

# FLORIDA REPERTORY THEATRE

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## 2016-2017 SEASON

ARTSTAGE STUDIO THEATRE • FORT MYERS RIVER DISTRICT  
ROBERT CACIOPPO, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**PRESENTS**

# Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End

by Allison Engel & Margaret Engel

DIRECTED BY **MICHAEL MAROTTA\*\***

SPONSORED BY **NU IMAGE CLEANERS**

STARRING  
*Ensemble Member*  
**CARRIE LUND\***

SET/PROJECTION DESIGNER  
**JORDAN MOORE**

LIGHTING/SOUND DESIGNER  
**JOHN KISELICA**

COSTUME DESIGNER  
**ALEXANDRIA VAZQUEZ**

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER  
**AMY L. MASSARI\***  
*ensemble member*

ASST. STAGE MANAGER  
**RACHAEL BECHTEL**

ASST. SOUND DESIGNER  
**RHIAN FRANCHEBOIS**

ERMA BOMBECK: AT WIT'S END is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.  
Originally developed for the stage with David Esbjornson

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This entire season sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Florida Repertory Theatre is a fully professional non-profit LOA/LORT Theatre company on contract with the Actors' Equity Association that proudly employs members of the national theatrical labor unions. \*Member of Actors' Equity Association. \*\*Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. \*\*\*Member of United Scenic Artists.

# CAST

Erma Bombeck.....**CARRIE LUND\***

## TIME & PLACE

The Present and various times from 1962-1996 at the Bombeck home in suburban Dayton, Ohio.

**ERMA BOMBECK: AT WIT'S END** will be performed without an intermission.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

**Wardrobe Supervisor: Pingwei Li**

## ABOUT THE WRITERS

**ALLISON ENGEL (Playwright)** has been a reporter for the *Des Moines Tribune*, *San Jose Mercury* and *Pacific News Service* and was a Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University. She and her twin Margaret wrote the play *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins*. She also has been a speechwriter and aide for former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack and lieutenant governor Sally Pederson. In Iowa, she was active in the Des Moines Playhouse, serving as president and head of play selection. She recently spent five years as director of communications at the University of Southern California before becoming the associate director of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities at the university. She received an MA in screenwriting from USC in 2009. She is married to Scott Kirkpatrick, and they have two children, Miles and Nora. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild.

**MARGARET ENGEL (Playwright)** directs the Alicia Patterson Journalism Foundation and was the managing editor of the Newseum. She and her twin Allison wrote *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins*. She was a reporter for *The Washington Post*, *Des Moines Register* and *Lorain Journal* and was a Nieman fellow at Harvard. She and Allison wrote *Food Finds: America's Best Local Foods and the People Who Produce Them* and helped turn the book into a show for Food Network, where it ran for seven years. She serves on the board of Theatre Washington/Helen Hayes Awards, The Nieman Foundation and chairs the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards board. She and her husband, Bruce Adams, wrote three editions of a travel guide to America's baseball parks with the help of their children, Emily and Hugh. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild.

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†Member of Florida Repertory Theatre's *Ensemble of Theatre Artists*. See page 23 for the entire ensemble.



The Actors & Stage Manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



## CREATIVE TEAM



**CARRIE LUND\*** (Erma Bombeck) is Co-founder, a company member, and Associate Producer of Florida Rep, and has acted in over 90 productions in Southwest Florida. In 2012, she was named Best Actress of the Year and

named one of the "Power Women of the Year" by *Florida Weekly*. She produced and acted on Sanibel Island from 1984-1998 at the Pirate Playhouse and on Captiva Island with Carrie Lund Presents. She taught theatre at Florida Gulf Coast University in her hometown of Erie, PA and New York City, and performed in regional theatres in NY, VT and NC, as well as the Three River Shakespeare Festival, Pittsburgh Playhouse, and American Ibsen Theatre in Pittsburgh, PA. In 1987, the Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of Commerce awarded her the Distinguished Citizen Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997. Carrie has been in all eight Florida Rep shows reviewed by *The Wall Street Journal*: *The Cocktail Hour*, *One Slight Hitch*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *The Little Foxes*, *God of Carnage*, *Sylvia*, *You Can't Take It with You*, and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Other selected credits include Florida Rep's *Becky's New Car*, *The Unexpected Guest*, *Dividing the Estate*, *Tribes*, *Heart Song*, *Clybourne Park*, *Rumors* (2002, 2011), *August: Osage County*, *Noises Off* (1998, 2010), *The Last Romance*, *Enchanted April*, *Rabbit Hole*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, *All My Sons*, and *Private Lives*. Married to Robert Cacioppo, she enjoys the accomplishments of their best productions: Matt, graduate of UCF and Julia, graduate of FSU.

**MICHAEL MAROTTA\*\* (Director)** is delighted to return here to Florida Rep's ArtStage Studio Theatre where he directed last season's culinary hit *I Loved, I Lost, I Made Spaghetti* and the 2014 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical revue: *A Grand Night for Singing*. He performed here in the 2013's *The Fantasticks* and assisted Robert in 2015 on *Fascinatin' Gershwin*, a show he had the pleasure of performing in since its inception. Michael's collaborations with Robert Cacioppo and Carrie Lund date back to their very first season on Sanibel Island. Locally, he directed *The Game's Afoot* at the Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples. Michael served as Artistic Director for The Theatre Barn in the Berkshires for eight seasons before reigniting his acting career. Very recent credits include *It Shoulda Been You* (STAGES St. Louis)

and *Young Frankenstein* (The Muny, St. Louis). Last summer he played opposite Tony Award nominee Sally Mayes as Herbie in *Gypsy* and was featured in two original musicals at the Signature Theater in NYC. Other recent favorites include *The Music Man* opposite Will Chase with the 90-piece Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Herr Schultz in *Cabaret* at both St. Louis Rep and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, where he originated 13 roles in *Tenderly - the Rosemary Clooney Musical*, roles he looks forward to recreating at the Ivoryton Playhouse in Connecticut after *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End* opens. A proud member of SDC and AEA, Michael has twice been the recipient of both the BACKSTAGE Bistro Award and the MAC Award for his work as a cabaret artist.

**RACHAEL BECHTEL (Asst. Stage Manager)** is a recent graduate from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she received her BFA in Technical Theatre. Her favorite collegiate Stage Management credits include: *She Kills Monsters*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and *The Bungler*. Having been born and raised in Charlotte, NC, Rachael is thrilled to have moved to Fort Myers to be a part of Florida Repertory Theatre's 19<sup>th</sup> season as a stage management intern! She would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support.

**RHIAN FRANCHEBOIS (Asst. Sound Designer)** is a first-time intern at Florida Repertory Theatre. She recently graduated from Flagler College with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts. This is her first job after college, and she hopes she pleases your ears.

**JOHN KISELICA (Lighting/Sound Designer)** is a graduate of West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in lighting and sound design. He is the Resident Sound and Lighting Designer for Endstation Theatre Company in Central VA and acts as the Lighting and Sound Supervisor for year round consultation and project specific work. He has worked on a national tour, *Buddy: the Buddy Holly Musical*, as the master electrician after a contract with Royal Caribbean International as a stage technician. Commercial theatrical work includes installing Prodigy Hoists, an automated rigging system from Electronic Theatre Controls. John continues to freelance in addition to his seasonal position with Florida Rep in the professional, academic, and community theatre circles.

Erma Bombeck:  
At Wit's End

# CREATIVE TEAM

**AMY L. MASSARI\*** (Production Stage Manager) is pleased to be returning for her eighth season as Florida Rep's resident stage manager and ensemble member. Amy has been a proud member of Actor's Equity Association for the past 26 years, working in some of the country's finest regional theatres: the Alley Theatre (Houston, TX), the Dallas Theatre Center (Dallas, TX), Stage-West (Springfield, MA), the Pioneer Memorial (Salt Lake City, UT), and the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (Boulder, CO). Among her favorite Florida Rep productions are *I Loved, I Lost, I Made Spaghetti*, *The Dingdong*, *Split in Three*, *The Fantasticks*, *August: Osage County*, *Sylvia*, and *God of Carnage*. Amy has been happily married to her husband of 20 years, Michael. Michael is a terrific partner, teacher, and father to their children Jesse Cheyenne and Caleb Dakota.

**JORDAN MOORE** (Set/Projection Designer) is thrilled to return to Florida Rep as a Resident Designer this season after desinging the set for *The Seafarer* in 2015. He is a graduate of Florida State University, where he received a Dual Degree in Theatre and Media Productions. Having a primary focus in Scenic Design/Scenic Art, he has designed a variety of shows at FSU including *Bat Boy*, *Company*, and *The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*. Additionally, Jordan has designed over

18 musicals and plays for the Stagedoor Manor Camp of Performing Arts including *Godspell*, *The Secret Garden*, and *The Sound of Music*. In the last two years, Jordan has designed several shows for Florida Rep's Theatre for Young Audiences series including *A Year With Frog and Toad*, *The Red Badge of Courage*, *Journey to Oz*, *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, and the current seasons touring shows, *Miss Nelson is Missing* and *A Dream Within A Dream: The Spirit of Poe*.

**ALEXANDRIA VAZQUEZ** (Costume Designer) was born and raised in Orlando, Florida. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Costume Design from Rollins College and a Master of Fine Arts in Costume Design & Technology from West Virginia University. She has designed costumes and worked on productions at both educational institutions and professional theatres including the Ohio Light Opera, Cincinnati Opera, The Lexington Children Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and Hanger Theatre. Alexandria is thrilled to be joining the Rep as the Costume Shop Manager and Resident Costume Designer for the 2016-2017 season, her third season with the company. She wants to thank her familia for their continuous support and for being her own personal cheerleaders.  
[www.alexandriavazquezcostumedesign.com](http://www.alexandriavazquezcostumedesign.com)

## SPECIAL THANKS:

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**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA)** was founded in 1913 as the first of the American Actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org).



**FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL THEATRES ASSOCIATION (FPTA)** is a statewide organization of professional theatre companies and theatre professionals interested in the development and promotion of professional theatre throughout Florida. Florida Repertory Theatre is a proud FPTA member theatre.



**THE NATIONAL NEW PLAY NETWORK** is the country's alliance of nonprofit theaters that champions the development, production, and continued life of new plays. The NNPN strives to pioneer, implement, and disseminate ideas and programs that revolutionize the way theaters collaborate to support new plays and playwrights. Florida Repertory Theatre is proud to be an Associate Member of the National New Play Network.



Florida Repertory Theatre is a member of **THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (TCG)**, the national organization for the American Theatre.