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## **FOLLOWING NEA GRANT TERMINATION BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE RECEIVES GENEROUS GIFT FROM TONY AWARD–WINNING PLAYWRIGHT JOHN LOGAN**

BERKELEY, CA (May 14, 2025)—In response to the chaotic terminations of grant awards by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in early May, **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** has received a generous \$40,000 gift from Tony Award–winning playwright **John Logan** to support **The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep’s Center for the Creation and Development of New Work**, the program for which the NEA had awarded and rescinded funding. NEA funding has been essential in supporting The Ground Floor, the organization’s nationally recognized incubator for new work for the American theatre. Through commissions, residencies, workshops, and full-scale premiere productions, The Ground Floor has helped develop hundreds of projects, supported thousands of artists, and brought bold, innovative stories to life on Berkeley Rep’s stages and across the country. Although Berkeley Rep subsequently received the payment of funds for this year’s program and appealed the termination of its grant award, future funding remains uncertain in light of the NEA’s newly articulated priorities. Logan’s contribution underscores the vital role of the artistic community in speaking out to ensure continued investment in new work and the artists who bring it to life.

“Without the support of regional theatres like Berkeley Rep I wouldn't be a writer today,” said **Logan**. “Young writers, singers, actors, poets, musicians, filmmakers, composers, and painters all across America benefit from not-for-profit arts institutions. I believe our country is much richer and more beautiful for those voices. We must continue to support and fight for these artists, and I'm proud to be able to help.”

“It was truly amazing, in the midst of such a dark and demoralizing week of news from and about the NEA, to get an email out of the blue from the incredible John Logan, with whom we worked on the world premiere of *Swept Away*,” said Berkeley Rep **Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer**. “John’s generous offer to donate funds to replace the uncertain NEA support, was such a morale boost for all of us at Berkeley Rep. I am so grateful to John, both personally and on behalf of the more than 100 artists who will bring to life 23 different projects in the upcoming Ground Floor Summer Residency Lab.”

John Logan received the Tony Award for his play *Red*. Musical theatre work includes *Moulin Rouge*, *The Last Ship*, *Superhero*, and *Swept Away*. As a screenwriter, Logan has been nominated three times for an Academy Award and has received Golden Globe, BAFTA, WGA, Edgar, and PEN Center Awards. His film work includes *Skyfall*, *Spectre*, *Hugo*, *The Aviator*, *Gladiator*, *Rango*, *Alien: Covenant*, *Genius*, *Coriolanus*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Last Samurai*, *They/Them*, and *Any Given Sunday*. He created and produced the television series *Penny Dreadful* for Showtime.

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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 87 world premieres. Berkeley Rep shows have gone on to win eight Tony Awards, nine Obie Awards, 11 Drama Desk Awards, a Grammy Award, a 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](https://berkeleyrep.org).