

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

**April 30, 2020**

## **CARES Act Assists Asolo Rep with Rehiring Temporarily Laid Off Employees**

(SARASOTA, FL) – When Asolo Rep canceled the remainder of its 2019-20 season in March due to the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis, it had to temporarily lay off 60% of its 200-person workforce including members of its administrative and box office staffs, as well as its acting company. With the passage of the Paycheck Protection Program, part of the new CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act, Asolo Rep has secured financial assistance that will allow it to avert at least 20 pending furloughs, as well as reinstate 36 staff members, including ten costume shop staff members who immediately began sewing face masks for local organizations. Thanks to the CARES Act loan, the 36 total employees have been reinstated with full health benefits for the next eight weeks.

“I am proud and deeply grateful for all who have made it possible for us to receive this loan through the CARES Act, said Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards. It represents a vote of confidence by the federal government of the United States that Asolo Repertory Theatre will be here when the all clear is sounded. The CARES Act is an extraordinary financial lifeline at a critical moment in our country’s history, but it is also a challenge that we at Asolo Repertory Theatre live up to our role as a vital part of the cultural and economic life of Sarasota.”

Acknowledging the crucial role the CARES Act funding plays in the future of the arts in our community, Managing Director Linda DiGabriele stated, “Sarasota’s arts and cultural organizations are the third largest employer in the county. These same organizations, so important to attracting tourism, will struggle to reopen with social distancing requirements. Without the support of our generous patrons and special programs like the CARES Act, it would be difficult to bridge the damage from this curtailed season to the next season in the fall. We are grateful to have received this generous loan.”

---

## **ABOUT ASOLO REP**

Now looking forward to its 62nd season, Asolo Repertory Theatre is recognized as one of the premier professional theatres in America and one of the largest in the Southeastern United States. One of the few select theatres in the nation that performs in true rotating repertory, Asolo Rep’s highly skilled acting company and extensive craftsmanship bring to life this unique performance method that gives audiences the opportunity to see multiple productions in the span of a few days. Asolo Rep presents up to 10 productions each season including contemporary and classic works and provocative musical theatre experiences. A theatre district in and of itself, Asolo Rep is committed to expanding its reach into the community, furthering its collaboration with the best theatre artists working in the industry today and cultivating new artists through its affiliation with the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Michael Donald Edwards and Managing Director Linda DiGabriele, Asolo Rep’s ambitious theatrical offerings and groundbreaking education and community programming engage audiences and ensure its lasting legacy for future generations. [asolorep.org](http://asolorep.org)

**Media Contact:**

Judith Lambert  
Marketing Director  
Cell: 319-325-1123  
[Judith\\_Lambert@asolo.org](mailto:Judith_Lambert@asolo.org)

world class theatre

asolorep

made in sarasota



5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota FL 34243 | [boxoffice@asolo.org](mailto:boxoffice@asolo.org)

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward](#) | [View in browser](#)