



\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*  
October 22, 2014

**Asolo Rep Presents Inside Asolo Rep: *South Pacific*  
on Wednesday, November 5, 2014**

**WHAT:**

Discover what it takes to bring Asolo Rep's upcoming production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Pulitzer Prize-winning musical, ***South Pacific***, to the stage. This insightful program will feature the musical's director, Rob Ruggiero, and music director, William Waldrop. Asolo Rep's dramaturg/literary manager, Lauryn Sasso, will guide this illuminating panel discussion, which will explore Ruggiero's approach to this intimate production and the musical's brand new orchestrations created especially for Asolo Rep by Brad Haak.

**WHO:**



**ROB RUGGIERO** (Director) directed *Ella* at Asolo Rep in 2007 and last season's *Show Boat*. On Broadway, Rob directed *Looped* (starring Valerie Harper), and *High* (starring Kathleen Turner); both productions toured nationally. Off-Broadway he conceived and directed the original musical revue *Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn* (Drama Desk/Outer Critics Circle Nominations). Rob is also the Producing Artistic Director of TheaterWorks in Hartford, CT. At TheaterWorks, he has directed more than 50 productions, and recently conceived a new holiday comedy, *Christmas on the Rocks*. Rob's work has been seen at regional theaters around the country, including multiple shows at Goodspeed Musicals, where he recently completed an acclaimed 50th anniversary revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*. This spring he will direct *Fiddler on the Roof* in Athens, Greece. [www.RobRuggiero.com](http://www.RobRuggiero.com)



**WILLIAM WALDROP** (Music Director/Conductor) is a music director, conductor, composer and pianist. Broadway credits include *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella* and the recent revival of *Evita*. He has been the music director/conductor for the national tours of *Evita* (Broadway Revival), *The Phantom of The Opera* (Music Box Company), and *Cats*. Off-Broadway credits include *Donnybrook!* and *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn*. In Las Vegas, credits include

*Phantom* and *Hedwig and The Angry Inch*. William's songs have been featured in cabarets and theatres across the country, including New York City's Birdland, The Laurie Beechman Theatre, The Duplex, and New World Stages. William holds degrees from The Peabody Conservatory of Music (MM) and The University of Mississippi (BM).

**WHEN:**

Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 11am

**WHERE:**

Asolo Repertory Theatre Mezzanine  
5555 N. Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, FL 34243

**HOW:**

Tickets for Inside Asolo Rep are \$5 for the general public and free for donors and Asolo Rep Guild members.

Or, purchase an Inside Asolo Rep Pass for \$15 to receive admission to all four panel discussions this season.

For tickets to Inside Asolo Rep and Asolo Rep's 14-15 season, visit [www.asolorep.org](http://www.asolorep.org), call 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388, or visit Asolo Rep's Box Office, located in the lobby of the theatre.

Inside Asolo Rep is sponsored by:



**About *South Pacific***

Come away to a lush, remote island in the South Pacific during World War II where U.S. Navy officers, Seabees and nurses discover and embrace unfamiliar people and cultures in a place so very far from home. Cockeyed optimist Nellie Forbush, a nurse from Little Rock, Arkansas, falls deeply in love with Frenchman Emile De Becque, a widowed plantation owner who has lived on the island for many years with his biracial children. But their enchanted love story is threatened by Nellie's racist roots that she so deeply wants to outgrow. Ivy League hero Lt. Joseph Cable must also face his own moral struggle when he becomes enraptured with Liat, a beautiful island girl.

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The original 1949 Broadway production, based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *Tales of the South Pacific*, by James A. Michener, garnered 10 Tony Awards®, including a still unprecedented sweep of all four acting categories. The acclaimed 2008 Lincoln Center Theater production received seven Tony Awards, the most of any musical revival.

***South Pacific*** opens **Friday, November 14, 2014 at 8pm**, with previews **Tuesday, November 11 at 7:30pm** and **Wednesday, November 12** and **Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 8pm**. The 1950 Pulitzer Prize for Drama winner will run through the holiday season and close **Sunday, December 28, 2014**.

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**Media Contact:**

Sasha Fields  
Public Relations Manager  
941-351-9010 ext. 4800  
[sasha\\_fields@asolo.org](mailto:sasha_fields@asolo.org)