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**COMEDY LEGENDS THE SECOND CITY RETURNS TO
BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE FOR A LIMITED ENGAGEMENT WITH
*THE BEST OF THE SECOND CITY***

***** JULY 16–28, 2024 *****

***** TICKETS ON-SALE THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024 *****

BERKELEY, CA (April 2, 2024)—Today, **Berkeley Repertory Theatre Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer** and **Managing Director Tom Parrish** announced that Chicago’s legendary sketch and improv comedy theater, **The Second City**, will return to **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** with *The Best of The Second City*. The limited two-week engagement will take place **Tuesday, July 16 through Sunday, July 28, 2024**. Tickets go on-sale to the general public on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at www.berkeleyrep.org.

The Best of The Second City features some of the best sketch comedy and songs from their comedy vaults updated for the modern era, as well as some of their newest classics and trademark improvisation performed by The Second City Touring Company’s best and brightest...and funniest! Find out for yourself why The Second City has been on the cutting-edge of satirical revues and the first name in laughter for over 60 years.

“We are so excited to welcome The Second City back to Berkeley Rep for some summer fun with *The Best of The Second City*,” said Managing Director **Tom Parrish**. “Audiences have enjoyed The Second City’s previous shows, and this one promises to bring a wave of laughter and creativity that showcases the very essence of comedic brilliance.”

Directed by **Jeff Griggs**, The Second City Touring Company includes **George Elord, Chas Lilly, Phylcia McLeod, Cat Savage, Annie Sullivan, and Max Thomas**. Music Direction is provided by **Michael Oldham**. Stage Management is provided by **Rebecca Gilman**.

The Second City opened its doors in 1959 as a small comedy cabaret and has since grown to become the world's most influential name in improv and comedy. Second City's stages, Touring Companies, and Training Centers across North America have proudly been the launch pad for many of the funniest names on the planet, including John Belushi, John Candy, Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, Chris Farley, Tina Fey, Keegan-Michael Key, Eugene Levy, Tim Meadows, Bill Murray, Mike Myers, Suzy Nakamura, Catherine O'Hara, Amy Poehler, Gilda Radner, Sam Richardson, Joan Rivers, Amber Ruffin, Jason Sudeikis, and Steven Yeun, among many more.

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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 6 million people have enjoyed more than 500 shows at Berkeley Rep, including 85 world premieres. Berkeley Rep shows have gone on to win 8 Tony Awards, 9 Obie Awards, 11 Drama Desk Awards, 1 Grammy Award, 1 Pulitzer Prize, and many other honors. In recognition of its place on the national stage, Berkeley Rep received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997. Through its annual seven-play season, together with up to four special event presentations, Berkeley Rep invites audiences to enjoy an eclectic range of theatrical experiences featuring diverse artistic voices, themes, and perspectives. 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. Serving some 20,000 people a year, Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre ensures broad access to dynamic arts educational activities, especially for Bay Area youth, and provides immersive training for current and future theatre makers. In 2021, Berkeley Rep launched In Dialogue, a program that places its theatre-making skills and resources in service of the community. Using storytelling as an anchor, In Dialogue is developing long-term collaborations with local, socially centered organizations, as well as educating and activating our audiences around organizations whose work aligns with the themes of our productions. Berkeley Rep's bustling facilities—which include the 600-seat Roda Theatre, 400-seat Peet's Theatre, Medak Center, and a spacious campus in West Berkeley—are helping revitalize a renowned city. Learn more at berkeleyrep.org.

GEORGE ELORD (Ensemble) is a member of Second City's National Touring Company (GreenCo). He wrote and performed in Second City's first original LGBTQ sketch revue, *Salute to Pride: Not Safe for Werk*. TV credit includes HBO's *Somebody Somewhere*. Other Chicago comedy credits include, Bob Curry Fellowship (NBCUniversal/Second City), *Deck the Hallmark* (Second City), *Let's Make it Perfectly Queer* (Second City), and *Comet* (iO Chicago). George is from Little Rock, Arkansas, and is an alumni of DePaul University. They are represented by Grossman & Jack Talent.

CHAS LILLY (Ensemble, he/him) is a Chicago-based actor, writer, and improviser from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He's been a regular performer at various Chicago improv theaters for years, but these days he's usually found playing with his friends at Logan Square Improv. In his free time, he loves teaching classes and producing music for the bevy of talented local artists who come through Ersatz Records. For business inquiries, contact chaslilly89@gmail.com

PHYLICIA McLEOD (Ensemble, she/her) is an improviser, writer, voice over actress, and teacher based in Chicago, IL. She began her comedy career at Second City Chicago and completed the conservatory & Bob Curry Fellowship programs. You can hear her as she co-hosts the podcast *Unlearning* or in her head learning how to read Tarot Cards.

CAT SAVAGE (Ensemble, she/her) is delighted to perform with The Second City! A Massachusetts native, she moved to Chicago after graduating from Brown University with a B.A. in History and Gender Studies. She is a proud graduate of The Second City Training Center's Conservatory and Severn Darden Graduate Program, as well as iO's training program. She has performed with her team Artemis and in the Armando Diaz Experience at iO. Thank you to her dog nephew Chance for always believing in her. She is represented by BMG Talent. Follow her on twitter: [@CatharineSavage](https://twitter.com/CatharineSavage)

ANNIE SULLIVAN (Ensemble) is a writer, performer, and all-around sweetheart originally from Kansas City and an alum of Columbia College Chicago. She is a cast member of The Second City's National Touring Company, as well as a performer on the improv team Devil's Daughter, and a member of The Annoyance's weekly sketch show, *HOLY F*CK*. Follow them on Instagram [@whitemystery95](https://www.instagram.com/whitemystery95) or follow her on the streets of Chicago.

MAX THOMAS (Ensemble, he/him) is allergic to dairy, tree nuts, & Christianity. He grew up on Jimi Hendrix, Bernie Mac, & Soy Milk. Max is a lightning rod of a comedian that will have you laughing from start to finish & leave you excited for more. Max has been featured on Comedy Central Featuring, Live From Austin, TX, seen at The Comedy Store West Hollywood, The NBC Break Out Comedy Festival at The Second City Chicago 2017-2019, Zanies Chicago & Rosemont, Jokes and Notes, Tiny Cupboard Brooklyn, The Second City Chicago & Hollywood, Laugh Factory Chicago, Steppenwolf Theater, Black & Funny Festival, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Detroit Improv Festival, Boston Improv Festival, Out of Bounds Comedy Festival Austin, TX, Keenan Thompson: The Ultimate Comedy Experience and Lollapalooza Music Festival. He is Chicago Reader Best Stage Actor 2022. Follow him @ThatsMaxThomas

MICHAEL OLDHAM (Music Director, he/him) is a composer and pianist who weaves artwork, story, and imagination into his work. Whether experimenting with looping videos on Instagram as the “parts” of a piece that anyone can play (*Music In Segments* – 2018), utilizing repeating gif images of old silent films as inspiration for a twelve-movement work (*Music In Gifs* – 2019), translating great works of art into music (*Suggestion Box: Art* – 2020, *The Egon Schiele Pieces* – 2021), writing art songs, musical theater, pop songs, or commercial ad work, Michael’s thirst for unusual storytelling through music is never quenched.

REBECCA GILMAN (Stage Manager, she/her) divides her time between stage managing, directing, and acting. Since arriving in Chicago, she has stage managed the world premiere of *Malapert Love* with the Artistic Home (2023 Jeff Award for Best New Work) and has been working as a stage manager for The Second City and iO Theater. Rebecca received her BA in theatre from UAA in 2015. Directing credits include *Little Women: The Musical* (2021), *Grounded* (2021), and *The Crucible* (2019) with the Kenai Performers. Favorite acting credits include Missy Miller in *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Addie Camp Dining Car 2022), Maxine in *Night of the Iguana* (UAA Theatre and Dance 2014), and Sister Aloysius in *Doubt: A Parable* (TTR 2014). Favorite stage management credits are *Gravidity* (TTR 2014 and VTC 2014) along with [title of show] (2013), *Other Desert Cities* (2015), *Antony and Cleopatra* (2016), and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (2017) at Cyrano’s Theatre Company.

JEFF GRIGGS (Director, he/him) is the author of the book *Guru; My Days with Del Close* and a Director/Performer/Teacher at Second City. He’s a faculty member of the Second City Film School and is a professor at Depaul University and Columbia College. He has performed improv and sketch at theaters around the world and is a current director for the Second City National Touring Company.