

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Katie Perkowski
Director of Marketing & Communications
Alabama Shakespeare Festival
kperkowski@asf.net
334.271.5326



A delightful romp through the Hundred Acre Wood!
Alabama Shakespeare Festival presents *Winnie-the-Pooh*

MONTGOMERY, Ala., (February 19, 2019) — Alabama Shakespeare Festival presents an adaptation of A.A. Milne’s beloved classic, *Winnie-the-Pooh* from March 3 through May 5 on the Festival Stage, dramatized by le Clanché du Rand with music by Allan J. Friedman and lyrics by A.A. Milne, Kristin Sergel, and le Clanché du Rand.

The production is recommended for ages three and older. Tickets begin at \$16 and are available by calling 334.271.5353 or visiting the ASF Box Office, open Monday through Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., or anytime online at asf.net. Matinee performance times vary; Saturday performances are at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m., and Sunday performances are at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

In this musical adaptation of the *Winnie-the-Pooh* stories, the beloved inhabitants of the Hundred Acre Wood come to life to enchant fans of all ages. It’s Eeyore’s birthday, but he’s lost his tail, and Rabbit is worried about the arrival of new creatures in the wood — a Kanga and Roo, who have arrived with a bathtub and soap! Owl and Christopher Robin join the adventure as Pooh and Piglet try to catch the dreaded Heffalump.

“The beautiful thing about rediscovering Winnie-the-Pooh and the other characters in the Hundred Acre Wood is how timeless the lessons in the story are,” says guest director Neil David Seibel. “They are simple lessons, but ones every generation needs to learn, such as how to deal with fear when something scares you, or maybe in this story, how not to deal with being afraid of someone else. How to take responsibility when you’ve let someone down. How to say you are sorry, and maybe just as important, how to accept an apology and move on. All in all, it is a great show for children as well as the grownups coming with them.”

ASF will host a sensory friendly performance of *Winnie-the-Pooh* on March 23 at 10:00 a.m. The sensory-friendly performance features a friendly, supportive environment for families with a loved one with special needs, particularly those on the autism spectrum. Adaptations to the performance are slight, including lower sound levels; elimination of potentially startling special effects and lighting; and house lights on at about 35%. The members of the audience are invited to move around, as well as leave and return as needed. Electronics (tablets, etc.) will be permitted for therapeutic uses, and a quiet area will be provided to take breaks from the performance. The sensory-friendly performance is made possible with the assistance of Easterseals Central Alabama.

The production features this year’s class of Acting, Design, and Production Fellows. This group of thirteen early-career artists in residence have appeared in and worked on a touring production of William Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*, and will join the repertory company for both Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town* and Shakespeare’s *Romeo & Juliet*.

The cast includes Acting Fellows Toree Alexandre (Yonkers, NY) as Roo; Tyshon Boone (New York, NY) as Pooh; Katrina Clark (Washington, D.C.) as Rabbit; Chris Marth (Carlisle, PA) as Eeyore; Dane McMichael (Philadelphia, PA) as Christopher Robin; Tony Pellegrino (Chicago, IL) as Owl; Eduardo Ruiz (Mayaguez, Puerto Rico) as Kanga; and Sigrid Wise (Jackson, MS) as Piglet.

The creative team includes Scenic Designer Charles Eddie Moncrief, III, Costume Designer Jeffrey Todhunter, Lighting Designer Tom Rodman, Sound Designer/Fellow Russell Bush, Stage Manager/Fellow Alena Efremova, and Musical Director Patrick Darby.

###

EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY – ONE STORY AT A TIME.

Alabama Shakespeare Festival is a not-for-profit organization under the direction of Artistic Director Rick Dildine and Executive Director Todd Schmidt. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF is a leader in education and outreach, serving more than 40,000 students annually with artistic programming. ASF is supported by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.