

Press Contact:  
Tim Etheridge, Director of Public Relations  
510 647-2917; [tetheridge@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:tetheridge@berkeleyrep.org)

Updated November 9, 2021  
For Immediate Release

**BERKELEY REP ANNOUNCES FULL CAST FOR SEASON OPENER *WINTERTIME***  
**Charles L. Mee's acclaimed comedy directed by longtime collaborator Les Waters**

**September 7, 2021** – Berkeley Repertory Theatre today announced casting for its production of *Wintertime* by **Charles L. Mee**, directed by Berkeley Rep's former Associate Artistic Director **Les Waters**. The upcoming production will include many beloved local actors: **James Carpenter**, **Sarah Nina Hayon**, **Lorri Holt**, **Sharon Lockwood**, **Micah Peoples**, **Nora El Samahy**, and **Jomar Tagatac**. Rounding out the talented cast are **Carmen Berkeley**, **Thomas Jay Ryan**, and **David Ryan Smith**. The entire creative team is comprised of Bay Area-based designers including **Annie Smart** (scenic design), **Anna Oliver** (costume design), **Russell H. Champa** (lighting design), and **Jake Rodriguez** (sound design).

*Wintertime* is the story of a gloriously eccentric family who arrive at their summer house in the winter woods for supposedly secret rendezvous — and soon bodies collide, doors slam, dishes fly, and everyone's perfect plans go fantastically awry. With a wink to Magritte, a nod to Shakespeare, and a toast to the Greeks, this poetic and hyper-kinetic voyage through the human heart never lets us forget that love, like life, is eternal, messy...and wondrous.

"After a year and a half of experiencing theatre and art and communication in small digital spaces, it's thrilling to be going back into the room with new and old friends to make a magical celebration of what it's like to be alive, to be in love," said *Wintertime* director **Les Waters**. "This is a gift for those who love theatre."

"We are counting the days until we open our doors again, and I can't imagine a more joyous reunion of theatregoers and theatre-makers than with this production of *Wintertime*," said Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer. "I'm thrilled to welcome Les Waters back to Berkeley Rep (his production of Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* is high on my list of great nights in the theatre!), and the marriage of Les' extraordinary theatrical imagination with Chuck's delightful romp of a play will be a delightful way to return to producing. Les has assembled a wonderful company of actors and designers — many of whom are familiar favorites of our community, along with some new people I know our audiences will fall in love with."

*Wintertime* begins previews on **Friday, November 12** and runs through **Sunday, December 19**. Tickets can be purchased online at [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org) or by phone at 510 647-2949. **Press night** will be on **Wednesday, November 17**.

## **BIOS**

### **Charles L. Mee (Playwright)**

In the past, Charles Mee's plays *Big Love* and *Fêtes de la Nuit* were performed at Berkeley Rep, both directed by Les Waters, and now here is *Wintertime*, directed by Les Waters. Charles Mee has also written *True Love* and *First Love*, *bobrauschenbergamerica* and *Hotel Cassiopeia*, *Orestes 2.0* and *Trojan Women: A Love Story*, among other plays — all of them available on the internet at charlesmee.org. His plays have also been performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, American Repertory Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, The Public Theater, Lincoln Center, 2nd Stage, La MaMa, the Humana Festival, Steppenwolf, and other places in the United States as well as in Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, London, Brussels, Vienna, Istanbul, and elsewhere. He was honored with a full season of his plays at the Signature Theatre. Among other awards, he is the recipient of the Award of Merit in drama from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, two Obies, of a Laura Pels Award, the Booth Award, and of the Richard B. Fisher Award. His work is made possible by the support of Jeanne Donovan Fisher and Richard B. Fisher.

### **Les Waters (Director)**

Les Waters is an Obie Award-winning director and was associate artistic director at Berkeley Rep from 2003-11. At the Berkeley Rep, his productions included *Big Love*, *Fêtes de la Nuit*, *Eurydice*, *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)*, *Yellowman*, *A Doll's House Part 2*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Red*, *Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West*, *Girlfriend*, and *The Pillowman*. His productions have been seen on Broadway — *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)* (2009), and *Dana H* (2021) — off Broadway, and many regional theatres. From 2012-18, he was artistic director of Actors Theatre of Louisville. From 1995-2003, he led the MFA directing program at University of California, San Diego. In the last 10 years, his productions have ranked amongst the year's best in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Time Out New York*, *Time Magazine*, *USA Today*, and *The Guardian*. His book, *The Theatre of Les Waters*, edited by Scott T. Cummings, will be published by Routledge early 2022.

### **Carmen Berkeley (Ariel)**

Carmen is thrilled to be making her Berkeley Rep debut. Recent credits include *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (WP Theater/Second Stage), *Our Town* (Barnstormers Theatre), ArsNova ANT Fest 2021, *Night of the Iguana* (LaFemme Theatre Productions), *Scorch* (OutCast Productions), *Henry IV* (Rutgers Theatre Company), and *Richard II* (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre). TV: *Law & Order: SVU*. BFA: Rutgers University. (she/her/hers)

### **James Carpenter (Frank)**

A former core company member and associate artist at Berkeley Rep since 1984, James most recently appeared in *Macbeth*, *Pericles*, *Three Sisters*, *The People's Temple*, *Fête de la Nuit*, and *Lieutenant of Inishmore*. This will be James' 37th show at Berkeley Rep. An associate artist with California Shakespeare Theater, he's appeared in over 30 productions there. Other credits include work at San Jose Repertory Theatre, Aurora Theatre Company, Marin Theatre Company, Mark Taper Forum, The Old Globe, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Yale Repertory Theatre, Santa Cruz Shakespeare, the Huntington Theatre Company, the Intiman Theatre, and American Conservatory Theater, appearing in many productions there as well as playing Scrooge for 13 years. This past year he co-founded the Actors Reading Collective, which has an impressive roster of Bay Area actors as well as actors across the nation and which features many familiar faces along with many new ones. Screen credits include the feature films *The Rainmaker* and *Metro*, the independent films *Singing* and *For the Coyotes*, and the series *Nash Bridges*. James is the recipient of many San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards, including the 2007 Award for Excellence in the Arts and the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2010, he was named a Ten Chimneys Foundation Lunt-Fontanne Fellow. (he/him/his)

**Lorri Holt (Bertha)**

A veteran of many Berkeley Rep plays, Lorri's favorite roles include Masha in *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike* by Christopher Durang; Rachel in *Reckless* and Libby in *Blue Window*, both by Craig Lucas; Gwen in *Finn in the Underworld* by Jordan Harrison; being part of the company of Chuck Mee's *Fêtes de la Nuit*; and Becky in *Tooth of Crime* by Sam Shepard. Other favorites: Queen Elizabeth, *Richard III*, California Shakespeare Festival; Olga, *Three Sisters*, American Conservatory Theater; Ella, *Curse of the Starving Class*, The Wilma Theatre, Philadelphia; Jackie, *Shoot Me When...* by Ruben Grijalva, San Francisco Playhouse; every role played in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9*, *Top Girls*, and *Fen* during 10 years as a company actress with SF's Eureka Theatre; and Harper Pitt in *Angels In America* (a role she originated) at the Eureka and the Mark Taper Forum in LA. Other regional and international credits include leading and featured roles at La Jolla Playhouse, Birmingham Rep (England), London's Barbican Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, SF Playhouse, The Magic, Aurora Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, The Rave Festival (NYC), San Jose Rep, TheatreWorks, and many commercial productions in SF. Ms. Holt, the recipient of numerous acting awards, also performs solo shows about literary women: *Colette Uncensored*, which she co-wrote with poet and playwright Zack Rogow (The Marsh in SF and Berkeley, as well performances in NYC, London, and Portland), and most recently *Who Killed Sylvia Plath* by Lynne Kaufman, winner, Best Full-Length Performance at the Marsh International Solo Fest 2020. (she/her/hers)

**Sarah Nina Hayon (Jaqueline)**

Sarah is a bicoastal actress now based in her hometown, San Francisco. A three-time Drama Desk Award nominee, she is passionate about new works and has developed roles with Manhattan Theatre Club, The Roundabout, The Public Theater, Playwrights Horizons, and many other Broadway and off-Broadway companies. Recent theatre highlights include *Seascape* (American Conservatory Theater, Pam MacKinnon, BATCC nomination), *Sweat* (ACT, Loretta Greco), *We Swim We Talk We Go To War* (Golden Thread Productions, Evren Odickin), *The Gangster of Love* (The Magic Theatre, Loretta Greco), *Swimmers* (Marin Theatre Company, directed by Mike Donahue; Theatre Bay Area Award nomination), *No One Is Forgotten* (The Rattlestick, Winter Miller), and *Water by the Spoonful* (The Old Globe, directed by Edward Torres). Her television and film credits include: *FBI*, *For Life*, *13 Reasons Why*, *Succession*, *Pose*, Danny DeVito's *Curmudgeons*, *Are We There Yet?*, *The Green*, *Sex and the City*, *Law & Order*, and *Avatar*. She is a proud graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and a member of LAByrnth Theater Company. (she/her/hers)

**Sharon Lockwood (Hilda)**

Sharon has performed at Berkeley Rep for almost 35 years. Favorite credits include *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike* (Bay Area Theatre Critic's Circle Award), *It Can't Happen Here*, *Culture Clash's Zorro in Hell*, *The Triumph of Love*, *Volpone*, *The Alchemist*, *Pentecost*, and *Caucasian Chalk Circle*. She has also appeared regularly at American Conservatory Theater, where her work includes roles in *Napoli*, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and 15 seasons of *A Christmas Carol*. Other Bay Area credits include Aurora Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, and many seasons playing the parks and touring with the San Francisco Mime Troupe. Sharon originated the role of Barbara in the world premiere of *Nickel and Dimed* under the direction of Bartlett Sher, which played at the Mark Taper in Los Angeles. Other regional credits include La Jolla Playhouse, Old Globe, San Diego Rep, Long Wharf Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, and the Alley Theatre in Houston, where last season she played Deirdre in *The Humans*. In 2016, Sharon was honored with a Lunt Fontanne Fellowship and participated in its Master Class at Ten Chimneys in Wisconsin. She received the Theatre Bay Area Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018, presented by Berkeley Rep's former artistic director, Tony Taccone. (she/her/hers)

**Micah Peoples (Jonathan)**

Micah is excited to be making his Berkeley Rep debut and relishes the opportunity to be back in the Bay Area. Credits: (off Broadway) *FDR and the Jews*/Baryshnikov Art Center; (regional) *Vanity Fair* u/s (American Conservatory Theater), *Christmas Carol* (ACT), *Detroit '67* (Chautauqua), *Romeo and Juliet* (Chautauqua). TV: *Halston*. 2019 Graduate American Conservatory Theater MFA. Love you Mom and Dad. (he/him/his)

**Nora El Samahy (Maria)** Nora has previously worked at Berkeley Rep in *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, as well as several collaborations at The Ground Floor. She was last seen at Portland Center Stage in *9 Parts of Desire* and looks forward to a spring production of *UNSEEN*, by Mona Mansour, at Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Nora is a Resident Artist at Golden Thread Productions and a company member of Campo Santo and Playground. In addition, she has acted with Aurora Theatre, Crowded Fire Theater, Magic Theatre, foolsFURY, Traveling Jewish Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros, Shotgun Players, the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, and African American Shakespeare Company, among others. In 2013, Nora founded a performance company called Affinity Project with Atosa Babaoft, Beatrice Basso, and Emily Hoffman. She currently serves as the President of the Board of Trustees with Golden Thread and is on the MENATMA Steering Committee. (she/her/hers)

**Thomas Jay Ryan (Francois)**

Thomas has appeared at Berkeley Rep in *Troublemaker*, *Three Sisters*, and *Tragedy: A Tragedy*. Broadway credits include the recent *West Side Story*, *The Nap*, *The Crucible*, and *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)*. Among his many off-Broadway credits are *Eureka Day*, *Dance Nation* (Drama Desk Award), *The Amateurs*, *A Month in the Country* (Calloway Award), *10 Out of 12* (Drama League nomination), *Travels with My Aunt*, *The Lady from Dubuque*, *Venus*, *The Temperamentals* (Drama Desk Award), and several collaborations with Daniel Fish including *Tom Ryan Thinks He's James Mason...* (named best of the year by Time Out NY). His collaborations with director Ivo van Hove away from Broadway include *The Misanthrope* and *The Little Foxes* (in New York) and *A View from the Bridge* (an Ahmanson/Kennedy Center coproduction). His other regional credits include the Guthrie, Yale Rep, the Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, Hartford Stage, and many others. He made his film debut in the title role of Hal Hartley's Cannes prize-winning *Henry Fool*, and recent feature film credits include this year's *Scenes from an Empty Church* and *Cryptozoo*. He has also been seen in such movies as *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, *Burn Country*, *Dedalus*, and two features with Bay area artist Lynn Hershman Leeson, *Strange Culture* and *Teknolust* (both opposite Tilda Swinton). His many television appearances include the HBO film *Degas and the Dancer*, in which he played Edgar Degas (Gemini Award nomination). (he/him/his)

**David Ryan Smith (Edmund)**

Broadway: *One Man, Two Guvnors*; *Passing Strange*. Off Broadway: *Merry Wives*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry V*, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Pericles* (Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival); *Where We Stand* (Women's Project); *Passage* (Soho Rep); *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World* (Signature Theater Company); *Mankind* (Playwrights Horizons); *Gone Missing* (City Center Encores!); *The Glory of the World* (BAM); *Marat/Sade* (Classical Theater of Harlem). Regional: Repertory Theater of St. Louis, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Barrington Stage Company, American Conservatory Theater, Dallas Theater Center, California Shakespeare Theater, Magic Theatre, Triad Stage, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Crossroads Theater Company, among others. Film: *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, *Medal of Victory*, *Bee Season*. Education: MFA, American Conservatory Theater; BFA, University of Evansville. Other credits: Member of Project Number One at Soho Rep for the 2020/21 season and serves on the acting faculty at The Playwrights Horizons Theater School/NYU. (he/him/his)

**Jomar Tagatac (Bob)**

Jomar was most recently seen as Gordon Hirabayashi in *Hold These Truths* and *Mark in Art* at San Francisco Playhouse, as well as DJ Loki in *Today Is My Birthday* (Theater Mu). At American Conservatory Theater he played Mr. Botard in *Rhinoceros*, and Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*. Other credits at ACT include Playwright and others in *Vietgone*, Fortinbras in *Hamlet*, Fortunado in *Monstress*. Bay Area credits include George in *The Language Archive* (TheatreWorks); Actor 1 in *King of the Yees*, Actor 3 in *Tiny Beautiful Things*, Daniel in *You Mean to Do Me Harm* (San Francisco Playhouse); Quang in *Vietgone* (Capital Stage Company); Banquo in *Macbeth*, Jacques in *As You Like It*, *Life Is a Dream*, and other roles in *Everybody*, and *The War of the Roses* (Cal Shakes); *The Happy Ones* and *Dogeaters* (Magic Theatre). Jomar is a recipient of a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for Principle Actor in a Play, and TBA Award for Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role. He earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from ACT. (he/him/his)

For the 2021/22 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 recognize the support at the season sponsor level of **Bruce Golden and Michelle Mercer**, **Frances Hellman and Warren Breslau**, **Gisele and Kenneth F. Miller**, and **The Strauch Kulhanjian Family**.

#### **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. Learn more at [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org)

###