

## Asolo Rep Officially Dedicates \$1.6 Million Production Center

### Florida's premier theatre celebrates the dedication of the Robert and Beverly L. Koski Production Center

(SARASOTA, Fla.)- Asolo Repertory Theatre will host a private ceremony on February 22, 2012 to celebrate the dedication of the Robert and Beverly Koski Production Center, the Joan Armour Mendell Asolo Rep Scenic Studio, and the Ted and Jean Weiller Rehearsal Hall at 1009 Tallevast Road. The approximately 36,000 square foot building houses scenery, production and rehearsal facilities as well as Asolo Rep's vast costume and prop collection.

Prior to acquiring the facility that is now the Koski Production Center, Asolo Rep housed operations and materials in two separate off-site buildings. However, over the last few years Asolo Rep has seen significant growth in its productions and a spacious, well-equipped production center became a necessity. Through the kindness of the donors and community, Asolo Rep is able to open one of the best production facilities in the country.

The Koski Center was made possible through the cornerstone gifts of Beverly L. Koski, Herman and Sharon Frankel, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Warren and Margot Coville, James R. Chandler III, Bender, Bender & Chandler, P.A. and endowment support from Joan Armour Mendell and Ted and Jean Weiller. Instead of a traditional ribbon cutting, Asolo Rep's Production Manager, Vic Meyrich, will be sawing a long board in half to officially open the space. The production facility was primarily named in honor of Beverly L. Koski and her late husband Robert, whose lead gift made it possible for Asolo Rep to purchase the facility on Tallevast Road.

"An extraordinary group of donors, led by Beverly Koski, has made it possible for us to create a state of the art production facility that allows Asolo Rep to not only rehearse and build sets and props for its own plays, but also to serve the needs of other nonprofits and companies in the community," said Managing Director Linda DiGabriele.

In full season, Asolo Rep's Koski Production Center employs 30 local artisans and craftspeople who create scenery and costumes for Asolo Rep and other performing arts organizations such as the Sarasota Opera, Tampa's Straz Center, Universal Studios, the summer opera at Tanglewood, as well as for-profit businesses.

While the Koski Production Center has been in use since the completion of the renovations, the dedication ceremony will also grant the opportunity to name the Asolo Scenic Studio after Joan Armour Mendell, and the Rehearsal Hall after Ted and Jean Weiller.

For more information about the Koski Production Center and those that make all of the work behind the scenes possible, please visit <http://www.asolorep.org/scene-shop/artists-and-craftsmen>.

###

Now in its 53rd season, Asolo Repertory Theatre is widely recognized as one of the premier professional theatres in the Southeastern United States. One of the few true repertory companies in the nation, Asolo Rep presents a diverse repertoire of newly commissioned plays, bold reinterpretations of contemporary and classical works, and provocative new musical theatre experiences each season. With its ambitious theatrical offerings and groundbreaking education, outreach and audience development programming, Asolo Rep is more vibrant and its work more relevant than ever before.