



Placer Repertory Theater

Performing arts, cultural & economic enrichment for Placer County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 8, 2023

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Placer Rep Announces New Company Members for 2023

Positive energy and the eagerness to devote themselves to grow as artists was repeatedly evident at the Placer Rep 2023 Company Member auditions held in Rocklin, Roseville and Lincoln in January. The healthy number of candidates who turned out to audition and interview exposes the large pool of regional actors and directors hungry to dedicate themselves to growing as artists and professionals. Mined from these auditions, Placer Repertory Theater is happy to announce the acting and directing Company Members and Affiliates for 2023, which includes: Cloud Adams, Shaquarrius Calloway, Shianne Dingeman, Del Dozier, Ronnie Duska Fowler, Gary Giurbino, Matthew Heyer, Philip Jacques, Marion Jeffery, Layce Lynne Kieu, Arie Knyazev, Carol Anne Lopez, Judy Merrick, Emalie Powers and Kyla Quinn.

Some Company Members and Affiliates are seasoned professionals. For example, Company Member Judy Merrick's credits include performing at Playwrights Horizons in New York as well as an award for best actor for her performance in the touring production of Knuckleball at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and Affiliate Layce Lynne Kieu's resume includes professional stage, film, TV, and modeling credits. Working shoulder to shoulder are also early career professionals like Matthew Heyer and Shianne Dingeman, both of whom have earned their BFAs in Theatre. "This is part of the Placer Rep vision: to bridge the gap from preparatory education or amateur experience to professional employment for early career creatives as they work alongside seasoned professionals in an organization that sets a high bar of excellence," said Producing Artistic Director, T.S. Forsyth.

A few of the key benefits these company membership will enjoy include: first consideration for all Placer Repertory Theater roles and paid work opportunities, regional promotion of Company Members and Affiliates, free participation in the company's continuing education & professional growth program (Studium-Practicum) that leads to paid rehearsals and performances of locally touring works, and a nonexclusive agreement that encourages professional growth through pursuit of external opportunities.

"Getting in on the ground floor of a small but vital and growing company is exciting, because you get to wear a lot of hats if you want to, and you're helping to create and



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run programs and have a voice in the development of the company and its works,” said Matt Heyer, an affiliate who performed with Placer Rep in 2021 and 2022, and full company member for 2023. “I grow as a professional as the company grows.”

To enhance the growth of all creatives involved with Placer Repertory Theater, in 2023, Placer Rep established *Stodium-Practicum*, a professional growth program to which all company members dedicate themselves. In these sessions, core theatrical questions are cooperatively explored through analysis, skill development and experiential learning through performance, in a sophisticated and meaningful facilitated process. “One of the hallmarks of any great performing arts company is its members’ cohesion of style and attack – that its members seem to breathe together in performance. This is no happy accident or theatrical serendipity. Such brilliance is achieved through thoughtful study and practical application,” said Anne Merino, Placer Repertory Theater 2020 Founding Board Member.

While Placer Repertory Theater is a young professional theater company, from 2020-2022, it has already garnered for itself and its company members a surprising number of awards. In 2022, a few of the many awards and honors received include: twenty Broadway World Nominations, the company and its artists were honored with two California Arts Council and two Placer County Arts Council grants, were awarded funds from Armrod Charitable Foundation and several corporations, won two 2022 Best of the Best Gold Country Media Awards including Best Live Theatrical Group, and the Board President was named to Marquis’ Who’s Who in America, was an SDC Foundation Denham Fellowship finalist, and was awarded the Gloria Burt Sacramento Region Arts Fellowship in Literature through the Sacramento Region Community Foundation.

Audiences will remember Placer Repertory Theater for its recent mainstage world premiere, *Ghosts of Placer County*, a new play that wove threads of regional history through a poignant mother/daughter drama, and *New Beginnings* – an original play about Placer County railroad history, as well as *An Evening with Sherlock Holmes* and the acclaimed *Jane Austen Soiree* featuring *Persuasion: A Holiday Romantic Comedy*.

Placer Repertory Theater is a 501(c) 3 non-profit performing arts and culture non-profit organization with the mission to offer educational and quality-of-life enriching professional performing arts and cultural programs relevant to Placer County and surrounding area, while supporting local organizations and acting as an economic engine for the region. Follow Placer Repertory Theater on Facebook and social media: PlacerRep.



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BIOS – THE TEAM



TERESA STIRLING FORSYTH – Producing Artistic Director

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 international tours as an actor/singer/dancer, and director/playwright for national and international touring productions with renowned performing artists, such as Brenda Wong Aoki, and companies like Dell’Arte International. As an educator, she has instructed and directed at UC Davis, University of San Francisco, Shawnee State University, and other educational institutions. Projects on which Forsyth worked performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian, Dallas Theatre Center, San Diego Repertory Theater, and many other renowned venues, and received Dramalogue Awards, Critics Circle Awards, Broadway World Awards, the Gloria Burt Fellowship in Literature, finalist for SDC Denham Fellowship, as well as numerous grants from the NEA, NEH, CAC, ACPC and corporations. She is a member of the professional organizations: The Dramatists Guild (DGA), Stage Directors & Choreographers (SDC), The Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE).



ANNE MERINO – 2020 Founding Board Member

Merino began her career dancing for notable companies such as American Ballet Theatre and the London Festival Ballet. A prolific choreographer, she won the Vanguard Award for Choreography. Merino’s traditional theatrical training was received at Chicago’s Goodman Theatre, Second City with Del Close and Jim Belushi and later trained under Alan Rickman at the British American Drama Academy. As an actress, and former member of AEA, SAG/AFTRA, Ms. Merino performed with The Groundlings and Tim Robbins’ The Actors’ Gang and is a member of the theatre department faculty at William Jessup University. As a writer, she recently won film festival awards for her screenplay, *“The Season of the Wolf,”* and received critical acclaim for her novel, *Hawkesmoor*.



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MATTHEW HEYER – Company Member

Graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he received his BFA in Theatre, Matthew won the Irene Ryan award for his ensemble work in 2018 and for his performance as Elliot in *Completeness* in 2019. His favorite mainstage productions include Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Charles in *As You Like It*, Thomas Putnam in *The Crucible*, and Shakespeare in *The Bard on Broadway*. Matt studied IPA and performs Dialect Coach duties for Placer Repertory Theater productions. As an actor, for Placer Rep in

2021, Matthew has played the characters George and Milo in *From the Mind of Scott Charles*, and the title role in “An Evening with Sherlock Holmes” featuring a new play based on *The Sign of the Four* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and was the understudy for Kenny Greene and Guide-Master Jack for the world premiere of *Ghosts of Placer County* in 2022.

THE “EVENT”

WHO:

Placer Repertory Theater

WHAT:

Placer Repertory Theater announces new 2023 Company Members and Affiliates

WHERE:

N/A

WHEN:

Auditions were held January 21 through January 24 in Lincoln, Roseville & Rocklin, and through custom appointments through February 3, 2023.

FMI:

<https://PlacerRep.org>

GRAPHIC BELOW:



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Placer Rep 2023 Company Members & Affiliates

Back Row (left to right): Emalie Powers, Matthew Heyer, Ronnie Duska Fowler, Judy Merrick, Cloud Adams, Carol Anne Lopez, Arie Knyazev, Shaquarrius Calloway

Front Row (left to right): Gary Giurbino, Kyla Quinn, Philip Jacques, Shianne Dingeman, Del Dozier.

Not pictured: Marion Jeffery, Layce Lynne Kieu.

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