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CONTACT: Kevin Kopjak | Prismatic Communications | kevin@prismaticcommunications.com

**EMMY AND PEABODY AWARD-WINNING TV HOST & COMEDIAN
W. KAMAU BELL RETURNS TO BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE WITH A SPECIAL
ENGAGEMENT OF *WHO'S WITH ME?* TO BENEFIT THEATRES IMPACTED BY
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT TERMINATIONS**

**Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre
June 17–22, 2025**

— Tickets On-Sale Now —

BERKELEY, CA (May 21, 2025)— Emmy and Peabody Award-winning TV host, comedian, filmmaker, and *New York Times* bestselling author **W. Kamau Bell** returns to **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** this June for a special limited engagement of *Who's With Me?*, benefiting Bay Area theatres affected by recent **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) grant terminations. *Who's with Me?* will perform at Berkeley Rep's **Roda Theatre** from **Tuesday, June 17, through Sunday, June 22, 2025**. Tickets (\$35–\$99) are available now at berkeleyrep.org or by calling 510-647-2949 (Tuesday–Sunday, 12–7 p.m.). A VIP Post-Show Add-On is available for an additional \$250, including wine and an exclusive meet-and-greet with W. Kamau Bell.

Benefiting Bay Area theatres include **American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Crowded Fire Theater, Magic Theatre, Marin Shakespeare Company, New Conservatory Theatre Center, Oakland Children's Fairyland, Oakland Theater Project, San Francisco Youth Theatre, Theatre Bay Area, and TheatreWorks Silicon Valley**, as well as **Zaccho Dance Theatre** and **Dance Brigade/Dance Mission Theater**, two companies with whom Kamau and Melissa Bell have long relationships.

"After two residencies and multiple shows at Berkeley Rep, I feel like a member of the Berkeley Rep family," said **Bell**. "And when your family needs you, you do whatever you can to help them. As soon as I heard that the National Endowment for the Arts—under President Trump's direction—was pulling funding from theatres and other arts organizations, I reached out to Berkeley Rep Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer and offered to help if they needed it! Once again, my family will proudly tread the boards of Berkeley Rep to support our Bay Area community and the arts."

Bell returns to Berkeley Rep following a sold-out, seven-show engagement of *Who's With Me?* in April 2025. In 2024, Bell performed two sold-out developmental residencies, *W. Kamau Bell Gets His Act Together*, at Berkeley Rep's Bakery Studio at Berkeley Rep School of Theatre.

Bell is an Emmy & Peabody Award-winning TV host, filmmaker, comedian, husband, and dad. He is on the road for his new comedy tour, *"Who's With Me?"* Tickets are available at www.kamaubell.com.

Kamau is the reigning champion of *Celebrity Jeopardy*, where he played for DonorsChoose. He also wrote a chapter in the newly released Michael Lewis book, *Who Is Government? - The Untold Story of Public Service*, which is a *New York Times* bestseller. Kamau is also the host of the ACLU's official podcast, *At Liberty*. For seven seasons, he hosted and executive-produced the five-time Emmy Award-winning CNN Original Series *United Shades of America*. In 2023, he won an Emmy for his HBO documentary *1000% Me: Growing Up Mixed*. He also received a Peabody Award for his 2022 Showtime docu-series, *We Need to Talk About Cosby*. Bell co-authored the *New York Times* bestseller *Do the Work: An Antiracist Activity Book* and authored *The Awkward Thoughts of W. Kamau Bell: Tales of a 6' 4", African American, Heterosexual, Cisgender, Left-Leaning, Asthmatic, Black and Proud Blerd, Mama's Boy, Dad, and Stand-Up Comedian*. His latest writing project is the Substack newsletter, *Who's With Me?* His comedy special, *Private School Negro*, is available on Netflix.

Bell serves on the board of directors for DonorsChoose, a nonprofit that assists teachers in raising money for classroom projects, and Live Free, a nonprofit committed to ending gun violence, mass incarceration, and mass criminalization. He is also the ACLU's Celebrity Ambassador for Racial Justice. In 2023, Bell and his wife, Melissa Hudson Bell, co-founded Who Knows Best Productions, a media production company based in Oakland, CA. He cares deeply and sleeps little.

Berkeley Rep recognizes the generous support of **BART, OAK Airport, Peet's Coffee**, its official season sponsors. Berkeley Rep is also delighted to acknowledge support at the season sponsor level from **Stephen & Susan Chamberlin, Yogen & Peggy Dalal, Bruce Golden & Michelle Mercer, Frances Hellman & Warren Breslau, Wayne Jordan & Quinn Delaney, Jonathan Logan & John Plane, Gisele & Kenneth F. Miller, Jack & Betty Schafer, the Strauch Kulhanjian Family, Kelli & Steffan Tomlinson, and Gail & Arne Wagner.**

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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.