



# Placer Repertory Theater

Performing arts, cultural & economic enrichment for Placer County

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Kevin Foster  
PRT phone: 916-884-0055  
Kevin Cell: 916-342-4381

December 5, 2021

Placer Repertory Theater: [Outreach@placerrep.org](mailto:Outreach@placerrep.org) | [PlacerRep.org](http://PlacerRep.org)

### **Veteran Actor Rodger McDonald to Perform at Lincoln Civic Auditorium**

A theater fixture in the greater Sacramento area for over twenty-seven years, veteran director and actor, Rodger McDonald will grace the stage at the Lincoln Civic Auditorium on December 11 as the uniquely eccentric characters Sir Walter Elliot and Admiral Croft in Placer Repertory Theater's performance of the new work *Persuasion* featured at the holiday event *The Jane Austen Soiree*.

Rodger McDonald, a Placer County resident and member of the professional organizations SAG/AFTRA and AEA, has enjoyed a robust and storied career in theater, film and television. He has performed with several major theater companies including the Alley Theater in Houston, Pacific Conservatory, Robert Redford's Sundance Theater, Rod Serling's Vooheis Theater in New York, Sherwood Shakespeare Festival, Utah Repertory, Solvang Theaterfest, Elizabeth Howard's Dinner Theater, the Great American Melodrama, & the National Theaters of Guatemala and El Salvador and was selected for the Oregon Shakespeare Summer Shakespeare Company in 1978. He originally came to Sacramento from Los Angeles to work with the Sacramento Symphony as both its financial controller and theater advisor. In this capacity he understudied Charlton Heston in the Henry V Suite and worked closely with The Manhattan Transfer and The Kingston Trio in their appearances in Sacramento.

He appeared as King James in the National PBS Drama, *Passionate Pilgrim*, and recently was featured in a new movie with Ellen Green and Kevin Corrigan which will debut in 2021. He has been awarded the Best Actor Award in the State of Utah, is a two-time winner of Best Actor at BYU, where he both graduated and taught. He won a Los Angeles Dramalogue Award for *Macbeth* and performed in Europe and Asia with the USO as one of six members of the popular singing group "Collector's Item". Rodger is the winner of four Ellys with 18 Elly Nominations for Best Actor and Director. In 2015, Rodger was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by SARTA at the Annual Elly Awards in 2015. Additionally, Rodger performs a civic service as Board Treasurer for Placer Repertory Theater.



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Locally, he recently completed roles as Joseph Pulitzer in *Newsies*, & Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as the lead in *The Miser*. He completed four seasons at Music Circus where he appeared in *1776*, *Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Paint Your Wagon*. At Woodland Opera House, he most recently directed *Meet Me in St. Louis* and *Singin In The Rain*. With Runaway Stage he has performed as the lead in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and the Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance*. With other local theaters he was Cladwell in *Urinetown* at River Stage, Captain Hook in *Peter Pan* at Woodland Opera House, and Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* at Sierra Shakespeare.

December 11, Rodger McDonald performs at *The Jane Austen Soiree*. The main feature of the evening is its entertainment: Rodger joins top-notch professional actors to perform the new work *Persuasion: a Holiday Romantic Comedy*, adapted by T.S. Forsyth and inspired by the Jane Austen novel, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., with a post-show Q&A after each performance to meet Rodger McDonald and the rest of the cast and the creative team. More information may be found on Eventbrite.com.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/194079556177>

“This play is full of rich, eccentric characters and a surprising amount of action, which makes it the perfect holiday treat for the whole family. We are so very fortunate to have Rodger McDonald portraying key roles in this play; he completely understands and embodies these unique characters. It is fabulous to see these hilarious characters fully realized,” said playwright T.S. Forsyth.

Prior to Rodger’s performance in *Persuasion*, audiences are encouraged to enjoy the soiree by arriving early dressed inspired by the period, enjoy refreshments, listen to the music, and watch or join in the ‘contra dance.’ Patrons will hear fascinating historical information and social graces of the period from the Event Social Directors / Hosts Kevin Foster and Crystal Neher-Evans and may participate in the audience costume parade at intermission or may receive gift baskets from local merchants and makers.

*The Jane Austen Soiree* is sponsored by Armrod Charitable Trust, The Rockstar Music Academy, the Arts Council of Placer County and private donors, and are partnered with the Rocklin Friends of the Library and the Rocklin and Roseville Historical Societies. “Our sponsors make it possible to serve up high quality professional performing arts and cultural programs with skilled professionals like Rodger McDonald, without charging exorbitant ticket prices. We are humbled and grateful to receive such support from our sponsors, who make this immersive, educational and entertaining event possible,” said Kevin Foster, Placer Rep Outreach Director.

Audiences might recall Placer Repertory Theater as the professional company that commissioned and recently produced the “*New Beginnings*” event partnered with the Rocklin & Roseville Historical Societies, featuring a new play about Placer County railroad history in July of 2021. Placer Rep is also the performing arts organization that recently won Gold Country Media’s “The Best of the Best: Best Live Theatrical Group”

for Rocklin. Rodger McDonald, himself, is a Rocklin resident, and sits on the Placer Repertory Theater board of directors.

Placer Repertory Theater ([PlacerRep.org](http://PlacerRep.org)) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit professional performing arts and culture nonprofit organization with the mission to offer educational and quality-of-life enriching professional performing arts and cultural programs relevant to the people of Placer County, while supporting local organizations and acting as an economic engine for the area. Follow Placer Repertory Theater on Facebook and Instagram: @PlacerRep.

Contact Kevin Foster, Outreach Director, at [Outreach@PlacerRep.org](mailto:Outreach@PlacerRep.org), or Teresa Stirling Forsyth, Producing Artistic Director, at [ArtisticDirector@PlacerRep.org](mailto:ArtisticDirector@PlacerRep.org).

## BIOS – THE TEAM



**TERESA STIRLING FORSYTH – Producing Artistic Director,  
Director / Playwright**

A resident of Rocklin, with an MFA in Dramatic Arts and an MS in Business Management & Leadership, this former Silicon Valley high-tech VP and critically acclaimed professional director/playwright also plays the role of Producing Artistic Director for Placer Repertory Theater. Previously, the artistic director for two San Francisco theater companies and founder/board president of an economic & workforce development nonprofit organization for Santa Cruz County, her performing arts background includes directing/playwriting for national and international touring productions with renown performing artists, such as Brenda Wong Aoki, and companies like Dell'Arte International. As an educator, she has instructed and/or directed at UC Davis, University of San Francisco, University of Minnesota and other educational institutions. Projects on which Forsyth worked performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian, Dallas Theatre Center, San Diego Repertory Theatre and many other renown venues, and received Dramalogue Awards, Critics Circle Awards, Indy Award: Best Spoken Word Album, as well as numerous grants from the NEA, NEH, CAC and corporations. Most recently for Placer Repertory Theater, she is the playwright/director for *Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four* and *Persuasion: a holiday romantic comedy*, co-author / dramaturg / director and actor mentor for *My Jekyll & Hyde*. and was the director / dramaturg / playwriting mentor for *New Beginnings: the new play about the historic Placer County Roundhouses*. She is a member of the professional organizations: The Dramatists Guild, The Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), TCG and NNPN/New Play Exchange.



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### **RODGER MCDONALD – Sir Walter / Admiral Croft / Captain Harville**

Rocklin's own Rodger McDonald is a third-generation performer who hales originally from Los Angeles. He recently completed roles as Joseph Pulitzer in *Newsies*, Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Doctor Finache in *A Flea In Her Ear*, Ebenezer Scrooge in *Christmas Carol*, the lead in *The Miser*, Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*, and Judge Sorell, in *The Seduction of Judge Thomas Sorrell* at the Geery Theater, after directing *Evita* in which he played Peron for Runaway Stage. He has completed his fourth season at Music Circus. At Woodland Opera House, he most recently directed *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Miser*, and *A Flea In Her Ear*. He has acted and directed in *The Imaginary Invalid* and has appeared as King Pelinor in *Camelot*, Cervantes/Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*, Father in *Ragtime*, Harold Hill in *Music Man*, and Higgins in *My Fair Lady*. With Runaway Stage he has performed as the lead in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, the Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance*, and Von Trapp in *Sound of Music*. With other local theaters he was Cladwell in *Urinetown* at River Stage, Captain Hook in *Peter Pan* at DMTC, and Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet* at Sierra Shakespeare.

He has performed with several major theater companies including the Alley Theater in Houston, Pacific Conservatory, Robert Redford's Sundance Theater, Rod Serling's Vooheis Theater in New York, Sherwood Shakespeare Festival, Utah Repertory, Solvang Theaterfest, Elizabeth Howard's Dinner Theater, the Great American Melodrama, the National Theaters of Guatemala and El Salvador and was selected for the Oregon Shakespeare Summer Shakespeare Company in 1978.



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### **Outreach Director, Social Director / Narrator / Mr. Hayter / Capt. Benwick**

Kevin Foster is an area local excited to work at Placer Repertory as Outreach Director. He began training in acting at UC Davis while earning his B.A. in Music Performance. After graduating, he performed at Davis Musical Theater Company in *Peter Pan*, *The King and I*, *Damn Yankees*, and the Elly Award winning production of *Chicago*. His other credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Chautauqua Playhouse and *A*



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*Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at Sacramento Theater company, where he has taught youth performing arts classes. Kevin recently played Dr. Watson in "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes," and also may be seen as Dr. Watson in Placer Rep's digital short series *Sherlock Holmes: Domestic Mysteries* on YouTube and Facebook. He currently teaches for Rockstar Music Academy in Lincoln and is working on his solo show commissioned by Placer Rep for a 2022 world premiere.

## THE EVENT

### WHO:

Placer Repertory Theater - <https://PlacerRep.org>

### WHAT: Event:

*The Jane Austen Soiree, starring Rodger McDonald*

### WHERE:

The Lincoln Civic Auditorium, 511 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, CA

### WHEN:

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Stage reading at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Doors open at 1:15 and 6:15 for the Soiree

### TICKETS/FMI:

General seating.

Please purchase tickets in advance. Seating is limited due to social distancing.

FMI/Tickets: Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/194079556177>



# Placer Repertory Theater

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THREE GRAPHICS BELOW:



## PRESENTS



# The Jane Austen Soiree

Featuring 11 professional actors in costume performing the new play

## Persuasion

⌘ holiday romantic comedy

By T.S. Forsyth, adapted from the Jane Austen novel

**Saturday, December 11 at 2 & 7 p.m.**  
Lincoln Civic Auditorium

General audiences (ages 8 and up)



Rodger McDonald



Anne Merino



Sponsored by  
**ARMROD CHARITABLE TRUST**  
The Rockstar Music Academy



Event includes

**Music**

**Dance**

**Costumes**

**Refreshments**

**Meet the Actors**



Steve Pagano



T.S. Forsyth














## PRESENTS



# The Jane Austen Soiree

Featuring 11 professional actors performing the new play

## Persuasion

**A holiday romantic comedy**

By T.S. Forsyth  
Adapted from the Jane Austen novel

Event includes music, dance, costumes and a post-show Q&A

**Saturday, December 11 at 2 & 7 p.m.**  
Lincoln Civic Auditorium

General audiences (ages 8 and up)

Sponsored by  
**ARMROD CHARITABLE TRUST**  
The Rockstar Music Academy





FMI / Tickets:

**eventbrite**



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**WINNER:** *Best Live Theatrical Group*

## Placer Repertory Theater provides cultural enrichment and economic growth



Placer Repertory Theater became a nonprofit organization in April 2020. Placer Rep provides professional performing arts and cultural programming for Placer County.

The organization seeks cultural enrichment and economic growth through the incubation and development of voices and works reflective of the community served, and champions partnership and cultural exploration across a breadth of disciplines within the arts, culture and humanities.

There are live and digital productions, events and

educational programs.

Placer Rep sets a high bar of professional excellence. Its focus is on talent development and professional growth through new plays and reimaged works relevant to Placer County.

The organization was founded as a place for seasoned professionals to exercise their craft as it bridges the gap for early career professionals from preparation programs to professional employment.

Placer Rep's seasoned performers, creatives, administrators and technical team members are educated, credentialed and possess prior professional experience.

### PLACER REPERTORY THEATER

- **BUSINESS OWNER:** Teresa Stirling Forsyth, Founder/President
- **WHERE:** 2351 Sunset Blvd., Suite 170-209
- **INFO:** 916-884-0055, [placerep.org](http://placerep.org)



**THANK YOU** for selecting

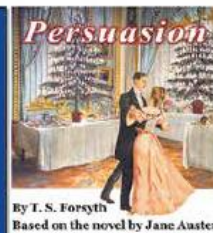
**Placer Repertory Theater**

**BEST OF THE BEST**

Live Theatrical Group



Professional performing arts and cultural programs For Placer County and beyond



# Placer Repertory Theater

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