and Honorable Bruce Lehman, Esq
David C. Logan and Dennis M. Kovach | Patricia Nations
Ingrid Nutter | Jack* and Priscilla Schlegel
Dr. Paul Urbanick | Karen Wehner and James Jurick
Marilyn B. West

FSU/ASOLO REP STUDENT FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENTS Forever Gifts

Anonymous | Baer Family Student Fellowship
Jack E. Block Fund
Dr. Janet Brown* and Dr. Margaret R. Martin*
Margot* and Warren Coville*
Foster and Martha Harmon Scholarship Fund
Lillian (Pat) Huisking Student Fellowship
Bobby Jensen and Randell Johnson Endowed Fund
Koski Family Foundation | Wilda Q. Meier | Esther M. Mertz*
Muriel O'Neil Fund for the Performing Arts of Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Maurice Richards and Jack Kesler Endowed Fund
Jack* and Priscilla Schlegel | Roselyn Sedlezky*
Eva T. and Stephan Slane Foundation
Eva T. and Stephan Slane Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Inc.
Herb and Edie Winston Endowment Fund
Bill Yandow Endowed Fund
** in memoriam*

SPECIAL THANKS

SUPPORT OF FREE STUDENT MATINEE TICKETS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS
Walt and Pam Hunt

DAVID BRUNETTI ARTISTIC RESIDENCY
Barbara Jacob and Karen Lichtig

VISITING ARTIST SUPPORT NEW WORKS PLAY LAB
The Charles L. Huisking Jr. and Lillian Huisking Guest Artist Fund

FIRST FRIDAYS GUEST ARTIST SERIES
Jody Beresford and Robert Mayer

Asolo Rep supports each FSU/Asolo Conservatory student with an assistantship that allows them to immerse themselves totally in their studies and performances and covers tuition and travel for the London Study Semester. Once you become a Benefactor, you enter into a whole new relationship with the theatre and the graduate students. The FSU/Asolo Conservatory MFA program continues to be one of the best in the country because of the support of the community. Please consider joining the Benefactors and become a part of the journey of these young artists.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT **DEVELOPMENT@ASOLO.ORG**

FSU | ASOLO CONSERVATORY FOR ACTOR TRAINING 26/27 SEASON



PRONOUN

By Evan Placey | **Nov 3 - 22, 2026**

Presented in the Cook Theatre

Josh and Isabella are childhood sweethearts. They were meant to spend their gap year together; they were meant to be together forever. But Isabella has now become Dean. Commissioned in 2014 as part of the National Theatre Connections festival, *Pronoun* is a love story about transition, testosterone, and James Dean.



YOU WILL GET SICK

By Noah Diaz | **Nov 4 - 21, 2026**

Presented in the Cook Theatre

It starts with your balance, but it begins to spread, as these things often do. Your legs go numb, your grip strength weakens, your arms go limp and soft. Before long, you're hiring a stranger to say aloud what you can't bear to say yourself: that you got sick. A recipient of the Kennedy Center's Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award, *You Will Get Sick* is a new play in second person about learning how to live within your body as you find your way home.

YOU WILL GET SICK is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals www.concordtheatricals.com



CAESAR

By William Shakespeare | **Feb 4 - 14, 2027**

Presented in the Cook Theatre

When beloved leader Caesar returns to Rome, fears of tyranny lead Brutus and Cassius to plot his assassination, sparking chaos, violent uprising, and emotional rhetoric that leaves audiences questioning, "Is Brutus the hero or the villain?" Jonathan Epstein's adaptation of *Julius Caesar* is a gripping political thriller about power, betrayal, and the cost of liberty.



TARTUFFE

By Molière | **Apr 1 - 11, 2027**

Presented in the Cook Theatre

Prim and devout Orgon invites the holy and pure Tartuffe into his bourgeois household. So virtuous is Tartuffe that every form of pleasure is abhorrent to him. At least that is what he would have you believe. Theatre's most devout conman returns to the Cook Theatre, performed in what is arguably the most famous adaptation by Richard Wilbur.