

# **ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE**

**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*  
Thursday, October 8, 2015**

**The Asolo Rep Guild to Host  
Season Kick-Off Fall Luncheon Featuring  
Sarasota Herald-Tribune Theater and Television Critic Jay Handelman**

## **WHAT**

The Asolo Rep Guild will host its annual Season Kick-Off Fall Luncheon on Wednesday, October 28 at the Bird Key Yacht Club. Renowned longtime Sarasota Herald-Tribune Theater and Television Critic Jay Handelman will be the featured speaker, providing a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to be a theater critic, criteria used in analyzing dozens of productions at professional and community theaters, and what it takes to stand out in a busy theater scene.

## **WHEN**

Wednesday, October 28 at noon

## **WHERE**

Bird Key Yacht Club  
301 Bird Key Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34236

## **HOW**

Tickets are \$35 for Asolo Rep Guild members and \$45 for non-members.

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Bird Key Luncheon  
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Please send checks to Patricia Anderson

Patricia Anderson

6580 41st Court East

Sarasota, FL 34243

To RSVP and for more information, call Guild President Patricia Anderson at 941.504.4729.

Guests must make their entree selections when mailing in their checks.

Entree options:

Cranberry & brie stuffed chicken breast OR Grilled portabella mushrooms with sauteed spinach,  
and tomato basil relish.

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**ABOUT JAY HANDELMAN**

Jay Handelman is the theater and television critic and arts writer for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. He reviews most of the professional and amateur theaters in Southwest Florida and covers the business of arts in the Sarasota area.

He joined the Herald-Tribune in November 1984 as Assistant City Editor, working on local news stories, editing and assigning. He was hired as theater critic when the paper established a full-time position in March 1986. He added television to his beat in December 1994, and was TV Editor from 2000 through 2007.

Before joining the Herald-Tribune, he spent nearly five years as a reporter and editor for United Press International's local news bureau in Washington, D.C., including one year as D.C. NewsCenter Editor.

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He is a two-time past chairman of the American Theatre Critics Association, the national organization of professional theater critics, and now serves as president of the Foundation of the American Theatre Critics Association. He also is a member of the Television Critics Association.

He has served as a faculty member at the National Critics Institute in Waterford, Conn., and was the American representative to the International Young Critics Seminar in Rotterdam in 1990. He has served as an American delegate to International Association of Theatre Critics World Congresses in Helsinki, Finland (1996), Warsaw, Poland (2012) and Beijing (2014).

He graduated from the American University in Washington, D.C., in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in communication. He was raised in River Edge, N.J.

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## **ABOUT THE ASOLO REP GUILD**

For more than 40 years, the Asolo Rep Guild has provided essential volunteer services to Asolo Repertory Theatre. Guild members lend their time and talents to support a variety of Asolo Rep's needs, including programs designed to provide members and the public with a greater understanding and appreciation of theatre as well as insights into each season's productions. The goal of the Guild is to preserve and promote Asolo Rep's place in the community and help develop future audiences.

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### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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