

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

April 5, 2019

**Asolo Rep Announces Casting for Tony Award®-winner
*SWEENEY TODD: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street***

Directed and Choreographed by Peter Rothstein

May 1 - June 1

(SARASOTA, April 5, 2019) — Asolo Repertory Theatre proudly continues its 60th season with ***SWEENEY TODD: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street***. It will be directed and choreographed by **Peter Rothstein**, who helmed the theatre's critically acclaimed 2018 production of *Ragtime*. Featuring music and lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**, a book by **Hugh Wheeler** and from an adaptation by **Christopher Bond**, this musical masterwork and global phenomenon previews May 1 - 3, opens May 4 and runs through June 1 in the Mertz Theatre, located in the FSU Center for the Performing Arts.

Revenge and romance abound in this enduring tale set on the seedy streets of 19th century London. Wrongfully imprisoned barber Sweeney Todd will stop at nothing to avenge the death of his wife and win back the love of his daughter. With the help of eccentric meat pie shop owner Mrs. Lovett, his merciless plan for vengeance unfolds with grisly consequences. Featuring brilliant wit, diabolical humor and extraordinary music, this thrilling theatrical treat is Sondheim at his very best.

“We could not be more thrilled to present a world-class production of ***SWEENEY TODD***, one of Stephen Sondheim’s most celebrated masterpieces, directed by the brilliant Peter Rothstein,” said Asolo Rep Producing Artistic Director **Michael Donald Edwards**. “Filled with intrigue, suspense and one of the most powerful scores of all time, ***SWEENEY TODD*** is going to be a jaw-dropping theatrical experience.”

Broadway veteran **Allen Fitzpatrick** (Sweeney Todd) leads the cast as the vehement barber. His Broadway credits include *Les Misérables*, *42nd Street*, *Memphis*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Sweet Smell of Success*, and *Damn Yankees*. He received an Emmy® for Stephen Sondheim’s *Passion* (Live from Lincoln Center). He previously portrayed Sweeney at Seattle’s 5th Avenue Theatre and Goodspeed Opera House. **Sally Wingert** (Mrs. Lovett) has performed in more than 90 productions at the Guthrie Theater, where she was most recently seen in *Noises Off*. She appeared in *La Bête* with Mark Rylance on Broadway and London's West End. She has performed at ART, Yale Rep, Chicago Shakespeare Theater and more.

Elizabeth Hawkinson (Johanna) previously played the role at Theater Latté Da, where she also recently played Paquette in *Candide* and Countess Charlotte in *A Little Night Music*. **James Ramlet** (Judge Turpin) recently made his off-Broadway debut in the

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Theater Latté Da production of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. He has also been seen at the Guthrie Theater, American Repertory Theater, Children's Theatre Company and History Theatre. **Perry Sherman** (Anthony Hope) has appeared on Broadway in *Fun Home*, in the National Tours of *Next to Normal* and *Spring Awakening* and in *Les Misérables* in Toronto.

The cast features **David Darrow** (Tobias Ragg) and **Benjamin Dutcher** (Jonas Fogg), who both appeared in *Ragtime* at Asolo Rep. It also includes **Colin Anderson** (Beadle Bamford), **Sarah Ochs** (Beggar Woman), and **Evan Tyler Wilson** (Adolfo Pirelli).

Director and Choreographer Peter Rothstein is the Founding Artistic Director of Theater Latté Da, a Twin Cities-based company dedicated to new and adventurous musical theater. His work has also been seen at the Guthrie Theater, the Children's Theater Company, Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Orchestra, Utah Shakespeare Festival and Seattle's 5th Avenue Theater. He is the creator of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. Peter was named the 2015 Minnesota Artist of the Year from the *Star Tribune*, and has been awarded grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, the Minnesota State Arts Board and the McKnight Foundation.

"**SWEENEY TODD** is one of the greatest works in the American theatre," said Peter Rothstein. "I first directed this production for Theater Latté Da in Minneapolis a few years ago, and I am thrilled to reunite this design team to re-imagine it at the glorious Asolo Repertory Theatre."

SWEENEY TODD premiered on Broadway in 1979 and was nominated for 9 Tony Awards, winning 8, including Best Musical. It was adapted into a 2007 feature film, starring Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter.

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

COLIN ANDERSON*	Beadle Bamford
DAVID DARROW*	Tobias Ragg
JAMES RAMLET	Judge Turpin
BENJAMIN DUTCHER*	Jonas Fogg
SARA OCHS	Beggar Woman
EVAN TYLER WILSON*	Adolfo Pirelli
ALLEN FITZPATRICK*	Sweeney Todd
PERRY SHERMAN*	Anthony Hope
SALLY WINGERT*	Mrs. Lovett
ELIZABETH HAWKINSON	Johanna

Swings: MARC ANTHONY CORNES, MEGAN ORTICELLI, KAITLYN WEICKEL

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

SELECTED CREATIVE TEAM MEMBERS

Director and Choreographer.....	PETER ROTHSTEIN
Music Director and Additional Arrangements.....	GREGG COFFIN
Scenic Designer.....	KATE SUTTON-JOHNSON
Costume Designer.....	ALICE LOUISE FREDRICKSON
Lighting Designer.....	PAUL WHITAKER
Sound Designer.....	JUSTIN STASIW
Hair/Wig & Make-up Designer.....	MICHELLE HART

SELECTED ARTISTIC BIOS

ALLEN FITZPATRICK* (Sweeney Todd) Allen's ten Broadway appearances include *Les Misérables*, *42nd Street*, *Memphis*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Sweet Smell of Success*, and *Damn Yankees*. He shared an Emmy® for Sondheim's *Passion* (Live at Lincoln Center). He co-starred in National Tours of *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Aspects of Love*, and *Guys and Dolls*. He portrayed Sweeney previously at Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre and Goodspeed Opera House. Allen has performed more than 200 roles in regional theaters, and a dozen roles Off-Broadway. His television and film appearances include *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: SVU*, and *Kissing Jessica Stein*. www.allenfitzpatrick.weebly.com

PETER ROTHSTEIN (Director/Choreographer) is thrilled to return to Asolo Rep where he directed last year's production of *Ragtime*. He is the Founding Artistic Director of Theater Latté Da, a Twin Cities-based company dedicated to new and adventurous musical theater. Other collaborations include the Guthrie Theater, the Children's Theater Company, Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Orchestra, Utah Shakespeare Festival and Seattle's 5th Avenue Theater. He is the creator of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. Peter was named the 2015 Minnesota Artist of the Year from the Star Tribune, and has been awarded grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, the Minnesota State Arts Board and the McKnight Foundation. www.Peter-Rothstein.com

SALLY WINGERT* (Mrs. Lovett) has been an actor in the Twin Cities for 37 years. She has performed in over ninety productions at the Guthrie where she was most recently seen in *Noises Off*. Her artistic relationship with Peter Rothstein includes productions of *Woman Before a Glass*, *Doubt*, *Other Desert Cities*, and most recently *A Little Night Music*. She has worked at numerous theaters back home including Theater Latté Da, Mixed Blood, and Ten Thousand Things. She appeared in *La Bête* with Mark Rylance

both on Broadway and London's West End. Regional productions at ART, Yale Rep, McCarter, Arizona Theatre Company, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater (among others).

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

The Scoop

One hour prior to every performance of **SWEENEY TODD**

Arrive one hour before curtain to hear the ideas and inspirations that contributed to the making of **SWEENEY TODD** (Opening Night, May 4, is excluded.)

Tuesday Talkbacks

May 7, 14, 21, 28

Cook Theatre

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

Sunday Salon

Sunday, May 12

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: SWEENEY TODD [Sold Out]

Thursday, May 16 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 **SWEENEY TODD** from the creative team and cast members.

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

TICKETS

Tickets for **SWEENEY TODD** are on sale now. Tickets for **SWEENEY TODD** 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 **SWEENEY TODD** because of the generosity of its sponsors. The corporate sponsors for **SWEENEY TODD** are Cool Today, SNN, Herald-Tribune Media Group, Sarasota Scene Magazine, Tandem Construction, Michael's on East and Residence Inn by Marriott.

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 Shubert Foundation, Designing Women Boutique, The Exchange, the Huisking Foundation, 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.

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