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**BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE NAVIGATES NEW TERRITORY
WITH ORIGINAL FILM PROJECT,
*THE WAVES IN QUARANTINE***

Ambitious project includes celebrated Broadway talents Carmen Cusack, Raúl Esparza, Alice Ripley, Nikki Renée Daniels, Darius de Haas, and Manu Narayan

April 21, 2021-Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Artistic Director **Johanna Pfaelzer** today announced an ambitious new work, ***The Waves in Quarantine***, a project consisting of six short films that meditates on friendship, loss, and the making of art in this world-changing year, inspired by Virginia Woolf's 1931 masterpiece. Produced by the Theatre and based on a musical adaptation of Woolf's novel, *The Waves*, the film features a celebrated Broadway cast including **Alice Ripley** (Tony Award winner, *Next to Normal*) **Raúl Esparza** (Tony Award nominee, *Company*, and star of *Law & Order: SVU*), and **Carmen Cusack** (Tony Award nominee, *Bright Star*), directed by two-time Obie Award winner **Lisa Peterson** with award-winning cinematographer **Zelmira Gainza** (*Luxor, The Outside Story*) serving as director of photography. Additional cast members include **Nikki Renée Daniels** (*The Book of Mormon*), **Darius de Haas** (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*), and **Manu Narayan** (*My Fair Lady*). The creative team includes **Mary-Mitchell Campbell** (music director, *The Prom* and *Mean Girls*), Tony Award winner **Rachel Hauck** (set designer, *Hadestown*), and Line Producer **Mélisa Annis** (*Glimpse*). ***The Waves in Quarantine*** is conceived by **Esparza** and **Peterson**, written by **Peterson**, with music and lyrics by **David Bucknam**, with additional music and lyrics by **Adam Gwon**. ***The Waves in Quarantine*** will be available for **free** beginning **Thursday, April 29-Friday, May 28** and can be streamed on the Berkeley Rep website, berkeleyrep.org. The running time for each of the six movements is 10-20 minutes for a total running time of approximately 90 minutes.

In kitchens and on couches, at beaches and on rooftops, ***The Waves in Quarantine*** invites an audience into the creative process. As Virginia Woolf ingeniously excavated the inner lives of six friends in her groundbreaking novel, Peterson and her collaborators create a film in six movements that meditates on themes from the musical adaptation of Virginia Woolf's masterpiece *The Waves*.

The Waves in Quarantine builds upon Woolf's gorgeous prose to reveal an intimate look at where art meets isolation, creating something entirely new in the process. This theatrical experience for the screen gifts us with many of the things we've been missing in the past year: music in unexpected places, the intimacy of strangers, metaphor in the ordinary. Through a combination of dazzling choral music, text from the novel itself, exquisite visual imagery, and intimate access behind the scenes as these artists imagine, question, explore, and experiment, ***The Waves in Quarantine*** juxtaposes the majestic with the everyday to forge a truly unique work of interdisciplinary art, made of and for this moment.

"The musical adaptation of *The Waves* is a project that Lisa and Raúl and I have been in a long-term conversation about, since we did a developmental production of it at New York Stage and Film in 2018," said Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer. "As the pandemic took hold, they began to imagine a way to make use of this time of isolation, shutdown, and longing — whose themes are so poignantly paralleled in Woolf's novel itself. An extraordinary group of artists assembled around this effort, coming together remotely from far-flung locations, and this series of six short films is constructed to share their exploration of Woolf's text (as reimagined by Lisa) and the gorgeous music composed by David Bucknam and Adam Gwon. Making films (and making them remotely!) is certainly new territory for Berkeley Rep, but this time has required that we all learn new ways of supporting artists, engaging with audiences, and sharing stories. I am incredibly proud of the form-breaking work that this team has created, and can't wait to bring it to an audience."

The Waves musical adaptation was originally produced by New York Theatre Workshop in 1991 and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award (Outstanding Music); it was recently revived and reworked at New York Stage and Film in 2018. This 2021 version, ***The Waves in Quarantine***, was shot at home and outside by the six actors and a team of theatre professionals spanning the United States and Europe, working remotely using DSLR cameras and iPhones. The director of photography worked in Sweden, with the technical team spread between Berkeley and New York, the editing team in Arizona and New York, the music team in Upstate New York and Manhattan, the director in Los Angeles, and the actors in Pennsylvania, California, New Jersey, and New York.

A virtual opening night is planned for **Thursday, April 29 at 6pm (PT)** and will include a screening of all six movements and a conversation with Lisa Peterson, Raúl Esparza and Adam Gwon. A second virtual event is scheduled for **Thursday, May 6** and will include a conversation with members of the cast. Both events will be moderated by Artistic Director **Johanna Pfaelzer** and Berkeley Rep's Resident Dramaturg **Madeleine Oldham** live via Zoom.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Carmen Cusack (Carmen/Jinny)

Carmen's recent work was cut short last year when she was to embark upon the role of Clare Booth Luce in James Lapine's *Flying Over Sunset* at the Lincoln Center Theater. Now due to open fall 2021. She was last seen on Broadway in Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's *Bright Star* (Cort Theater), where she received a Theater World Award and the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Drama League, and Grammy nominations for playing Alice Murphy. Her regional and off-Broadway credits include Raphael in *Lempicka* at (Williamstown Theatre Festival), Sally Adams in *Call Me Madame* (City Center Encores!), Dot/Marie in *Sunday in the Park with George* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Ms. Gardner in *Carrie* (MCC), and Mother in *Ragtime* (Milwaukee Rep). She was Nellie Forbush in LCT's national tour of *South Pacific* and Elpheba in *Wicked* (first national tour and Melbourne, Australia). Her West End credits include Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*, Fantine in *Les Misérables*, Rose in *The Secret Garden* (Royal Shakespeare Company), and Eva Cassidy in *Over the Rainbow*. Film and TV credits: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, *Sorry for Your Loss* (Facebook series).

Nikki Renée Daniels (Nikki/Susan)

Nikki recently played Angelica Schuyler in *Hamilton* at the CIBC Theater in Chicago. Broadway: *Company* (Jenny); *The Book of Mormon* (Nabulungi); *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* (Clara); *Les Misérables* (Fantine); *Anything Goes*; *Promises, Promises*; *Aida*; *Nine*; *Little Shop of Horrors*; *Lestat*; and *The Look of Love*. Other New York credits include Martha Jefferson in *1776* at City Center Encores, Rose Lennox in *The Secret Garden* at David Geffen Hall, and Tracy in the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. On television, Nikki has appeared on *Chappelle's Show*, *Madam Secretary*, and *The Sound of Music: Live*. She has performed as a soloist with numerous symphony orchestras across the country and in Canada, and at Carnegie Hall. She holds a BFA in musical theatre from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music.

Raúl Esparza (Raúl/Bernard/Associate Director)

Television: *Take Me to the World: A Sondheim 90th Birthday Celebration* (creator, exec. producer, and performer), *Broadway Remembers* (director), *Dopesick*, *The Good Fight*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Hannibal*, *The Path*, *Suspicion*, *Bojack Horseman*, *Pushing Daisies*. Film: *Find Me Guilty*, *Custody*, *Ferdinand*, *My Soul to Take*, *Elian*, *Glimpse*. Broadway: *Leap of Faith*, *Arcadia*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *The Homecoming*, *Company*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Taboo*, *Cabaret*, *The Rocky Horror Show*. Off Broadway: *Seared*; *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*; *The Normal Heart*; *Comedians*; *tick, tick... BOOM!*; *ENCORES!*; *Anyone Can Whistle*; *The Cradle Will Rock*; *Road Show*. Shakespeare in the Park's *Twelfth Night*, *Cymbeline*. Kennedy Center: *Chess*, 2002 Sondheim Celebration: *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Merrily We Roll Along*. Regional: *The Waves*; *Cry*, *The Beloved Country*; *Slaughterhouse-Five*; *Fur*, *What the Butler Saw*; *Arcadia*. Four-time Tony Award nominee in every acting category. Recipient of the Obie, the New York Outer Critics Award, the Barrymore, the LA Ovation Award, the Jose Ferrer Award, three Drama Desk Awards, and the Theater World Award.

Darius de Haas (Darius/Neville)

Darius enjoys a multifaceted career as an actor, singer, and recording artist whose credits range from the Broadway stage to TV to concert venues throughout the world. His notable theatre, regional, and touring credits include his Obie Award-winning leading performance in *Running Man* (Music-Theater Group), Cain/Japheth in *Children of Eden* (Paper Mill Playhouse), *Saturn Returns* (The Public Theater), *Cry*, *The Beloved Country* (Goodman Theatre), *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* (Playwrights Horizons), *Once on This Island* (first national tour), the world premiere of the John Adams/June Jordan opera *I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky*, Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar — Gospel* (Alliance Theatre), and Duke Senior in *As You Like It* (Public Works/The Public Theater Delacorte). He made his Broadway debut in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, followed by the premiere productions of *Carousel* (revival at Lincoln Center), *Rent*, *The Gershwins' Fascinating Rhythm*, *Marie Christine*, and *Shuffle Along*. He is the singing voice of Shy Baldwin on the TV show *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. He has been a soloist with several leading orchestras and music halls around the country. He has also performed as soloist at Carnegie Hall, London's Royal Festival Hall, Disney Concert Hall, Lincoln Center's American Songbook, and The Kennedy Center. Darius serves on the international board of directors for Covenant House, which provides shelter and services for homeless youth here in the U.S. and South America. He is also a founding member of the organization Black Theatre United whose mission is to address and break down the walls of systemic and institutional racism in the theatre and in our country. He is featured on numerous original cast albums and soundtrack recordings, as well as his solo recording, *Darius de Haas: Day Dream — Variations on Strayhorn*, and *Quiet Please* (with renowned pianist Steven Blier). Darius released his first Christmas single last year.

Manu Narayan (Manu/ Louis)

Broadway: *Getting' the Band Back Together* (Robbie), *My Fair Lady* 2019 Lincoln Center Theater revival (Zoltan), *Bombay Dreams* (Akaash – Drama League nomination). National Tour: *Miss Saigon*. Off Broadway: *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Yeast Nation*, *Falsettoland*, *Sidd*, *suburbia*, *Getting Home*, and *Fucking A*. Regional: La Jolla Playhouse, The Kennedy Center, Baltimore Centerstage, Yale Rep, St. Louis Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, The MUNY, Pittsburgh CLO. Film/ TV: *99 homes*, *The Love Guru*, *The Last Airbender*, *Emergence*, *Bull*, *Blacklist*, *Unforgettable*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Rubicon*, *Nurse Jackie*, *The Sopranos*. Manu is a proud graduate of Carnegie Mellon University.

Alice Ripley (Alice/ Rhoda)

This is Alice's first project with Berkeley Rep. Alice appeared in *The Waves* as Rhoda at New York Stage and Film/Vassar. She won the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical for Diana Goodman in *Next to Normal*. Original Broadway cast: *Next to Normal*, *Side Show* (Tony nomination, Best Actress in a Musical), *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *James Joyce's The Dead*, *American Psycho*, *King David*. Off Broadway: *The Vagina Monologues* (Westside Theatre), *Civil War Christmas* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Cather County* (Playwrights Horizons), *Five Flights* (Rattlestick Theater). Regional: *Clybourne Park* (Long Wharf Theatre), *Tell Me on a Sunday* (Kennedy Center, Helen Hayes nomination), *Company* (Kennedy Center, Helen Hayes nomination), *Shakespeare in Hollywood* (Arena Stage, Helen Hayes nomination). Film: *SUGAR!*, *Isn't It Delicious*, *The Adulterer*. Television: *30 Rock*, *The Tonight Show*, *The View*, *Blue Bloods*, *Hee Haw*.

Lisa Peterson (Writer/Director)

Lisa, formerly Berkeley Rep's associate director, returns to the Theatre where she directed *Culture Clash (Still) in America*, *The Good Book* (co-written with Denis O'Hare), *Office Hour*, *Watch on the Rhine*, *It Can't Happen Here* (2016 production and 2020 radio play adaptation), *The Madwoman in the Volvo*, *An Iliad* (also co-written with Denis O'Hare), *Mother Courage*, *The Fall*, and *Antony & Cleopatra*. She directed Lauren Yee's *The Great Leap* at American Conservatory Theater last year. At Center Theatre Group, she recently directed Lynn Nottage's *Sweat* as well as Culture Clash's *Chavez Ravine* (2015 Ovation Award, Best Production); *Palestine*, *New Mexico*; and *Water and Power*; among other plays. A two-time Obie Award-winner, she has directed world premieres by Tony Kushner, Beth Henley, Naomi Wallace, Chay Yew, Luis Alfaro, Fernanda Coppel, David Henry Hwang, Stephen Belber, Jose Rivera, Ellen McLaughlin, Marlane Meyer, Philip Kan Gotanda, Lisa Ramirez, John Belluso, Caryl Churchill, Janusz Glowacki, Cheryl West, and many others at theatres including New York Theatre Workshop, The Public Theater, Vineyard Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Primary Stages, Guthrie Theater, Actors Theater of Louisville, Seattle Repertory, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Arena Stage, the Alley, and McCarter Theatre Center. She was associate director at La Jolla Playhouse for three years and resident director at Mark Taper Forum for 10 years. She is currently working on a new version of her musical adaptation of Virginia Woolf's *The Waves*, music by David Bucknam and Adam Gwon (premiered at NYTW 1990 and New York Stage and Film 2018); *The Song of Rome* with Denis O'Hare, commission for the McCarter Theatre; and *The Idea of Order* with composer Todd Almond, commissioned by Berkeley Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, and Seattle Rep.

David Bucknam (Composer/Lyricist)

David was a self-taught pianist, composer, writer, director, choreographer, and teacher. His work for the stage included his musical adaptation of Virginia Woolf's *The Waves*, written with Lisa Peterson, which received Drama Desk Award nominations for best score and best direction; *The Little Hours/Such a Pretty Little Picture*, two related one acts based on the writings of Dorothy Parker; *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mister Hyde*, adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's novel with James Magruder and Ms. Peterson; and *Mrs. Dalloway and the Aeroplane* by Virginia Woolf, again with director Lisa Peterson. His music and lyrics for *Lysistrata* for The People's Friendship Theatre in Moscow, Russia, became the first

collaboration between Russian and American writers in musical theatre. He devised and composed *Street Songs*, a live, multimedia musical documentary dramatizing the lives of several street performers in NYC, which had workshops at The Public Theater and Musical Theater Works. He also left behind an unfinished original musical about growing up in upstate New York in the '80s called *Everything on White Bread*, which was commissioned by Playwrights Horizons. In 1989 David joined the faculty of Playwrights Horizons Theater School, where he helped develop the Music Theater Program which he ran until his death in 1998, at the age of 32. He served as the resident composer for the Hangar Theatre and the artistic director of its Lab Company in the early '80s. He was a member of the Dramatists Guild and attended Ithaca College.

Adam Gwon (Composer/Lyricist)

Adam is a composer and lyricist whose musicals have been produced on six continents, in more than half a dozen languages. His off-Broadway credits include *Scotland, PA* (Roundabout Theatre Company – Drama Desk nomination, NYT Critic's Pick), *Ordinary Days* (Roundabout Theatre Company, Keen Company revival – Drama League Award nomination), and *Old Jews Telling Jokes* (Westside Theatre – NYT Critic's Pick). Regionally, his musicals *String*, *Cake Off*, *Cloudlands*, *The Boy Detective Fails*, and *Bernice Bobs Her Hair* have premiered at South Coast Repertory, Signature Theatre, Bucks County Playhouse, Village Theatre, Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma, and others. His songs have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and more, by such luminaries as Audra McDonald, Kelli O'Hara, and Brian d'Arcy James. Recordings of Adam's work include *Ordinary Days* (Ghostlight Records), Audra McDonald's *Go Back Home* (Nonesuch), *Artists in Residence* (Broadway Records), *The Essential Liz Callaway*, and *Over the Moon: The Broadway Lullaby Album*.

Mary-Mitchell Campbell (Music Director and Orchestrator)

Mary-Mitchell is a conductor, music director, orchestrator, composer, and arranger. Broadway: *The Prom*, *Mean Girls*, *My Love Letter to Broadway with Kristin Chenoweth*, *For The Girls*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Finding Neverland*, *Big Fish*, *The Addams Family*, *Company*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Drama Desk Award for Best Orchestrations for *Company*. She is the founder and executive director of ASTEP — Artists Striving To End Poverty (astep.org) which uses the arts to work with children in under-resourced communities. She is a Founding Member of MUSE — Musicians United for Social Equity (museonline.org). She is from North Carolina and has taught on the faculties of Juilliard, NYU, and Boston College.

Zelmira Gainza (Director of Photography)

Zelmira is a British/Argentine cinematographer. Her recent credits include *Luxor* (Sundance 2020), *The Outside Story* (Tribeca 2020), *EGG* (Tribeca 2018), *Tooth and Nail* (SXSW 2018), *So Good To See You* (Sundance 2016), and *Havana Motor Club* (Tribeca 2016). She has worked all over the world shooting narrative, commercial, and documentary work. She lives between New York and Stockholm.

Rachel Hauck (Production Designer)

Rachel is a set designer based in New York. Her work on Broadway includes *Hadestown*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, and *Latin History for Morons*. Recent work in New York includes *The Wrong Man* (MCC), *Hurricane Diane* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Othello* and *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare in the Park), *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova), *You'll Still Call Me by Name* (Sonya Tayeh/Jacob's Pillow), and *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *Dry Powder* (The Public Theater), among others. Rachel is fortunate to have designed for Berkeley Rep many times, including *The Good Book*, *It Can't Happen Here*, *Mother Courage*, *An Iliad*, as well as the upcoming *Swept Away*. She is the recipient of an Obie Award for Sustained Excellence and a Tony Award for her design of *Hadestown*.

Mélisa Annis (Line Producer)

Mélisa is a Jill of many trades, and is so proud of everyone's work on *The Waves in Quarantine*. This is her second producing project during the pandemic, the first being a feature-length movie written and

directed by Theresa Rebeck, *Glimpse*. As well as producing, Mélisa is an award-winning playwright; her plays have been developed and presented at and with Primary Stages, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Parity Productions, The Lark, The New School, Tangent Theatre, About Face Dublin, and Rattlestick Playwrights Theater. She is currently working on a new musical *The King's Wife*, written with Grammy Award nominee Jamie Floyd. TV and commercial writing includes *Jessy & Nussy* (Amazon Studios), Trader Joe's Frequent Flyer segments, and Conde Nast online videos. As a director, Mélisa has had the pleasure of working with and at Red Bull Theater (*Something in the Ground* by Theresa Rebeck), Primary Stages (*A Walk with Heifetz*, *The Clinic*, *A Christmas Carol*), The Ambassadors Theatre Group, London (*Tom and Jerry vs Fred Quimby* by James Inverne), The Arcola Theatre, London (*Remember the Future* by Yasmine Lever), Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (*Matilda, the Musical*), Athena Film Festival (*Lucky 13* by Denise Meyers), Shadowland Stages (*The Night Alive*, *Mystery of Love & Sex*, *Disgraced*), Rattlestick Playwrights Theater (various readings), Clutch Productions at HERE Art Space NYC (*The Worth of Water* by Tira Palmquist), Tangent Theatre (*Circle Mirror Transformation* by Annie Baker), Rebellious Subjects (*Henry V*, *Twelfth Night*, *Hamlet*). Mélisa also teaches at the NYU Tisch Department of Dramatic Writing, and she is a fluent Welsh language speaker. Diolch!

For the 2021 season, Berkeley Rep recognizes the generous support of **BART** and **Peet's Coffee**, Berkeley Rep's official season sponsors. Berkeley Rep is also delighted to have **Bruce Golden** and **Michelle Mercer**, **Jack and Betty Schafer**, and **The Strauch Kulhanjian Family**, **Frances Hellman** and **Warren Breslau**, and **Michael and Sue Steinberg** on board as season sponsors. **Rep On-Air** is supported by a generous gift from **The Bernard Osher Foundation**.

ABOUT BERKELEY REP

Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to an international leader in innovative theatre. Known for its ambition, relevance, and excellence, as well as its adventurous audience, the nonprofit has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. Over 5.5 million people have enjoyed nearly 500 shows at Berkeley Rep, which have gone on to win six Tony Awards, seven Obie Awards, nine Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, one Pulitzer Prize, and many other honors. Berkeley Rep received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997. To formalize, enhance, and expand the processes by which Berkeley Rep makes theatre, The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work was launched in 2012. The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre engages and educates some 20,000 people a year and helps build the audiences of tomorrow with its nationally recognized teen programs. Berkeley Rep's bustling facilities—which also include the 400-seat Peet's Theatre, the 600-seat Roda Theatre, and a spacious campus in West Berkeley—are helping revitalize a renowned city. Be a Rep.

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