

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG TO APPEAR ON BROADWAY IN *AMERICAN IDIOT***One week only – frontman from Green Day to play St. Jimmy in Berkeley Rep’s hit musical**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2010 – The producers of the critically acclaimed *American Idiot* announced today that Green Day frontman and the musical’s composer / co-author Billie Joe Armstrong will make his Broadway debut as St. Jimmy. Mr. Armstrong will appear from Tuesday, September 28 through Sunday, October 3, 2010 at the St. James Theatre in Manhattan. Immediately following this engagement, he will join Green Day in Caracas, Venezuela to kick off the band’s South American tour on October 8, 2010. Original Broadway cast member and current St. Jimmy, Tony Vincent, will resume performances on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 following a leave of absence due to a personal family matter.

The smash-hit, Tony Award-winning musical *American Idiot* tells the story of three lifelong friends, forced to choose between their dreams and the safety of suburbia. Their quest for true meaning in a post 9-11 world leads them on an exhilarating journey. The result, according to the *Toronto Star*, is “The first great musical of the 21st century!”

In the last eight years, Berkeley Rep has helped develop six Broadway shows: *American Idiot* (2010), *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* (2009), *Wishful Drinking* (2009), *Passing Strange* (2008), *Bridge & Tunnel* (2006), and *Metamorphoses* (2002). The Theatre also celebrated its second London transfer in September. Following in the footsteps of *Continental Divide*, which played at the Barbican in 2004, *Tiny Kushner* played at London’s Tricycle Theater this month.

The Broadway engagement of *American Idiot* is produced by Tom Hulse and Ira Pittelman in association with Berkeley Rep. The show made its world premiere in Berkeley Rep’s Roda Theatre in September 2009. Its record-breaking run brought in the biggest advance sale in the Theatre’s 42-year history, the biggest day at the box office, 18 of the top 20 days ever, and due to demand had to announce its first extension before it played its first performance. Now it’s rocking the St. James Theatre in Manhattan, which is located at 246 West 44th Street between Broadway and Eighth Avenue.

Green Day – vocalist/guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong, bassist Mike Dirnt, and drummer Tré Cool – won two Grammy Awards for the groundbreaking rock opera *American Idiot*, which went on to become one of the best selling albums of all time. The band collaborated with one of theatre’s most acclaimed creative teams – Tony Award-winning director of *Spring Awakening* Michael Mayer, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and orchestrator Tom Kitt, and Olivier Award-winning choreographer Steven Hoggett – to bring this explosive, iconic story to the stage.

Tony Award winner John Gallagher Jr. (*Spring Awakening*) currently stars in *American Idiot* alongside Tony Award-nominee Stark Sands (*Journey’s End*), Michael Esper (*A Man For All Seasons*), Rebecca Naomi Jones (*Passing Strange*), Christina Sajous (*The Wild Party*), Mary Faber (*Avenue Q*), and Tony Vincent (*Jesus Christ Superstar*). The cast also features Declan Bennett, Andrew Call, Gerard Canonico, Miguel Cervantes, Sydney Harcourt, Van Hughes, Charles Johnson, Joshua Kobak, Lorin Latarro, Omar Lopez-Cepero, Leslie McDonel, Chase Peacock, Corbin Reid, Wallace Smith, Theo Stockman, Ben Thompson, Alysha Umphress, Aspen Vincent, and Libby Winters.

The show features Tony Award-winning scenic design by Christine Jones (*Spring Awakening*), costume design by Baryshnikov fellow Andrea Lauer (*The Butcher of Baraboo*), Tony Award-

(MORE)

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BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG ON BROADWAY IN *AMERICAN IDIOT* / 2 OF 2

winning lighting design by Kevin Adams (*Hair*), sound design by Olivier and Obie Award-winner Brian Ronan (*Cabaret*), and video design by Darrel Maloney. The music director is Carmel Dean and Lorin Latarro is the associate choreographer.

Reprise Records released the original Broadway cast recording of *American Idiot* on April 20, 2010, the same day the show opened. The official album features the 24-member cast accompanied by Green Day, marking another incredible collaboration between the band and the musical.

The playing schedule for *American Idiot* is Tuesday at 7 PM, Wednesday at 8 PM, Thursday at 8 PM, Friday at 8 PM, Saturday at 2 PM and 8 PM, and Sunday at 3 PM and 7:30 PM. Tickets range from \$49 to \$127 and can be purchased at the St. James box office or via telecharge.com (212-239-6200). For more information, visit AmericanIdiotonBroadway.com.

ABOUT BERKELEY REP

Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to a national leader in innovative theatre. Known for its core values of imagination and excellence, as well as its educated and adventurous audience, the nonprofit has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. The Theatre welcomes an annual audience of 180,000, serves 20,000 students, and hosts dozens of community groups, thanks to 1,000 volunteers and more than 400 artists, artisans, and administrators. With two stages, a school, and a Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, Berkeley Rep is proud to premiere exhilarating new plays.

See tomorrow's shows today at Berkeley Rep. The new season features a series of stunning scripts and stellar performers including three world premieres: Rinne Groff's compelling *Compulsion* starring Mandy Patinkin, a delightful new look at Lemony Snicket's *The Composer is Dead*, and a tantalizing show written by Artistic Director Tony Taccone for legendary actress Rita Moreno. Two West Coast premieres take the stage as well: celebrated collaborators Sarah Ruhl and Les Waters reunite for a refreshing translation of Anton Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* while Berkeley Rep welcomes *The Great Game: Afghanistan*, an unprecedented cycle of 12 short scripts that caused a sensation in London. The upcoming season also introduces local audiences to Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Ruined* and two audacious new monologues from Mike Daisey: *The Last Cargo Cult* and *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs*.

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***American Idiot* on Broadway**

Music by Green Day
Lyrics by Billie Joe Armstrong
Book by Billie Joe Armstrong and Michael Mayer
Directed by Michael Mayer

St. James Theatre
246 West 44th St @ 8th Ave
New York, NY 10019

\$49 and up
(212) 239-6200, (800) 432-7250 (toll-free), or AmericanIdiotOnBroadway.com

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