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2011-2012 SEASON | ASOLOREP.ORG

ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE

FLORIDA'S PREMIER PROFESSIONAL THEATRE • SARASOTA

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Six-time Tony Award® Winner *Red* comes to the Historic Asolo Theater

Asolo Rep presents a co-production with

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art and Maltz Jupiter Theatre

(SARASOTA, Fla.)- John Logan's "sizzling [and] superbly taut" (*Chicago Tribune*) award-winning drama makes its way to the Historic Asolo Theater at The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art as a part of the 2011-2012 Asolo Repertory Theatre season. As a co-production with the Maltz Jupiter Theatre, *Red* has wowed Florida audiences with powerful performances by **Mark Zeisler** as Mark Rothko and **JD Taylor** as his assistant, Ken. *The Miami Herald* called director Lou Jacob's production "Exquisite!" and the *Palm Beach Post* adds, "Zeisler and Taylor also carry off the play's acclaimed paint-priming sequence, turning a canvas the color of dried blood in an energetic tandem dance." Asolo Rep will partner with the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art to present *Red* in the Historic Asolo Theater as part of the Ringling's *Art of Our Time* programming. *Red* runs March 30, 2012 through April 22, 2012. Previews begin March 28.

"It's particularly exciting that we are on this creative journey with the Ringling Museum," said Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards. "Asolo Rep has frequently partnered with the museum on projects in the past, and we fervently believe in each other's goals and objectives. This production represents a true marriage of the missions of both institutions."

Steven High, the Executive Director of The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, spoke more about the Ringling's programming running with *Red*: "In addition to *Red*, there are two additional thought-provoking *Art of Our Time* projects concurrently underway at the Ringling: *Luminosity*, a focus exhibition presented in conjunction with *Red*, which explores how artists through the ages have captured and engaged the quality and characteristics of light, and the installation of a new work by Sanford Biggers, recipient of the Hermitage Artist Retreat's Greenfeld Prize."

Widely considered one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century, Mark Rothko was an Abstract Expressionist painter and a fiercely intellectual art theorist. In creating his artwork, Rothko drew from a deep emotional and intellectual well, proclaiming "the exhilarated tragic experience is for me the only source of art." A man of complexity and contradictions, Rothko was sometimes warm and generous but other times withdrawn, his mercurial personality resulting, perhaps, from his lifelong feelings of isolation and marginalization.*

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*Reprinted with permission from *Onstage*, the Goodman Theatre's magazine for subscribers. By Neena Arndt.

Set amid the swiftly-changing cultural tide of the early 1960s, the play takes place in Mark Rothko's New York studio when Rothko was commissioned to create a series of grand-scale paintings for New York's elite Four Seasons restaurant. Under the watchful gaze of his young assistant, the abstract expressionist painter works feverishly to complete the largest commission in the history of modern art. *Red* uses visual drama to explore art, commerce, demons, ideas, and the nature of creativity as a whole.

"This play centers on the tense polarities that exist between young and old, employer and employee, master and apprentice, mentor and mentee, father and son," said *Red*'s director, Lou Jacob. "Rothko warns his assistant Ken, 'Consider; I am not your rabbi, I am not your father, I am not your shrink, I am not your friend, I am not your teacher – I am your employer. You understand?' Despite Rothko's blunt disclaimer, he becomes all of these, and we come to understand the combustible energy that existed within Rothko's studio."

Red

By: John Logan
Directed by Lou Jacobs

Previews: March 28-29, 2012
Performances: March 30 – April 22, 2012

Creative team:

Set Design	James Kronzer
Costume Design	Camille Assaf
Lighting Design	Gina Scherr
Sound Design	Jane Shaw
Resident Dramaturg	Lauryn E. Sasso
Stage Manager	Marian Wallace*

Cast:

In order of appearance

Mark Rothko	Mark Zeisler*
Ken	JD Taylor*

*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Red select bios:

LOU JACOB FIRST SEASON (Director) Lou Jacob has directed new plays, musicals, classics and adaptations in the United States, Europe and Asia. Recent Off-Broadway productions include The US premiere of *The Glass Cage* by JB Priestley at The Mint Theatre (Top ten production of 2008 by Time Out Magazine, 2 Lucille Lortel Awards for Scenic Design and Outstanding Revival); Sam Shepard's *The God of Hell* starring Tim Roth, Randy Quaid, J. Smith-Cameron and Frank Wood; *Coyote on a Fence*, (2 Drama Desk Award Nominations, Village Voice Top Ten) starring Paul Sparks; Dickens *Hard Times*; *Vilna's Got a Golem*; *Live Girls* at Urban Stages. The Summer Play Festival: *Hardball*, *Courting*

Vampires and Arrivals and Departures. Internationally and on tour include: *Saturday Night Fever*, which played for two seasons at the Beatrix Theatre in Amsterdam, and his play, *Night Train to the Stars*, which premiered at the Metropolitan Theater in Tokyo. He is the director of *Backyardigans Live!* for Nickelodeon. Recent productions in the US include *The Catch* by Ken Weitzman/Denver Theater Center; *Execution of Justice* and *The Adding Machine*/The New School For Drama; *The Blonde, The Brunette, and the Vengeful Redhead*, starring Michelle Pawk at City Theatre; *Julius Ceaser* at People's Light and Theatre Co.(Production of the Year: Philadelphia Inquirer); *Speaking in Tongues* and *Shakespeare, Moses and Joe Papp* (2 Helen Hayes Awards, including Outstanding New Play) at The Roundhouse Theatre, *Just So*, produced by Cameron MacKintosh/Goodspeed Musicals; "*1040, " Coyote Goes Salmon Fishing"*, both produced by Stuart Ostrow; Mr. Jacob is the recipient of The Princess Grace Statue Award for his contribution to the performing arts in America, and a previous Princess Grace Award. Mr. Jacob is the Chair of the Directing program at the New School for Drama. He holds degrees in Theatre and Intellectual History from Northwestern University.

JOHN LOGAN (playwright) Logan received the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critic Circle and Drama League awards for his play *Red*. This play premiered at the Donmar Warehouse in London and at the Golden Theatre on Broadway. He is the author of more than a dozen other plays including *Never the Sinner* and *Hauptmann*. His adaptation of Ibsen's *The Master Builder* premiered on the West End in 2003. As a screenwriter, Logan had three movies released in 2011: *Hugo* (Oscar nomination), *Coriolanus*, and *Rango* (Oscar nomination). Previous film work includes *Sweeney Todd* (Golden Globe award); *The Aviator* (Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA and WGA nominations); *Gladiator* (Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA and WGA nominations); *The Last Samurai*; *Any Given Sunday*, and *RKO 281* (WGA award, Emmy nomination).

MARK ROTHKO Born Marcus Rotkowitz in the town of Dvinsk, Latvia, then part of the Russian Empire, Mark Rothko immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of ten, settling in Portland, Oregon. A gifted student, Rothko attended Yale University on scholarship from 1921-23, but disillusioned by the social milieu and financial hardship, he dropped out and moved to New York to "bum around and starve a bit." A chance invitation from a friend brought him to a drawing class at the Art Students League where he discovered his love of art. He took two classes there but was otherwise self-taught. Rothko painted in a figurative style for nearly twenty years, his portraits and depictions of urban life baring the soul of those living through The Great Depression in New York. The painter Milton Avery offered Rothko both artistic and nutritional nourishment during these lean years. In the 1930s, Rothko exhibited with The Ten, a close-knit group of nine (!) American painters, which included fellow Avery acolyte, Adolph Gottlieb. Success was moderate at best but the group provided important incubation for the Abstract Expressionist school to come. The war years brought with them an influx of European surrealists, influencing most of the New York painters, among them Rothko, to take on a neo-surrealist style. Rothko experimented with mythic and symbolic painting for five years before moving to pure abstraction in the mid-1940s and ultimately to his signature style of two or three rectangles floating in fields of saturated color in 1949. Beginning in the early 1950s Rothko was heralded, along with Jackson Pollock, Willem deKooning, Franz Kline and others, as the standard bearers of the New American Painting--a truly American art that was not simply a derivative of European styles. By the late 1950s, Rothko was a celebrated (if not wealthy) artist, winning him three mural commissions that would dominate the latter part of his career. Only in the last of these, The Rothko Chapel in Houston was he able to realize his dream of a truly contemplative environment in which to interact deeply with his artwork. RED presents a fictionalized account of Rothko's frustrated first attempt to create such a space in New York's Four Season's restaurant. Rothko sought to create art that was timeless; paintings that expressed basic human concerns and emotions that remain constant not merely across decades but across generations and epochs. He looked to communicate with his viewer at the

most elemental level and through his artwork, have a conversation that was intense, personal and, above all, honest. A viewer's tears in front of one of his paintings told him he had succeeded. While creating a deeply expressive body of work and garnering critical acclaim, Rothko battled depression and his brilliant career ended in suicide in 1970.

JD TAYLOR* GUEST ARTIST, FIRST SEASON (Ken) is thrilled to make his Asolo Rep debut in his favorite play. JD was recently seen in *Red* at Maltz Jupiter Theatre; *She Stoops To Conquer* at Williamstown Theatre Festival; Naomi Wallace's *The War Boys*; and *F***BOOK*, a new comedy by Jon Bass. Other recent work includes: David West Read's *The Dream of the Burning Boy* at O'Neill Playwrights Conference and Sunil Kuruvilla's *The Car Wash Play* at Sundance Theatre Lab. New York credits include a five-actor production of *Hamlet; wonder*, by Steve Yockey, directed by Rachel Chavkin; *Wolves*, a predatory fairy tale by Steve Yockey; *Letter From Algeria*; *Once In a Lifetime*; and *Burn This*. Film credits include *Lewis Black Drama Queen* with Lewis Black; and *Constellations*. JD can also be heard on Nicktoons in the animated micro-series *Rush Zone: Guardians of the Core*. MFA from NYU's Graduate Acting Program.

MARK ZEISLER* GUEST ARTIST, FIRST SEASON (Mark Rothko) is making his first appearance at Asolo Repertory Theatre. Mark's credits on Broadway include *A View From the Bridge* and *Brooklyn Boy (u/s)*. Off Broadway credits include *Eurydice* and *The Sex Lives of our Parents* at Second Stage, *The Accomplices* at The New Group, *Circle Mirror Transformation (u/s)* at Playwrights Horizons. In regional theatre Mark has appeared at American Repertory Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Rep, Yale Rep, Merrimack Rep, The Folger Theater (Helen Hayes nomination for *Measure for Measure*), City Theatre, The McCarter, The Hangar Theatre, Geva, Baltimore Center Stage and Florida Stage. *Television*: All three *Law and Orders*, *The Good Wife*, *Rescue Me*, *Blue Bloods*, *Unforgettable*, *Pan Am*, *New York Undercover*, many soaps. *Film*: *Torch Song Trilogy*, *Random Hearts*, *Shaft*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *Two Weeks Notice*, *Head of State*, *Revolution #9*, *Pervertigo* and *After School* (2008 NY Film Festival Entry).

Show sponsors for **Red** include Grapevine, *Living on the Suncoast*, SNN Local News 6 and Café L' Europe. **Red** is produced in partnership with The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art and as a co-production with Maltz Jupiter Theatre.

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