

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kevin Kopjak | Prismatic Communications | kevin@prismaticcommunications.com**BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE TO PRESENT THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF
NGOZI ANYANWU'S *THE MONSTERS***

**Directed by Tamilla Woodard in a co-production with La Jolla Playhouse,
The Monsters is a raw and riveting sibling love story that grapples with reunions
buried resentments, and reconnection.**

**Berkeley Rep's Peet's Theatre
March 27–May 3, 2026**

BERKELEY, CA (February 10, 2026) — This March, **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** will present the West Coast premiere of **Ngozi Anyanwu's *The Monsters***, a raw and riveting sibling love story that grapples with reunions, buried resentments and reconnection, performing at **Berkeley Rep's Peet's Theatre** from **Friday, March 27, through Sunday, May 3, 2026**. Press night will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2026. Single tickets (\$25–\$135) are available online at berkeleyrep.org or by phone at 510 647-2949 (Tue–Sun, 12pm–7pm). *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

For years, LIL has observed her estranged brother from the shadows — watching, waiting, studying every punch he throws. BIG, an aging but respected force in the local Mixed Martial Arts circuit, remains unaware his little sister has been tracking his career from afar... until she appears unexpectedly on his doorstep. A co-production with **La Jolla Playhouse**, *The Monsters* delivers an emotional knockout and wrestles with the demons we must face to reconnect, rebuild, and forgive.

Written by and starring award-winning playwright **Ngozi Anyanwu** (*Good Grief*, *The Homecoming Queen*, *The Last of the Love Letters*), *The Monsters* features Anyanwu alongside San Francisco Bay Area–born actor **Sullivan Jones** (HBO's *The Gilded Age*, *Slave Play* on Broadway).

"Ngozi's plays are always essentially love stories, whether they depict actual romances, the platonic love between best friends, or in this case the particular bond of siblings," said **Berkeley Rep Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer**. "I have been a fan of her writing since we worked together on *The Homecoming Queen*, and am so delighted to get to share this play with Bay Area audiences, especially since they will get to experience Ngozi's gifts not just as a writer but also as an actor!"

"I'm so excited to be bringing *The Monsters* to the West Coast," said **Anyanwu**. "Johanna Pfaelzer has been such an advocate for me as an artist and writer and Berkeley Rep was so instrumental in the development of this piece through Ground Floor. It feels right to come back to the San Francisco Bay Area with it. Can't wait to share it with you all."

Directed by **Tamilla Woodard**, the creative team for *The Monsters* includes **Adesola Osakalumi** (Choreography), **Nina Ball** (Scenic Design), **Celeste Jennings** (Costume Design), **Reza Behjat** (Lighting Design), **Bailey Trierweiler/UpTownWorks** (Sound Design), and **Kristy Bodall** (Stage Manager).

The Monsters was developed in **The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work**.

Berkeley Rep recognizes the generous support of its Season Presenting Sponsors, including **Peet's Coffee** and **The Shubert Foundation** as well as **Stephen & Susan Chamberlin**, **Yogen & Peggy Dalal**, **Bruce Golden & Michelle Mercer**, **Marcia Grand**, **Frances Hellman & Warren Breslau**, **Jonathan Logan & John Piane**, **Arjay R. and Frances F. Miller Foundation**, **the Strauch Kulhanjian Family**, and **Gail & Arne Wagner**. Berkeley Rep is also delighted to acknowledge support at our season sponsor level from **The Hearst Foundations**, **The Hewlett Foundation**, and **Oakland San Francisco Bay Airport (OAK)** as well as **Wayne Jordan & Quinn Delaney**, **Sudha Pennathur & Edward Messerly**, **Jack & Betty Schafer**, and **Kelli & Steffan Tomlinson**.

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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 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](https://www.berkeleyrep.org).