

Lillian Hellman's *The Little Foxes* Continues at The Asolo

Directed by two-time Tony Award-winner Frank Galati, it runs to April 15

The *Little Foxes*, acclaimed American playwright Lillian Hellman's captivating drama about the scheming Hubbard family and their insatiable lust for wealth, runs in rotating rep **through April 15** in the Mertz Theatre the Asolo Repertory Theatre. It's directed by two-time Tony Award-winner and Academy Award-nominee Frank Galati.

Guile and greed are front and center in this classic American drama set in 1900 in the racially stratified South, where the wily Regina Hubbard Giddens and her two brothers, Oscar and Ben Hubbard, will stop at nothing to obtain the fortune they so desperately desire. But when Regina's ailing husband threatens to throw a wrench in their corrupt plan to bring a cotton mill to their small Alabama town, the Hubbard siblings' sinister ways reach the pinnacle of deceit. Powerful, poignant and surprisingly funny, *The Little Foxes* is a gripping look at the dark side of the American Dream.

"With Frank Galati as the director, this production of *The Little Foxes* will feel like a thrilling new play," said Michael Donald Edwards, Producing Artistic Director of Asolo Rep. "Lillian Hellman's American masterpiece, while more than 70 years old, is teeming with pertinent themes of class structure, race relations and the high cost of greed, making this piece as electrifying today as it was when it opened on Broadway in 1939."

The *Little Foxes* opened on Broadway in 1939 and ran for 410 performances. The iconic Academy Award-nominated film adaptation premiered in 1941 and starred screen legend Bette Davis, who garnered an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of Regina.

Director and Asolo Rep Associate Artist Frank Galati previously directed *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *1776*, *Twelve Angry Men* and more at Asolo Rep. He is a member of Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago, where his adaptation of John Steinbeck's *East of Eden* kicked off the theatre's 40th anniversary season. He won two Tony Awards for his adaptation and direction of *The Grapes of Wrath* and was also nominated for a Tony for his direction of *Ragtime* on Broadway.

"Why is it important to return to *The Little Foxes* now in 2017? Because this play is profoundly important in changing the conversation about race and class in America," said Director Frank Galati. "True then and true now, it boldly and shrewdly reveals the sinister relationship between institutional racism and capitalism. The *Little Foxes* presents a family portrait, and the family in cri-



Tracy Michelle Arnold and David Breitbarth in Asolo Rep's production of *The Little Foxes*.

Photo by John Revisky

sis plays out its drama at a particular historical moment and in a very specific economic environment."

Actress Tracy Michelle Arnold leads the cast as the magnetic and manipulative Regina. She has performed in theaters throughout the country, including Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Northlight Theatre. Arnold is a company member with American Players Theatre, where her credits include Cleopatra in *Anthony & Cleopatra*, Arkadina in *The*

Seagull, Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and more.

Longtime Asolo Rep company member David Breitbarth, who was Governor George Wallace, Sheriff Jim Clark, Richard Nixon and John McCone in Asolo Rep's *The Great Society*, plays Regina's husband, Horace.

Performance Events

- ★ **The Scoop**
One hour prior to every performance in the Asolo Rep's Mertz Theatre, orchestra level. Hear the ideas and inspirations that contributed to the making of *The Little Foxes*.
- ★ **Tuesday Talkback**
April 11 in the Asolo's Mezzanine. An intimate post-show discussion with featured actors or guests following the Tuesday performance.
- ★ **OUT@AsoloRep**
April 5 at 6:30 p.m.; show starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Asolo's Mezzanine. OUT@AsoloRep is Sarasota's premier cultural event connecting local Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities. Enjoy a pre-show reception and learn about participating LGBT organizations, gain personal insight into *The Little Foxes* from the creative team and cast members, and mingle with the actors and other OUT attendees after the performance.
- ★ **The Little Foxes IllumiNation Event**
April 8 at 1 p.m.; show starts at 2 p.m. Pre-show reception and a post-show discussion held on the Mezzanine. IllumiNation is Asolo Rep's series of performances and events promoting cross-cultural conversations in the community.

Tickets

To purchase tickets, call 351-8000 or visit www.asolorep.org.