

ASOLO REPERTORY THEATRE

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL DONALD EDWARDS MANAGING DIRECTOR LINDA DIGABRIELE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 3, 2014

Asolo Rep Completes its 2014-15 Season Lineup with Two New Musical Productions:

Luck Be a Lady: The Iconic Music of Frank Loesser

and

Woody Sez: The Life and Music of Woody Guthrie

"Loesser hit the jackpot more than once in a career that extended from the Great Depression to the year Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. ... With Loesser you always got both – the 'wisdom and truth' and the tangy cool martini wit. Long may his songs be sung." – David Lehman for *The New York Times*

"*Woody Sez: The Life and Music of Woody Guthrie* is a theatrical patchwork quilt – scraps of biography and social history sewn together with bits of music and drama by four remarkably multi-talented performers. And like the finest of cloth quilts, this one transcends its homespun materials to become a work of art."

– *The New York Times*

(SARASOTA, September 3, 2014) — Asolo Repertory Theatre completes its highly anticipated 2014-15 season lineup with two new productions: ***Luck Be a Lady: The Iconic Music of Frank Loesser*** and ***Woody Sez: The Life and Music of Woody Guthrie***.

The world premiere of ***Luck Be a Lady: The Iconic Music of Frank Loesser*** replaces the theatre's previously announced production of *It Only Takes A Moment*, which was postponed to a future season. This brand new musical revue celebrates the life and music of Frank Loesser, the legendary composer and lyricist of the Tony Award®-winning Broadway classic *Guys and Dolls*, the Tony and Pulitzer-Prize winning hit *How to Succeed in Business Without Really*

-more-

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Trying, *The Most Happy Fella*, and more. Throughout his remarkable career, Loesser penned dozens of heartwarming, unforgettable songs for both the stage and film. He received an Academy Award® for his holiday favorite, "Baby, It's Cold Outside," from the film *Neptune's Daughter*. His rich canon of hits includes some of the most treasured classics of all time, from "Heart and Soul," to "On a Slow Boat to China," "Luck Be a Lady," and more. Conceived and directed by Gordon Greenberg (Asolo Rep's *Yentl* 2012), ***Luck Be a Lady: The Iconic Music of Frank Loesser*** opens **Friday, May 1 at 8pm** and runs through **Sunday, May 24**, with previews **Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30pm**, and **Wednesday, April 29** and **Thursday, April 30 at 8pm**.

Woody Sez: The Life and Music of Woody Guthrie is a rousing theatrical concert featuring the toe-tapping, heartfelt music of this revolutionary singer/songwriter, including "This Land is Your Land," "The Ballad of Tom Joad," and "Goin' Down That Road Feelin' Bad." Four actor/musicians play 15 different musical instruments in this jubilant celebration of the father of American folk music and the social justice that his songs inspired. ***Woody Sez: The Life and Music of Woody Guthrie*** premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2007 and has since toured Munich, Berlin, Chicago, Boston, Washington, D.C., and London's West End. Its acclaimed 2013-14 season tour included performances at the Cleveland Play House, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Syracuse Stage, and TheaterWorks, as well as stops in China and New Zealand. Directed by Nick Corley and devised by David M. Lutken with Nick Corley and Darcie Deaville, Helen J. Russell, and Andy Teirstein, ***Woody Sez: The Life and Music of Woody Guthrie*** opens **Saturday, May 30 at 8pm** and runs through **Sunday, June 21**.

"***Luck Be a Lady*** and ***Woody Sez*** spotlight two very iconic American voices. From *Guys and Dolls* to *How to Succeed*, Frank Loesser was a self-taught musical sensation who greatly impacted the trajectory of Broadway musicals as well as music in general," said Michael Donald Edwards, producing artistic director of Asolo Rep. "***Woody Sez*** is a truly unique theatrical experience celebrating Woody Guthrie's music – the soulful soundtrack of one of this country's most trying

economic periods that continues to stir, uplift and inspire the American people. They are deeply apt and joyful additions to our ongoing American Character Project that I know will enthuse and delight our patrons.”

2014 - 2015 Asolo Rep Season

New Stages Tour: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

By William Shakespeare

Adapted and Directed by Jen Wineman

October and November 2014

SOUTH PACIFIC

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Book by Oscar Hammerstein II and Joshua Logan

Directed by Rob Ruggiero

November 14 - December 28

Previews November 11, 12, 13

THE MATCHMAKER

By Thornton Wilder

Directed by Peter Amster

January 9 - April 11

Previews January 6, 7, 8

GOOD PEOPLE

By David Lindsay-Abaire

Directed by Greg Leaming

January 16 - March 1

Previews January 14 & 15

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BOTH YOUR HOUSES

By Maxwell Anderson

Directed by Frank Galati

January 23 - April 12

Previews January 21 & 22

OUR BETTERS

By W. Somerset Maugham

Directed by Michael Donald Edwards

March 13 - April 19

Previews March 11 & 12

SOTTO VOCE

By Nilo Cruz

Director TBA

In the Historic Asolo Theater

April 2 - 26

Previews March 31 & April 1

WORLD PREMIERE:

LUCK BE A LADY: THE ICONIC MUSIC OF FRANK LOESSER

Conceived and directed by Gordon Greenberg

May 1 - 24

Previews April 28, 29, 30

WOODY SEZ: THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF WOODY GUTHRIE

Directed by Nick Corley

Devised by David M. Lutken with Nick Corley and

Darcie Deaville, Helen J. Russell, and Andy Teirstein

May 30 - June 21

TICKETS

Season subscriptions for the 2014-15 season are on sale now and available by visiting the Asolo Rep Box Office, located in the lobby of the theatre, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail in Sarasota, or by calling 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388.

Subscribers will be able to purchase single tickets beginning Monday, September 15 by phone at the box office. Single tickets will be available to the public online only beginning on Saturday, September 27 at 12:01am. Single tickets will be available to the public at the box office and by phone beginning on Monday, September 29 at 10am.

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

Asolo Rep's major supporters for the 2014-2015 season are Florida State University and Florida State University Foundation, Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Designing Women Boutique, Publix Super Markets Charities, The Shubert Foundation, Woman's Exchange, Inc. and Tropical Cadillac. Asolo Rep's artistic programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues. Asolo Rep is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

Media Contact:

Sasha Fields
Public Relations Manager
941-351-9010 ext. 4800
sasha_fields@asolo.org

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