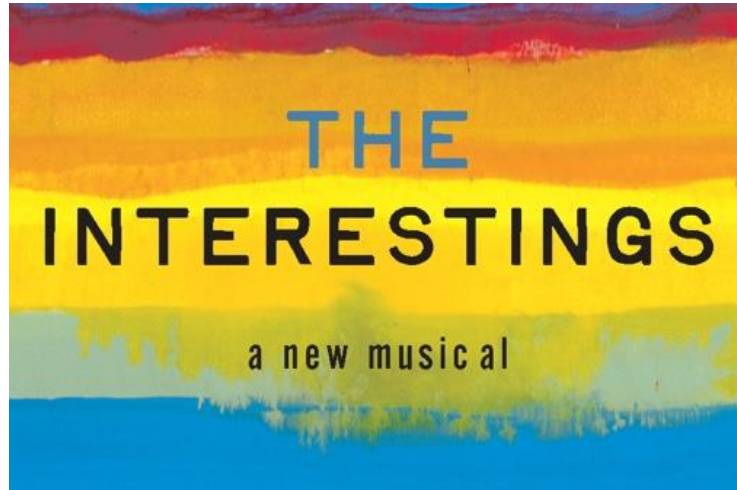


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BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES THE
WORLD PREMIERE OF

THE INTERESTINGS

FOR BERKELEY REP'S 2026/27 SEASON

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY **SARA BAREILLES**

BOOK BY **MEG WOLITZER & SARAH RUHL**

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY **MEG WOLITZER**

DIRECTED BY **MICHAEL ARDEN**

MUSIC SUPERVISION BY **NADIA DIGIALLONARDO**

PREVIEWS BEGIN JANUARY 31, 2027

OPENING NIGHT IS FEBRUARY 17, 2027

BERKELEY, CA (February 11, 2026)—**Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (Artistic Director, Johanna Pfaelzer; Managing Director, Tom Parrish) and **Matt Ross** announced today the world premiere of the new musical, ***The Interestings***. The production will be part of Berkeley Rep's 2026/27 season, produced in association with Ross.

Directed by two-time Tony Award winner **Michael Arden**, ***The Interestings*** features music and lyrics by two-time Grammy® Award winner, three-time Tony® Award and three-time Primetime Emmy® Award nominee, and multi-platinum recording artist **Sara Bareilles**. *New York Times* bestselling author **Meg Wolitzer** joins the team as Co-Bookwriter, adapting her own novel for the stage, along with the previously announced Pulitzer Prize finalist and Tony Award nominee **Sarah Ruhl**. Music Supervision is by Grammy Award nominee **Nadia DiGiallonardo**.

Performances begin at Berkeley Repertory Theatre [2025 Addison St, Berkeley, CA] on January 31, 2027, with an opening night set for February 17, 2027. Tickets will only be available as part of a 2026/27 season subscription package beginning February 18 for renewing subscribers and April 15 for new subscribers. Individual tickets will be available at a later date. To subscribe, visit <https://www.berkeleyrep.org/subscription-and-ticket-packages-m1xn>.

"When I read Meg Wolitzer's unbelievably funny and poignant novel, *The Interestings*, I wrote the first song before I'd finished the book," said **Sara Bareilles**. "I felt like I knew these characters already, and they continue to inspire and challenge me to evolve as a writer and a storyteller. My love affair with them continues, and it has been the thrill of a lifetime to be entrusted with helping them sing. Meg's novel is the blueprint for what this creative team is conjuring, and it has been a complex, deep process of arrival and discovery and surrender and delight. It is especially wonderful to get the opportunity to bring a new work to one of the great theaters on the west coast, Berkeley Repertory Theatre. As a Northern California girl, it feels like coming home with something I am so proud of, and that I am so excited to share."

The Interestings follows six friends who bond over their shared dream of leading creative lives. From their first meeting as teenagers at a summer camp in the 1970s to decades later in New York City, that bond remains, but so much else has changed. Tracing their lives as they grow together and apart, ***The Interestings*** explores friendship, love, envy, class, art, money, and power—and how all of it can shift and tilt precipitously over the course of a life.

Additional details, including cast and creative team, will be announced at a later date.

Released in 2013, Meg Wolitzer's *New York Times* bestselling novel ***The Interestings*** has been called "remarkable... acutely perceptive..." (*The New York Times Book Review*), "sprawling, ambitious and often wistful" (*USA Today*), "a supremely engrossing, deeply knowing, genius-level enterprise" (*The Chicago Tribune*), "wonderful" (*Vanity Fair*), "a victory" (*Entertainment Weekly*).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.berkeleyrep.org
www.theinterestingsmusical.com

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BIOS

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SARA BAREILLES is an award-winning singer, songwriter, actor, producer, activist, and *New York Times* best-selling author whose accolades to date include two Grammy Awards, three Tony Award nominations, and three Primetime Emmy Award nominations. As a recording artist and songwriter, she has sold more than 3 million albums and 15 million singles in the U.S., and her songs have been streamed more than 3.5 billion times worldwide. On Broadway, she composed music and lyrics for *Waitress*, stepping into the lead role both on Broadway and in the West End. Other musical theatre credits include her Tony-nominated performance as 'The Baker's Wife' in Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's *Into the Woods*, a song on the Tony Award-nominated score for *SpongeBob SquarePants*, and an Emmy Award-nominated appearance as 'Mary Magdalene' in NBC's "Jesus Christ Superstar Live." She plays Dawn Solano on the Emmy-nominated musical comedy series "Girls5eva," the third season of which is streaming now on Netflix.

MEG WOLITZER is the *New York Times* bestselling author of numerous novels including *The Interestings*, *The Female Persuasion*, *The Uncoupling*, *The Position*, and *The Ten-Year Nap*. Wolitzer's work has been translated into over twenty languages and published worldwide. Wolitzer's novel *The Wife* was adapted into a film of the same name starring Glenn Close, and the film version of her novel *This is My Life* marked the directorial debut of Nora Ephron. Wolitzer is the host of the literary radio show and podcast *Selected Shorts*, and her own stories have appeared in the anthologies *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Pushcart Prize*. Also the author of several books for young readers, she is on the MFA faculty of SUNY Stony Brook and is the co-founder and co-director of its BookEnds program for emerging novelists.

SARAH RUHL is an American playwright, author, and teacher. Her twelve plays include *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, 2010; Tony Award Nominee, 2010); *The Clean House* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, 2005; Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, 2004); and *Eurydice* (Named one of the most impactful plays of the last 25 years by *The New York Times*). Her plays have been produced on Broadway and across the country as well as internationally and translated into fourteen languages. She is honored to have had five plays premiere at Berkeley Repertory Theater. Most recently, Signature Theater dedicated a season to her body of work. Her opera *Eurydice* (with composer Matthew Aucoin) debuted at the Metropolitan Opera and earned a Grammy nomination, and her musical *Wonder with A Great Big World* is currently running at American Repertory Theater. Her books include *Smile, a memoir*, *100 essays I don't have time to write*, and *Lessons from my Teachers*. She is the recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award, a PEN Center Award for mid-career playwrights, a Steinberg Distinguished Playwright Award, and a MacArthur "genius award" Fellowship. She teaches at the Yale School of Drama and lives in Brooklyn with her family.

MICHAEL ARDEN is a two-time Tony Award-winning director, most recently honored in 2025 for Best Direction of a Musical with *Maybe Happy Ending*, which garnered six Tony Awards, including Best Musical. In 2023, Arden won the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical for the acclaimed revival of *Parade*, starring Ben Platt and Micaela Diamond, which also earned the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical. Arden also received Tony nominations for his productions of *Once on This Island* and Deaf West's *Spring Awakening*. Additionally, he directed and co-wrote Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* on Broadway starring Jefferson Mays. In 2024, he directed Ben Platt's solo concert residency, *Ben Platt Live at the Palace*, which marked the reopening of the legendary Palace Theatre on Broadway. Arden co-directed *The Preacher's Wife* at the Atlanta Alliance Theatre by Tituss Burgess and Azie Dungey, and most recently the Broadway engagement of the new Stephen Schwartz and Lindsey Ferrentino musical *The Queen of Versailles*, starring Kristin Chenoweth and F. Murray Abraham at the St. James Theatre on Broadway. His upcoming work includes the stage adaptation of *The Lost Boys* musical which is set to open on Broadway in April 2026 at the Palace Theatre. Additional directing credits include *Annie* at the Hollywood Bowl, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center, the site-specific works *American Dream Study* and *ALIEN/NATION*, and the 2024 Met Gala. Arden has been recognized on

Variety's Impact List, and he received a NAACP Award for Best Direction for his revival of *Merrily We Roll Along*. Beyond theatre, Arden has directed episodes for "The Connors" on ABC, and has appeared in numerous films and television shows, most notably "Grey's Anatomy," *Bride Wars*, *Anger Management*, *Source Code*, and "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." Arden has performed on Broadway in *Big River*; *The Times, They Are A-Changin'*; and *King Lear*. A Presidential Scholar in the Arts, Arden is an alumnus of the Interlochen Arts Academy and The Juilliard School.

NADIA DIGIALONARDO is a Brooklyn-born music director, arranger, and singer. She was the music supervisor and co-arranger/orchestrator for Sara Bareilles's Broadway musical *Waitress*, and continues to supervise productions worldwide. She is thrilled to be continuing this collaboration with Sara Bareilles on *The Interstings*. Nadia is the music supervisor, arranger and co-orchestrator for the new musical *Wonder*, currently running at the American Repertory Theatre, with music by A Great Big World. She was also the music supervisor, arranger and co-orchestrator for the recent Broadway production of *Real Women Have Curves*. Previous Broadway credits include Diane Paulus's Broadway revivals of *Hair* and *Pippin* (Music Supervisor, Arranger), and *Once Upon A One More Time* (Vocal Arranger). Nadia and her partner, Rich Mercurio, produced the music for Apple TV's animated series "Central Park," and continue to produce music for various projects together. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar with a degree in Urban Planning.

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 90 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.

MATT ROSS. Producing credits include Clare Barron's *You Got Older*, now in performances at the Cherry Lane Theatre, as well as *This A Room*; *Dana H.*; *Pass Over*; and the Tony Award-nominated Broadway engagement of Heidi Schreck's *What the Constitution Means to Me*, its national tour, and live capture film for Amazon Prime Video. Other producing credits include the Tony Award-nominated productions of *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* and *On The Town*. He is also a co-founder and partner in the theatrical press agency Print Shop PR.