

For Immediate Release: June 5, 2012

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Tony Award® Winners, Nominees and Critically Acclaimed Actresses join Loretta Swit in *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*

(SARASOTA, Fla.)- Asolo Rep is proud to announce the full cast of the Ephron Sisters' *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, opening June 22nd in the Mertz theatre. Joining Emmy® Award winner Loretta Swit on stage is Tony Award® winner Donna McKechnie, two-time Tony Award® nominee Mary Testa, *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* veteran Roni Geva, and New York actor and director Rosalyn Coleman. Swit, McKechnie, Testa, and Geva have all been previously featured in *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*. This will be Coleman's first time with the production.

McKechnie earned her Tony Award® by originating the role of "Cassie" in *A Chorus Line* and has been featured in Broadway productions of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Company*. Broadway audiences will recognize **Testa** from her Tony® nominated performance in *42nd Street*, *Xanadu*, and *Chicago*. **Geva** is an avid performer in *Chicago* and was featured in Broadway in *Chicago*'s performance of *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*. New York actress and director **Coleman**'s Broadway credits include *Seven Guitars*, *Radio Golf* and Angela Bassett's understudy in *The Mountaintop*, opposite Samuel L. Jackson.

The five actresses will present 28 hilarious and poignant vignettes about life's journey and the clothes we wear along the way. From purses and prom dresses, bra fittings, *what was I thinking?* purchases and struggles with our mothers; connections are drawn between what we wear and who we are. With a message that goes straight to the heart of all women (and the men who love them), in *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, fun comes as One Size Fits All.

Asolo Rep is one of the first theatres in the country granted the rights to independently produce *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*. The show will be directed by Karen Carpenter, who helmed the smash-hit original Off-Broadway production. *Time Out New York* called it "Best of the year!" *Vanity Fair* said, "[*Love, Loss, and What I Wore*] is Witty and Wise!", and *The New York Times* wrote that *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* is "funny, compelling... [and] brought down the house." Syndicated Columnist Liz Smith raved, "This is an evening that goes directly to the heart, soul and vanity of every woman, young or old."

Known for hits such as *Sleepless in Seattle*, *You've Got Mail*, and *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, playwrights Delia and Nora Ephron's stage play based on Ilene Beckerman's book *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* opened off-Broadway in 2009. The rotating cast has featured actresses such as Jane Lynch, Rosie O'Donnell, Rita Wilson, among others.

Love, Loss, and What I Wore

By: Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron

Based on the book by Ilene Beckerman

Directed by Karen Carpenter

Preview: June 21, 2012

Performances: June 22- July 15, 2012

Creative team:

Karen Carpenter	Director
Jo Winiarski	Set Design
Nicole Moody	Costume Design
Jeff Croiter	Co - Lighting Design
Charlie Cooper	Co - Lighting Design
Matthew Parker	Sound Design
Lucia Lombardi*	Production Stage Manager
Lauryn E. Sasso	Resident Dramaturg

Cast (in alphabetical order):

Rosalyn Coleman *

Roni Geva*

Donna McKechnie *

Loretta Swit*

Mary Testa*

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

Select bios:

KAREN CARPENTER FIRST SEASON (Director, *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*) Karen Carpenter is a freelance director, writer, and producer. Karen directed the smash hit *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, by Nora Ephron & Delia Ephron, winner of the 2010 Drama Desk Award for Best Unique Theatrical Production. Produced by Daryl Roth, the show enjoyed a record run in New York, and is now worldwide. This summer, Karen will direct a new musical, *Spoolie Girl*, for the Midtown International Theater Festival, and later this year, Wendy Yondorf's *Admit One* for Broadway. Deemed a "provocateur" and "impresario" in the press for her symphony concert work, Karen most recently staged a new commedia opera, *Giovanni the Fearless*, by composer Mira Spektor for the League of Professional Theater Women's 30 Plays for 30 Years celebration in New York. Last season, she directed a revival of Spektor's *Housewives Cantata* for the York Theater, and the world premiere of *Dancing With Rage*, by Mary Walsh, soon to be seen in theaters across Canada.

In 2010, the William Inge Theater Festival commissioned Ms. Carpenter as guest director, to conceptualize and curate the world premiere of five of William Inge's lost one-acts, in conjunction with their first publication. She returned to the Inge Fest this year to direct their Lifetime Achievement Award tribute to David Henry Hwang, in which she staged scenes from six of his works.

For seven seasons she was Associate Artistic Director of the Old Globe Theater, San Diego, where her award-winning works consistently enjoyed critical acclaim, among them: Nilo Cruz's *Two Sisters and a Piano* (Critic's Choice, L.A. Times,) Jeffrey Hatcher's *Smash* (Patté Award and Critic's Choice, L.A. Times,) Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* (Craig Noel Award and The Reader's "Best Bet",) and *As You Like It*, (Best of San Diego, San Diego Magazine). It was at the Old Globe that she first had the pleasure of working with Michael Edwards.

Ms. Carpenter has been the creative producer for the U.N./W.H.O. Deliver Now for Women and Children Global Campaign, the millionwomensheartproject.com national campaign, and served President Clinton as project manager for his inaugural and subsequent Clinton Global Initiatives. She has directed *Glamour Magazine's Women of the Year Awards* for Carnegie Hall from their 20th Anniversary in 2010, and onward.

Her first professional theater work was as production stage manager of many acclaimed Broadway shows, including *Les Misérables* and *Sunset Boulevard*, and several of August Wilson and Suzan Lori Park's premieres. She has been a faculty member of the Yale School of Drama, and has taught in many colleges and universities across the country. In her proudest moment, last year Boston University's School of Theatre Arts, her alma mater, established in her honor The Karen Carpenter Award for Excellence in Theatre Arts, to be awarded annually in perpetuity, to a graduating student of exceptional merit.

ROSALYN COLEMAN* FIRST SEASON This accomplished actress, whose career includes Broadway, film and television, just wrapped a featured roles in *Frankie and Alice* starring Halle Berry and *Brooklyn's Finest* starring Don Cheadle and Richard Gere. In 2002, with her husband and partner Craig T. Williams, Rosalyn formed Red Wall Productions, a film production company. Rosalyn has created and directed over fifty film projects, including award winning short films, promotional videos, educational videos, actor demo reels and the groundbreaking documentary, *Black Sorority Project*. Rosalyn just finished directing the first few episodes of the action packed series for the web *Justice*, scheduled to be released the summer of 2012. Named "Favorite On-Camera Teacher" in a Backstage Readers Survey, Rosalyn is one of the most sought after audition coaches in New York. Rosalyn is co-host and co-creator of *Everything Acting Podcast*, an internet radio show that informs, inspires and demystifies the actor's journey. Currently with over 70,000 downloads every month, from 25 countries, *Everything Acting Podcast* is the number one Podcast for acting in iTunes More about Rosalyn at www.redwallproductions.com.

RONI GEVA* FIRST SEASON Proud graduate of Northwestern University, previous credits include *Love, Loss & What I Wore* (Broadway in Chicago), *The Original Grease* (American Theatre Company), *Dot & Ziggy* (Chicago Children's Theatre & Seattle Children's Theatre), *Pride and Prejudice* (Cleveland Playhouse), *Clean House* (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), *Urinetown* (Mercury Theatre) for which she was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award for best supporting actress in a musical, *The Frogs* (Pegasus Players), and *The Arab Israeli Comedy Hour* (ImprovOlympic) which she also co-wrote. Roni is also an improviser and has performed at iO Chicago, iO West, Second City and with the improvised musical group *Baby Wants Candy*. Love to Practical Cooperation.

DONNA McKECHNIE* FIRST SEASON is regarded as one of Broadway's foremost dancing and singing ladies. Broadway credits include: *A Chorus Line* (Tony Award®) *How to Succeed in Business...*, *Sondheim: A Musical Tribute* (which she also choreographed), *On the Town*, *Promises, Promises*, *Company*, and *State Fair* (Fred Astaire Award). Other credits include: *Sweet Charity* (Bob Fosse's national tour), *Follies*, *Mack and Mabel*, and countless more. She recently choreographed *Guys and Dolls* at the Hollywood Bowl. Her memoir "Time Steps: My Musical Comedy Life", was published by Simon and Schuster.

LORETTA SWIT* FIRST SEASON An American icon: Major Houlihan of *M*A*S*H*, television's most honored series. Multiple awards: Emmy® Awards, People's Choice Award, Genie Award, Silver Satellite, 10 Emmy® nominations and eight Golden Globe® nominations. Her signature piece, *Shirley Valentine*, won her Chicago's most prestigious honor, the Sarah Siddons Award. Ms. Swit has worked on Broadway, off-Broadway, the West End ...in all mediums...in national tours, and in regional theatres in roles ranging from *Mame* to the Muppets...from *Doubt* to *Song of Singapore* and *42nd Street*. Ms. Swit has appeared in eight feature films and starred in 30 television movies. She is a recognized leader in the Humane Community. Ms. Swit is an Actor, Artist, Animal Advocate...Learn more about Ms. Swit, her artwork, and her causes at: www.SwitHeart.com

MARY TESTA* FIRST SEASON Mary is the recipient of the 2012 Drama Desk Award, in recognition of three decades of outstanding work, and her performance in Michael John LaChiusa's *Queen of the Mist* (Lucille Lortel, Drama League nominations). Broadway: *On the Town* (Tony® nomination), *42nd Street* (Tony® nomination), *Xanadu* (Drama Desk nomination), *Guys and Dolls*, *Chicago*, *Marie Christine*, ...*Forum*, *The Rink*, *Marilyn*, *Barnum*, *Ziegfeld Follies of 1936* (Encores!). Obie Awards for *From Above*, *On the Town*; Drama Desk nominations for *See What I Wanna See* (also Drama League nomination), *First Lady Suite*, *String of Pearls*. Other Recent off-Broadway: *Judith of Bethulia*, *Tricks the Devil Taught Me*, *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, *Measure for Measure*, *Regrets Only*, and many others. Mary has sung with the New York Philharmonic, Boston Pops, Philly Pops, Minnesota Orchestra, and the St. Louis Symphony. Film: *Franny*, *Tio Papi*, *Eat Pray Love*, *The Bounty Hunter*, *Four Single Fathers*, *Stay*, *Tony & Tina's Wedding*, *The Out-of-Towners*, *Sleepers*, *Queens of the Big Time*, *Two Bits*, *Stanley and Iris*. TV includes: *Two Broke Girls*, *Whoopi* (recurring), *White Collar*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Electric Company*, *Life on Mars*, *Cashmere Mafia*, *Waterfront*, *Sex and the City*, and *Law and Order*.

Love, Loss, and What I Wore opens June 22, 2012 and runs until July 15, 2012. A preview performance will be held on June 21. Sponsors for ***Love, Loss, and What I Wore*** include the Herald-Tribune Media Group, Tamaya Wine, and Saks Fifth Avenue. Tickets for the ***Love, Loss, and What I Wore*** range from \$20-\$67 and are available through the Asolo Repertory Theatre box office by calling 941-351-8000 or toll-free, 800-361-8388. Tickets are also available online at www.asolorep.org.

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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.