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Press contact: Julia Guzman, 941.351.9010 ext. 4800, julia_guzman@asolo.org

THE WINTER'S TALE by William Shakespeare, JANUARY 23–MAY 16, 2009

A play about play about reunification, redemption and getting a second chance, directed by Michael Donald Edwards

SARASOTA, FL – Asolo Repertory Theatre is pleased to present *The Winter's Tale*, a play written by William Shakespeare, and directed by Michael Donald Edwards. *The Winter's Tale* will be performed in rotating repertory from January 23–May 16, 2009, in the beautiful Mertz Theatre at 5555 North Tamiami Trail in Sarasota, Florida.

The cast of over 20 includes guest artists Kris Danford as Hermione, Dan Donohue as King Leontes, Mercedes Herrero as Paulina, and James Leaming as Antigonus. Other cast members include longtime Asolo Rep company members David Breitbarth, James Clarke, and Douglas Jones; and the entire third year class of the FSU/Asolo Conservatory.

The Winter's Tale is unique for its blend of the tragic, the comic, the romantic, and the spiritual. It focuses on King Leontes, a man who ignores the advice of all around him and wreaks havoc on both his family and his country – something that has particular resonance in our own day and age. Yet despite bleak beginnings, it offers an ending that is redemptive and full of second chances. That forgiveness can be rendered – even imperfectly – for Leontes' mistakes is the miracle of the play. It reminds us, as we live in an extremely cynical world, that hope really is vital and not to be abandoned.

"I wanted to do a piece that hadn't been done by the theatre. I wanted to do a piece that would be new to many people and to do it in a way that would be surprising. I feel like *Winter's Tale* is a piece that most people in the public have few preconceptions about and would be open to what I wanted to do. I feel like it's a beautiful, serious and funny play. It's a play about reunification and a play about redemption and getting a second chance in life, which I thought would play particularly well in this community. I knew I had to do a Shakespeare piece for the 50th anniversary season, so I wanted it to be something we could have an exuberant time with and, at the same time, take it seriously and make people feel like they were seeing a new play."

– Michael Donald Edwards

When asked why he chose to set the play in the 1950s and 60s, Michael Donald Edwards explained that the play takes place over the course of 16 years and a big challenge of this play is to clearly mark this time shift for the audience in a way that everyone will understand it. The shift from the 50's to the late 60's is very vivid in the Western cultural mindset, and it is powerfully marked by music and clothing and identity and cultural mores in a way that everyone can comprehend. Even young people who didn't live through it understand that something major happened all over the world between 1950 and 1966.

"In fact", Edwards explained, "This is a play where Time is actually a character; Time actually appears onstage. And he's going to have a very surprising and special moment of entry."

Tickets are \$20-\$58, depending on seat location, day and time. Special discounts are available for students and for groups of 10 or more. For reservations, call 941-351-8000 or toll-free 800-361-8388. Or save time and gas by purchasing tickets online at www.asolo.org. Season subscriptions are also on sale, offering a substantial discount and benefits to the subscriber. Student passes cost only \$25 and allow students to attend any and all of the plays, as often as they like over the entire repertory season. Tickets to opening night include a special champagne afterparty sponsored by Lakewood Ranch Communities.

ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES: BY MICHAEL DONALD EDWARDS

Critics who love neatly pigeonholing plays into tidy categories have always had a tough time with *The Winter's Tale*, for it is an intricate amalgamation of varied styles and complicated themes. After an intense and powerful first half, the play suddenly jumps ahead in time and morphs into a kind of musical comedy before shifting yet again to a form of magical realism. But its unique blend of the tragic, the comic, the romantic, and the spiritual has never baffled audiences. They love it because they recognize what it embodies: Life and Nature as they are lived and experienced in all their joy and complexity.

The Winter's Tale is a theatrical wonder, a remarkable combination of the intensely realistic and the fabulous in all its meanings. Even though it is set in a classical, pre-Christian world the psychological territory of this play seems remarkably contemporary. It is a play that brings out the best in actors, designers, and directors. It is Shakespeare at the height of his powers of intellect and language, as well as the peak of his sheer theatrical daring and imagination.

The play's events are set in motion with a bang. Jealousy strikes Leontes like a snakebite – sudden, violent, and toxic. And for a time it destroys his family. Because he is a king, the destructive effect of this jealousy is not confined merely to his family. His whole kingdom is thrown into a kind of spiritual ruin. He will not listen to his most trusted advisers as they desperately try to prevent disaster. He trusts only his gut instinct – only what he thinks he sees, only what he thinks he knows. He believes the worst of his innocent wife and best friend and soon learns how terribly wrong he is. It takes the next generation to restore things. And they do.

As the play ends, Leontes is given one of life's rarest gifts – a second chance. Rifts are healed, that which was lost is found, and love blooms anew. The loss of a child hovers over the event, but the great chord of forgiveness has been struck and the real possibility of love rekindled finally makes us feel that no matter how gloomy things may seem for countries, for families, and for each for us, Time can indeed be a wondrous healer.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR: An Australian-born American Director, Edwards is in his third season as Producing Artistic Director of Asolo Repertory Theatre at Sarasota's Ringling Center. Asolo Repertory Theatre is the premier resident professional theatre of the State of Florida. For Asolo Rep Mr. Edwards has directed *The Smell of the Kill*, *Amadeus*, *Nobody Don't Like Yogi*, *Darwin In Malibu*, *Equus* and the world premiere of a new musical version of *A Tale of Two Cities* – which opened on Broadway in 2008.

Prior to Mr. Edwards' time at Asolo Rep, he was the associate artistic director for Syracuse Stage and also served as artistic director of Shakespeare Santa Cruz in California for six years. Mr. Edwards has directed at Indiana Repertory Theatre; Geva Theatre; Syracuse Stage; The Hangar; The Shakespeare Theatre; San Jose Rep; Opera San Jose; the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; the Old Globe in San Diego; Virginia Stage Company; the Virginia Opera; the State Theatre of South Australia; Opera Australia; Victoria State Opera; and the Metropolitan Opera. He has received a Garland Award for Best Direction for his production of Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part I* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. His productions of *Shopping and Fing* in San Francisco and Los Angeles also received Garland Awards for Best Production and Best Ensemble. He received a Drama Logue Award for Best Direction for his production of *Richard III* at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and his production of *Transgressor* in Los Angeles also received Drama Logue Awards for Best Play and Best Direction.

CAST BIOS:

AUSTIN ABRAMS – Second season (*Mamillius*, *The Winter's Tale*) Recent roles include the Footman and Children's Chorus, *Plexiglass Slipper* (Asolo Rep); *Chip*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Golden Apple Dinner Theatre); and Craig in the original production of *The Book* (commissioned by the City of Sarasota). He is 12 years old and has been acting since the age of 5 after attending a summer camp at Florida Studio Theatre, where he has continued his theatre education. Other interests include table tennis, aikido, singing, and snowboarding. Much love and thanks to his family for their support.

ELISABETH AHRENS – First season, third-year Conservatory student (*Lily*, *The Giver*; *Preshow*, *Barnum*; *Angelique*, *The Imaginary Invalid*; *Dorcas*, *The Winter's Tale*) Last season: *The Duchess*, *The Duchess of Malfi*; *Karen*, *Speed the Plow*; and *The Woman*, *Murder by Poe*. A native Kansan, Elisabeth received her bachelors in theatre from the University of Kansas and has worked regionally in theatre and film. She thanks her loving family and generous sponsors Bruce and Janet Udell, Leland and Ginny Miles, and Janet Cantor and Shirley Sivitz.

BRENT BATEMAN – First season, third-year Conservatory student (*The Giver*, *The Giver*; *Preshow*, *Barnum*; *De Bonnefoi*, *The Imaginary Invalid*; *Autolycus*, *The Winter's Tale*; *Executioner*, *The Devil's Disciple*) Last season: *Theo*, *The Underpants*; *Accent Actor/ Minister*, *Murder by Poe*; and *Cadmus*, *The Bacchae*. Favorite roles include Orson Welles, *It's All True*; Dr. Watson, *Sherlock's Last Case*; *Pseudolus*, *A Funny Thing Happened...Forum*; and *Sweeney*, *Sweeney Todd*. BA in Theatre, University of Alaska, Anchorage. He thanks his friends, family, classmates, instructors and donor Mrs. Esther M. Mertz, for their love, guidance and support. Gratitude to Dr. John Clark and staff at Providence Alaska Medical Center for saving his life.

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DAVID BREITBARTH – Associate Artist, thirteenth season (Bouchard/Gauguin, *Inventing Van Gogh*; Polixenes, *The Winter's Tale*; Hawkins, *The Devil's Disciple*; Kreutzer, *Perfect Mendacity*) Last season: Paul, *Misery*; Erskine, *Smash*; and Kenny, *Lady*. David returns from Peterborough, NH, where he was proud to be in the Players' 75th season's production of *Our Town* as Doc Gibbs with the ageless James Whitmore. Over 60 Asolo Rep roles include: *Men of Tortuga*, *A Few Good Men*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Laughing Stock*, *Rounding Third*, *Peter Pan*, *The Front Page*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *The Immigrant*, *Hobson's Choice*, and *Art*. Off-Broadway: *Short Change* (Beckett), *Perfect Crime* (Clurman), *Fluorescent Hunger* (EST), *This Hard Life* (American Jewish Theatre). Los Angeles: *Life in the Trees* (west coast premiere) and *David's Mother*. Film & Television: *Frasier*, *Taken!*, *Law & Order*, *Fame*, and *Ena's Adventures*. For the Banyan Theater Company (founding member): *Sight Unseen*, *Betrayal*, *Don Juan in Hell* and *Otherwise Engaged*. He and his dog Koufax happily make Sarasota their home.

JAMES CLARKE – Associate Artist, thirteenth season (Purgeon, *The Imaginary Invalid*; Old Shepherd/ Gaoler, *The Winter's Tale*; Major Swindon, *The Devil's Disciple*) Last Season: Mansky, *The Play's the Thing*; Jansenius, *Smash*; Dalton, *Equus*; Graham, *Lady*. Past seasons: *Amadeus*, *Men of Tortuga*, *A Few Good Men*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Enchanted April*, *Anything to Declare?*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Rounding Third*, *Sherlock Holmes & The West End Horror*, *The Front Page*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Crucible*, *The Millionaires*, *Murder by Misadventure*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Inherit the Wind*, *You Never Can Tell*, *Filumena*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Born Yesterday*, *The Hollow* and *Twelfth Night*. He has performed at Yale Rep, Pittsburgh Public, Geva, Circle in the Square and SoHo Rep. He graduated from the FSU/Asolo Conservatory in the 1970s and spent a year with Asolo Rep after graduation. TV credits: *Ryan's Hope* (Pat Ryan), *Search for Tomorrow*, *Guiding Light*, *Legwork* (CBS series) and *Saracen*, a series in England.

DAN DONOHUE – Guest Artist, First season with Asolo Rep (Van Gogh, *Inventing Van Gogh*; Leontes, *The Winter's Tale*; Dick Dudgeon, *The Devil's Disciple*) Broadway: *The Lion King* (Scar). Regional credits include: *The Triumph of Love* (Long Wharf, Seattle Rep, Missouri Rep); *The Game of Love and Chance*, *The Beard of Avon*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Seattle Rep); *Servant of Two Masters* (Intiman); and the world premiere of *Inventing Van Gogh* (Arizona Theatre Company). In nearly 30 productions with Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Dan has played such roles as: Iago, Mercutio, Caliban, Mark Antony, Touchstone, Aguecheek, Dvornichek in *Rough Crossing*, and a three year cycle as "Hal" in *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2*, and *Henry V*. TV: *The Drew Carey Show*. www.dandonohue.com

MERCEDES HERRERO – Guest artist, first season (Paulina, *The Winter's Tale*; and Minka, *Murderers*) Ms. Herrero is delighted to be making her Asolo Rep debut. Previous credits with these eminent directors include: *Las Meninas* (San Jose Rep) and *King Lear* (Indiana Rep/Syracuse Stage) directed by Michael Donald Edwards; *Twelfth Night* (Yale Rep) and *Arms and the Man* (national tour/The Acting Company) directed by Mark Rucker. Ms. Herrero has been in many world premieres including the original production of the award winning *The Laramie Project*. Classical parts include Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Arena Stage), Mistress Quickly in *Henry V* (Delacorte in Central Park), Queen Elizabeth in *Richard III* (Public) and Augustias in *The House of Bernarda Alba*. Film and TV: a bevy of lawyers on all four *Law and Orders*, *Deception*, *The Tao of Steve*. Ms. Herrero is a graduate of UVA and the Yale School of Drama.

HEATHER KOPP – Second season (Shepherdess/Musician, *The Winter's Tale*) Heather is thrilled to be returning to Asolo Rep after being in the ensemble of the sold-out pre-Broadway engagement production of *A Tale of Two Cities*. She just recently finished playing Ulla in *The Producers* and before that was in *Forbidden Broadway*, both at Venice Theatre. Heather also played June in *Chicago* at the Golden Apple Dinner Theatre (summer 2008). She has been seen in many shows with the Manatee Players, Sarasota Players and The Island Players. Thank you all involved in *The Winter's Tale* for this wonderful opportunity!

DOUGLAS JONES – Associate Artist, twenty-third season (Argan, *The Imaginary Invalid*; Camillo, *The Winter's Tale*; Rev. Anderson, *The Devil's Disciple*; Roger, *Perfect Mendacity*) Last season: Mortimer, *The Constant Wife*; Turai, *The Play's the Thing*; Frank, *Equus*; Dyson, *Lady*. Past seasons: *Amadeus*, *Men of Tortuga*, *A Few Good Men*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Darwin in Malibu*, *Laughing Stock*, *Enchanted April*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Sherlock Holmes & The West End Horror*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Crucible*, *Hay Fever*, *You Never Can Tell*, *Art*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Golden Boy*, *Black Coffee*, *King Lear*, *Nicholas Nickleby* and *The Kentucky Cycle*. Other favorites: Directing *The Clean House* and playing Vanya (*Uncle Vanya*) at The Banyan Theater. Doug has spent seasons at Baltimore's Center Stage, The Cleveland Play House, Milwaukee Rep, California Shakespearean Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse, Boston's Huntington Theatre, American Stage, The Playmakers, Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Florida Studio Theatre and four plays Off-Broadway. Doug graduated from Hobart College and The Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London.

HEATHER KELLEY – First season, third-year Conservatory student (Mother/ Rosemary, *The Giver*; Preshow, *Barnum*; Hallie Miller/Marguerite Gachet, *Inventing Van Gogh*; Perdita, *The Winter's Tale*; Judith Anderson, *The Devil's Disciple*) Last seen on the Mertz stage in purple tap shoes, understudying the Queen in *Plexiglass Slipper*. Other credits: Dorset Theatre Festival, Arden Theatre Company, Prospect Theater Company, NY Neo-Futurists and toured for two seasons with the Shakespeare Theatre of NJ. She dedicates this season to the memory of her donor, Foster Harmon, and her donors-in-spirit, Eric and Angel Hissom. Love to my class, my family and Lucas. Member of AEA.

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JAMES LEAMING – Guest Artist, first season with Asolo Rep (Actor, *This Wonderful Life*; Dr. Jonas Miller, *Inventing van Gogh*; Antigonus, *The Winter's Tale*; and General Burgoyne, *The Devil's Disciple*) Sixth season as George Bailey, *It's a Wonderful Life*, American Theater Company (ATC), Chicago. Eighth season, Peninsula Players, Wisconsin: *Born Yesterday*, *Lady's Not for Burning*, *Sherlock Holmes-The Final Adventure*, and *Botanic Garden* (directed by Olympia Dukakis). Chicago: *Last of the Boys* (Steppenwolf), *Prelude to a Kiss* (Fox Theatricals), *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* (Big Leap Productions, Victory Gardens), *Spinning Into Butter* (Goodman), and an After Dark Award for his Dellwood Barker, *The Man Who Fell in Love With the Moon* (Running With Scissors Theater Company). Founding member of ATC, where roles include: Lewie, *American Dead*; Yank, *The Hairy Ape*; Cathcart and Major Major, *Catch 22*. TV: *Early Edition* and *Prison Break*. Training: American Conservatory Theatre (San Francisco), Second City (Chicago).

DEMARIO MCGREW – First season, third-year Conservatory student (Ensemble, *The Giver*; Preshow, *Barnum*; Fleurant, *The Imaginary Invalid*; Mariner/ Shepherd, *The Winter's Tale*; Soldier, *The Devil's Disciple*; Peoples, *Perfect Mendacity*) Last Season: *Cat*, *Murder by Poe*; Ferdinand, *The Duchess of Malfi*; and Herr Kinglehoff, *The Underpants*. A proud graduate of the Theatre Arts department at Alabama State University, DeMario hails from the Port City of Mobile, Alabama. He would like to thank Eva Slane and Phil and Brenda Rever, Tommie Tonea Stewart, Ramona Ward, and Jarvis Adams for their continued support; and his parents Deborah McGrew and Ethel Merriweather for the endless love.

ANN MORRISON – Guest Artist, fourth season (Lucy, *Murderers*) Broadway credits: *Lovemusik*; *Merrily We Roll Along* (1982 Theatre World Award). London West End: *Peg*. Off Broadway: *Goblin Market* (Drama Desk Nomination), *Forbidden Broadway*. Ann has done massive regional theater including Asolo Rep's *1940s Radio Hour*, *All In Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* and *Swingtime Canteen*; and Banyan Theater's *A Clean House*; and world premieres, television, recordings, cabarets and concerts throughout the U.S. and England. Writer/performer: *Discourse of a Maid* and *Annie's Celtic Kitchen*. Co-Founder/Director: Kaleidoscope Theater and Random Play—musical theatre programs for persons with developmental differences. Currently she is resident playwright and master storyteller for Storyteller Theatre of Wonderment, puppetry theatre.

STEVEN O'BRIEN – First season, third-year Conservatory student (Chief Elder, *The Giver*; Preshow, *Barnum*; Cleomenes/Shepherd, *The Winter's Tale*; Soldier, *The Devil's Disciple*) B.A. Oakland University. Credits include: Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Performance Network, Boars Head, Waterworks, Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre, the FSU/Asolo Conservatory and independent films. Thank You to Esther M. Mertz for making this experience possible. Following graduation plans include working in regional theaters both as a director and actor, running a company and teaching. Thanks to my family for exceptional support.

KEVIN O'CALLAGHAN – First season, third-year Conservatory student (Jonas, *The Giver*; Preshow, *Barnum*; Florizel, *The Winter's Tale*; Christy, *The Devil's Disciple*) Last season: Charlie, *Speed-The-Plow*; Heart, *Murder by Poe*; and Delio, *The Duchess of Malfi*. Other credits include *American Buffalo*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Private Eyes*, *Art*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth* and *Merchant of Venice*. Kevin is a proud graduate of Western Michigan University. He thanks his family, friends, and wonderful donors Warren and Margot Coville and Jean and Ted Weiller. Cheers!

RANDOLPH PAULSEN – First season, third-year Conservatory student (Ensemble, *The Giver*; Preshow, *Barnum*; Cleante, *The Imaginary Invalid*; Dion/Shepherd, *The Winter's Tale*; Soldier, *The Devil's Disciple*) Last Season: William Wilson, *Murder by Poe*; Antonio, *Duchess of Malfi*; and Versati, *The Underpants*. Other credits include *Life is a Dream*, *The Swan*, *Julius Caesar*, *Bovver Boys*, *True West* and much more. Dolph is excited to join the Asolo Rep company during the 50th anniversary season and to perform great roles with seasoned professionals. Dolph would like to thank his wife Melis, family, classmates and his donors/adoptive parents Bruce and India Lesser, for their love and support.

JASON PECK – First season, third-year Conservatory student (Father, *The Giver*; Preshow, *Barnum*; Patrick, *Inventing Van Gogh*; Archidamus/ Time, *The Winter's Tale*; Dr. Doll, *Perfect Mendacity*) Jason has spent much of his career developing and performing in "new work" for the theatre, collaborating first hand with playwrighting luminaries including: Charles Mee, Eric Bogosian, Jane Anderson and Mark Ravenhill. Film/television: *In Her Shoes*, *NYPD Blue*, *Family Law*, *King of Queens*, *LA Law* (MOW), three seasons on *Roswell*, among others. His work has garnered both the LA Critics' Drama-logue and Garland Awards. He thanks his incredible donors Nancy Markle, Evelin Corsey and Joyce Menschell, and Alana for her ceaseless love. Member of AEA.

KIP TAISEY – First Season (Shepherd/Musician, *The Winter's Tale*) Kip is thrilled to make his Asolo Rep debut in *The Winter's Tale*. Previous credits include Cliff, *Cabaret*; Ganymede, *Prometheus*; Crookedfinger Jake, *The Threepenny Opera*; Louis/Billy Webster, *Sunday In The Park With George*; Bob Baker, *Wonderful Town*; Bob Wallace, *White Christmas*. MFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Central Florida, B.M. in Music Education from Central Washington University. Kip sends love and thanks to his family in Oregon and to Leah.

OWEN TEAGUE – Second season (Mamillius, *The Winter's Tale*) Owen, a ten-year-old fourth-grader at MacFarlane Park IB Magnet School in Tampa, is delighted to return to Asolo Rep. Recent roles include: Ralphie, *A Christmas Story* (Orlando Repertory Theater); Randolph, *Bye Bye Birdie* (Players Theatre); Fleance and Young Macduff, *Macbeth* (Orlando Shakespeare Theatre); Little Gaspard, *A Tale of Two Cities* (Asolo Rep); Oliver, *Oliver!* (New Tampa Players); Little Guido, *Nine* (Players); and Winthrop, *The Music Man* (Salerno Theatre).

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MICHELLE TRACHTENBERG – First season, third-year Conservatory student (Fiona, *The Giver*; Preshow, *Barnum*; Mopsa, *The Winter's Tale*; Essie, *The Devil's Disciple*) Last season: Marie Roget, *Murder by Poe*; Julia, *The Duchess of Malfi*; and Gertrude, *The Underpants*. Other favorite productions include: Candy Star, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*; Wendy, *Mysterious Skin*; and Young Girl, *Autobahn*. Michelle remains particularly proud of her understudy performance as Constanza in Asolo Rep's production of *Amadeus* (2006-07). Michelle is a 2005 Acting graduate from UCSD. She thanks her family, friends and her donor Leslie Glass for being her support away from home.

DAVID YEARTA – First season, third-year Conservatory student (Asher, *The Giver*; Preshow, *Barnum*; Claude, *The Imaginary Invalid*; Young Shepherd, *The Winter's Tale*; Titus, *The Devil's Disciple*) Last season: Helicanes, *Pericles*; Prefect, *Murder by Poe*; Cardinal, *The Duchess of Malfi*; and Cohen, *The Underpants*. Other credits include the FSU Late Night Series and student films; Frank, *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (Banyan); and favorites *Woyzeck*, *Woyzek*; Wilson, *The Ruffian on the Stair* and Phil, *Hurlyburly*. BFA in Acting, Florida State University (2001). He thanks his family, the esteemed faculty and his donors, Carol Rickard and Clare Levin for their support.

CAROLYN ZAPUT – Eighth season (Emilia/Shepherdess, *The Winter's Tale*). Last Season: US/Headmistress, *Smash*. Past seasons: *A Christmas Carol*, *The Crucible*, *Hay Fever*, *Look Homeward, Angel*, *Inherit the Wind* and *The Corn Is Green*. A 'perspiring' actor from NYC, Carolyn is thrilled to return this season. She thanks Mr. Edwards, all Angels, artists and crew, applauds all students, and adores her sister and underdiva, Mollie. Above all, she thanks you for your support of the arts.

Asolo Repertory Theatre is Florida's premier professional theatre and one of the most important cultural forces in the Southeastern United States, crafting the highest quality productions of classical, contemporary, and newly commissioned work all performed in the rarest form of rotating repertory. With an accomplished resident company, complemented by distinguished guest artists, and the charming ambiance of its turn-of-the-century mainstage theatre, Asolo Rep provides enchantment extraordinaire for visitors to the Sarasota area. The 2008-2009 Season is especially momentous as Asolo Rep celebrates its 50th anniversary. Audiences will enjoy a unique and dynamic theatre experience beginning in November with a high-flying production of the Tony Award winning musical *Barnum*, and continuing through June with 11 other productions including another musical and a world premier. Under the skillful leadership of Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards and Managing Director Linda DiGabriele this world-class institution has gained national acclaim, yet remains dedicated to its core mission—Entertain, Engage, and Inspire audiences of all kinds!

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