

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

February 25, 2019

**Asolo Rep Continues its 60th Season with *NOISES OFF*
Directed by Comedic Broadway Veteran Don Stephenson
March 20 - April 20**

(SARASOTA, February 25, 2019) — Asolo Rep continues its celebration of 60 years on stage with Tony Award®-winner Michael Frayn's rip-roaringly hilarious play ***NOISES OFF***, one of the most celebrated farces of all time. Directed by comedic Broadway veteran **Don Stephenson**, ***NOISES OFF*** previews March 20 and 21, opens March 22 and runs through April 20 in rotating repertory in the Mertz Theatre, located in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts.

A comedy of epic proportions, ***NOISES OFF*** has been the laugh-until-you-cry guilty pleasure of audiences for decades. With opening night just hours away, a motley company of actors stumbles through a frantic, final rehearsal of the British sex farce *Nothing On*, and things could not be going worse. Lines are forgotten, love triangles are unraveling, sardines are flying everywhere, and complete pandemonium ensues. Will the cast pull their act together on stage even if they can't behind the scenes?

“With Don Stephenson, an extraordinary comedic actor and director at the helm, this production of ***NOISES OFF*** is bound to be one of the funniest theatrical experiences we have ever presented,” said Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director **Michael Donald Edwards**. “I urge the Sarasota community to take a break and escape to ***NOISES OFF***, a joyous celebration of the magic of live theatre.”

Don Stephenson's directing work includes *Titanic* (Lincoln Center, MUNY), *Broadway Classics* (Carnegie Hall), *Of Mice and Manhattan* (Kennedy Center), *A Comedy of Tenors* (Paper Mill Playhouse) and more. As an actor on Broadway, he appeared in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*; *Rock of Ages*; *Dracula, the Musical*; *The Producers* and more.

“***NOISES OFF*** takes its title from the stage direction used in plays to indicate sounds coming from offstage. With his play within a play setup, Mr. Frayn gives the audience a love letter to the theatre,” said Don Stephenson. “In a time of breaking news, and more breaking news, ***NOISES OFF*** gives us a good, much needed laugh. The show takes us backstage and onstage (and backstage and onstage again and again and again). It gives us a delicious taste of what it's like to be in the theatre.”

An all-star ensemble cast will bring the on and off stage antics to life. **Christianne Tisdale** (Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clackett) has been seen on Broadway in *Les Misérables*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*. **Coburn Goss** (Lloyd Dallas) is also in *The Crucible* at Asolo Rep this season, playing John Proctor. He was

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seen Off-Broadway in Steppenwolf's *When the Messenger Is Hot* at 59E59. His recent credits include *The Columnist* (American Blues Theater), *The Burials* (Steppenwolf Theatre), and *Chimerica* (TimeLine Theatre).

Laura Rook (Poppy Norton-Taylor), is also in *The Crucible* at Asolo Rep this season, as Elizabeth Proctor. Last season she appeared as Viola de Lesseps in *Shakespeare in Love* and Daisy in *Rhinoceros* at Asolo Rep. Her other credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Othello*, *Henry V*, and *Romeo and Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *The Liar* (Writers Theatre) and *Skylight* (Court Theatre).

Kate Hampton's (Belinda Blair/Flavia) New York theater credits include *The Master Builder* (BAM), *All My Sons* (Roundabout), and *The Typographer's Dream* (Clubbed Thumb). She plays Nora in *A Doll's House, Part 2* at Asolo Rep this season. Regionally she has appeared at Florida Rep, Palm Beach Dramaworks, Peterborough Players, Williamstown and more. **Steve Hendrickson** (Selsdon Mowbray/Burglar) plays Francis Nurse in *The Crucible* and has previously appeared in *1776*, *The Matchmaker*, and *Both Your Houses* at Asolo Rep. He has also performed at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, American Conservatory Theater, Old Globe, Geva Theatre Center, Arena Stage and more.

The cast also features FSU/Asolo Conservatory students **Andrew Hardaway** (Garry Lejeune/Roger), **Katie Sah** (Brooke Ashton/Vicki), **Dylan Crow** (Frederick Fellowes/Phillip), and **Scott Shomaker** (Tim Allgood), who are all in *The Crucible*.

In addition to the cast of nine, the **NOISES OFF** set is a character in and of itself. All of the on and off stage impeccably timed mayhem takes place on a two-story revolving set, designed by **Michael Schweikardt**. His other Asolo Rep productions include *South Pacific*, *Show Boat*, *Deathtrap*, and *Barnum*. His Off-Broadway productions include *The Bus* and the American premiere of Frank McGuinness' *Gates of Gold* (59E59), *Bloodsong of Love* (Ars Nova) and *The Black Suits* (The Public Theater).

The creative team also includes **Tracy Christensen** (Costume Designer), whose work includes the Broadway revival of *Sunset Boulevard* starring Glenn Close, *Candide* with John Lithgow (Carnegie Hall), *Carousel* (London's English National Opera), and the premiere of *Anne of Green Gables* (Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival).

Stephen Terry's (Lighting Designer) Off-Broadway credits include *My Name is Gideon*, *Titanic in Concert* at Lincoln Center and *Twyla Tharp Dance* at The Joyce and National/International Tour. The creative team also includes **Zach Moore** (Sound Designer), who has designed more than 90 productions for Pittsburgh Public Theater including six world premieres and two American premieres.

NOISES OFF premiered on Broadway in 1983 and received four Tony Award nominations, including for Best Play. Its most recent revival in 2016 was nominated for five Tony's, including Best Revival of a Play. The play was turned into a feature film in 1992 and starred Carol Burnett, Michael Caine, Marilu Henner, Christopher Reeve and John Ritter. Michael Frayn's other works include *Alphabetical Order*, *Make and Break*, *Donkeys' Years* and *Benefactors*.

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

CHRISTIANNE TISDALE*Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clackett
COBURN GOSS*Lloyd Dallas
ANDREW HARDAWAYGarry Lejeune/Roger
KATIE SAHBrooke Ashton/Vicki
LAURA ROOK*Poppy Norton-Taylor
KATE HAMPTON*Belinda Blair/Flavia
DYLAN CROWFrederick Fellowes/Philip
SCOTT SHOMAKERTim Allgood
STEVE HENDRICKSON*Selsdon Mowbray/Burglar

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

SELECTED CREATIVE TEAM MEMBERS

Director.....DON STEPHENSON
Scenic Designer.....MICHAEL SCHWEIKARDT
Costume Designer.....TRACY CHRISTENSEN
Lighting Designer.....STEPHEN TERRY
Sound Designer.....ZACH MOORE
Hair/Wig & Make-up Designer.....MICHELLE HART

SELECTED ARTISTIC BIOS

COBURN GOSS* (Lloyd Dallas, **NOISES OFF**, John Proctor, *The Crucible*) recent credits include *The Columnist* at American Blues Theater, *The Burials* at Steppenwolf Theatre, and *Chimerica* at TimeLine Theatre. He played C.S. Lewis in the long-running *Freud's Last Session* for CRC Productions at the Mercury Theater, and was seen Off-Broadway in Steppenwolf's *When the Messenger Is Hot* at 59E59, and additionally at Goodman Theatre, Writers Theatre, Seattle Repertory and Arkansas Repertory. His film credits include *Man of Steel*, *Batman v Superman*, *The Lucky Ones*, *Once Upon a River* and *Widows*. His TV credits include *The Red Line*, *The Chi*, *Chicago Med* and *Empire*.

KATE HAMPTON* (Belinda Blair/Flavia, **NOISES OFF**; Nora, *A Doll's House, Part 2*) Asolo Rep: *Fallen Angels*, *God of Carnage*, *Once in a Lifetime*, *The Innocents*, *Las*

Meninas, Boeing Boeing, La Bête, Pride and Prejudice, Expecting Isabel. Broadway: *The Best Man, The Deep Blue Sea.* First National Tour: *Spring Awakening.* NYC: *The Master Builder* (BAM); *All My Sons* (Roundabout); *The Typographer's Dream* (Clubbed Thumb). Regional: *How the Other Half Loves; The Cocktail Hour* (Florida Rep); *Gidion's Knot* (FST); *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Palm Beach Dramaworks); *Talley's Folly* (Peterborough Players); *Absurd Person Singular* (Bristol Rep); *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (Humana); *Loot* (Arden); *The Real Thing* (Olney); *All My Sons* (Williamstown). TV: *Bones, Law & Order, Sex and the City.*

STEVE HENDRICKSON* (Selsdon Mowbray/Burglar, **NOISES OFF**; Francis Nurse, *The Crucible*) has appeared in *1776, The Matchmaker, and Both Your Houses* at Asolo Rep. National appearances at the Folger, Chicago, Great River and Orlando Shakespeare theaters, ACT, Arizona Theatre Company, Old Globe, Geva Theatre Center, Cincinnati Playhouse and Barrington, Syracuse and Arena Stage companies. At home in Minneapolis, he has appeared at the Skylark Opera, the Guthrie, Park Square & Jungle theaters. He received 2005 and 2009 Ivey Theatre Awards for *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Tyrone and Ralph*, and the 2001 Dayton-Hudson Distinguished Artist Fellowship. He's the founder of Audio-Visceral Productions at www.audio-visceral.com

DON STEPHENSON (Director, **NOISES OFF**) has directed *Titanic* at Lincoln Center; *Broadway Classics* at Carnegie Hall; *Of Mice and Manhattan* at The Kennedy Center; *The Other Place* at The Alley Theatre. Paper Mill Playhouse: *A Comedy Of Tenors* (BroadwayWorld nom), *The Producers, Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike, Lend Me A Tenor.* Goodspeed: *The Will Rogers Follies, The Roar of the Greasepaint...* (BroadwayWorld nom), *Guys and Dolls. Buyer and Cellar* and *Noises Off* at Pittsburgh Public Theater. *How to Succeed in Business* and *Sister Act* at The Marriott Theatre. *The Cottage* at Theatre Aspen; *I'll Eat You Last* at TheaterWorks/Hartford; *Lend Me A Tenor* at Bay Street Theater (Broadway World nom); *Titanic* at The MUNY and the Hangar Theatre (BroadwayWorld nom); *Struck* at New Jersey Rep (BroadwayWorld nom).

CHRISTIANNE TISDALE* (Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clackett, **NOISES OFF**) is thrilled to return to the Asolo Rep and play with Don Stephenson again. Broadway/First Nat'l/West End/Toronto: *Beauty and the Beast, Triumph of Love, On a Clear Day, Les Misérables* (25th Anniversary), *Titanic, One Touch of Venus, and Sousatska.* TV: *The Blacklist* (recurring), *30 Rock, The Enemy Within, David Letterman, Law and Order-CI, and Wallflowers.* She is currently producing the documentary *Ghost Lights: Reclaiming Theater in the Age of AIDS* which focuses on the impact of AIDS on theater and its community. Acting with Sande Shurin. Yale graduate. Instagram: @BaxAndTheCity www.ChristianneTisdale.com

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

The Scoop

One hour prior to every performance of *NOISES OFF*

Arrive one hour before curtain to hear the ideas and inspirations that contributed to the making of *NOISES OFF* (Opening Night, March 22, is excluded.)

Inside Asolo Rep: *SWEAT* and *NOISES OFF*

Wednesday, February 27

Cook Theatre

10:30am: Enjoy coffee and light bites by Muse at the Ringling, and visit the Designing Women Boutique Pop-Up Shop

11am: Panel discussion

Tickets are \$5; and free for all donors at the Cherubim Angels level and higher and Asolo Rep Guild Members

Get rare insights into the artistic process, hear directly from the people responsible for producing *SWEAT* and *NOISES OFF* and engage in stimulating discussion inspired by the plays' themes and issues.

Inside Asolo Rep is sponsored by Muse at the Ringling, Designing Women Boutique and The Observer

Sunday Salon

Sunday, March 24

Asolo Rep's Mezzanine

Reflect on your experience through a lively and informative post-show discussion following select Sunday matinees in the Mertz and Cook Theatres. Featuring members of Asolo Rep's Artistic Department and special guests.

OUT@AsoloRep: *NOISES OFF* [Sold Out]

Wednesday April 3 at 6:30pm; show starts at 7:30pm

Asolo Rep's Mezzanine

Contact Asolo Rep's Box Office for subscription and ticket information.

Now in its ninth season, OUT@AsoloRep is Sarasota's premier cultural event connecting local Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities with fantastic theatre. Enjoy a pre-show reception and learn about participating LGBT organizations, and gain personal insight into *NOISES OFF* from the creative team and cast members.

OUT@AsoloRep is sponsored by Morton's Gourmet Market & Catering, CAN Community Health and Sabal Palm Bank.

Tuesday Talkbacks
April 9, 16
Asolo Rep's Mezzanine

Join us for an intimate post-show discussion with featured actors following every Tuesday performance of **NOISES OFF**.

TICKETS

Tickets for **NOISES OFF** and the entire 2018-19 Asolo Repertory Theatre season are on sale now. Tickets for **NOISES OFF** start at \$29. To purchase tickets, call 941.351.8000 or 800.361.8388, visit www.asolorep.org, or visit the Asolo Repertory Theatre Box Office, located in the lobby of the theatre. Asolo Repertory Theatre is located at 5555 North Tamiami Trail in the Florida State University Center for the Performing Arts.

The Box Office is open Monday 10am – 5pm, Tuesday – Thursday 10am - 7:30pm, Friday – Saturday 10am – 8pm, and Sunday 10am – 2pm. The box office closes at 5pm when there are no evening performances and phone lines close one hour prior to the start of any performance. Season subscription packages are also available online and by visiting or calling the box office.

SPONSORS

Asolo Rep is able to present **NOISES OFF** because of the generosity of its sponsors. The corporate sponsors for **NOISES OFF** are SRQ Media, ABC 7, Williams Parker, Hilton Garden Inn, and Mattison's.

Asolo Rep 2018-19 Major Season Sponsors are Florida State University, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the Huisking Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Designing Women Boutique, The Exchange, and Sunset Cadillac of Bradenton. Asolo Rep's artistic programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues.

ABOUT ASOLO REP

Now in its 60th 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 ground-breaking education and community programming engage audiences and ensure its lasting legacy for future generations. www.asolorep.org

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