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BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2026/27 SEVEN-SHOW SUBSCRIPTION SEASON

Joining the previously announced world premiere musical *The Interestings*, the season features a dynamic lineup of works by Eduardo Machado, Bess Wohl, York Walker, Ryan J. Haddad, Talene Monahon, and Tom Stoppard.

*** Season Subscriptions On Sale Now! ***

BERKELEY, CA (April 15, 2026)—Today, Berkeley Repertory Theatre Artistic Director **Johanna Pfaelzer** and Managing Director **Tom Parrish** announced the seven productions of the organization’s 2026/27 season, which are set across seven distinct worlds, each exploring the past to illuminate our present understanding of where we’ve been and who we are becoming. Joining the previously announced world premiere musical, **THE INTERESTINGS**, with music and lyrics by **Sara Bareilles** and book by **Meg Wolitzer** and **Sarah Ruhl**, are five West Coast premieres — **Bess Wohl’s** biting and intensely relevant play, **LIBERATION**; **York Walker’s** gripping Southern Gothic drama, **COVENANT**; **Ryan J. Haddad’s** disarmingly vulnerable solo romantic comedy, **HOLD ME IN THE WATER**; **Talene Monahon’s** boldly imaginative, scorching satire, **MEET THE CARTOZIANS**; and **Tom Stoppard’s** Tony and Olivier Award-winning monumental masterwork, **LEOPOLDSTADT** — alongside **Eduardo Machado’s** intimate portrait of family amid political upheaval, **THE COOK**. [Casting and full creative teams for each production to be announced at a later date.](#)

“I am so proud and grateful to be producing this slate of plays here in the Bay Area,” said **Pfaelzer**. “Berkeley Rep’s 2026/27 season is comprised of seven productions, including a major world premiere musical and multiple West Coast premieres, each of which invites us to think deeply about the past as we imagine a brighter future for ourselves, our families, our community. These works of significant theatrical scale allow us to contemplate what it is to feel a sense of belonging, whether in a house, a body, or a country. Who we think we are, and who we will become, how we choose to move through the world, and who the people are who will shape our sense of self along the way. These plays are joyful and challenging, deeply felt and historically rich. I know this community will embrace these artists and their stories, and my hope is that over the course of the year, we will allow ourselves to be individually and perhaps even collectively transformed—always a possibility when we encounter ambitious art!”

“Berkeley Rep is in a moment of extraordinary momentum, with record-breaking audiences, sold-out performances, and more full-season, seven-play subscribers than we have had at any point in the past two decades. It’s also especially meaningful to see our productions—like *Galileo*, *Mexodus*, and *How Shakespeare Saved My Life*—continuing their journeys on stages in New York and beyond,” adds **Parrish**. “The 2026/27 season is our largest ever and builds on that energy to take our theatre-making to even

higher heights. In addition, Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre, In Dialogue community engagement programs, and The Ground Floor, our nationally recognized incubator for new work, are amplifying our impact locally, regionally, and nationally. We're profoundly grateful to our subscribers and donors, whose support makes this work possible and are helping position Berkeley Rep as a leading incubator and producer of new theatrical work."

Kicking off the 2026/27 season, Berkeley Rep will produce **Eduardo Machado's *THE COOK* (September 4–October 11, 2026)**. An aristocratic Cuban family flees from Havana to Miami on the eve of Castro's revolution, entrusting their mansion to their devoted cook Gladys who vows to protect it until their return. For forty years, she keeps her promise, enduring loss, upheaval, and the slow unraveling of a country's dreams. But when the aristocrats' daughter returns, Gladys finds she has sacrificed everything for a bond that has been forgotten. Berkeley Rep's Associate Artistic Director **David Mendizábal** (*All My Sons*, *Mexodus*) directs Eduardo Machado's sharp, funny, and quietly devastating play where two worlds are held in tension: the life carefully preserved, and the life that had to be lived. **Performances of *THE COOK* will take place at Berkeley Rep's Peet's Theatre. Press night will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026.**

Next, Berkeley Rep will produce the West Coast premiere of **Bess Wohl's *LIBERATION* (October 23–November 29, 2026)**. It's 1970s Ohio, and Lizzie has gathered a group of women in a rec center basement to change their lives and maybe the world. Decades later, Lizzie's daughter delves into her mother's history to find answers to the feminist revolution's unanswered questions, reliving those necessary, messy, and impassioned meetings that asked: What does it mean for a woman to be free? Direct from its acclaimed Broadway run, Tony Award nominee **Bess Wohl** (*Grand Horizons*) and director **Whitney White** (*Jaja's African Hair Braiding*) bring ferocious wit and emotional precision to this intensely relevant and biting funny memory play about what we inherit, what we forget, and what we're still fighting to understand. *Liberation* is a co-production with **Geffen Playhouse** and **Studio Theatre**. **Performances of *LIBERATION* will take place at Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre. Press night will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026.**

Berkeley Rep will then produce the West Coast premiere of **York Walker's *COVENANT* (November 6–December 13, 2026)**. In a small Georgia town, superstitions and rumors abound. The graveyard, the church, the neighbors, their families — there seems to be a secret within everything, and Avery wants out. But when her once-awkward childhood friend Johnny returns to town as a smooth-talking blues star, raising suspicion he's made the darkest of deals, a series of secrets emerges to envelop them all. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "a striking Southern Gothic work," York Walker's *Covenant* unravels truth from myth in a haunting and gripping reckoning with what we choose to believe and what we cannot escape. **Performances of *COVENANT* will take place at Berkeley Rep's Peet's Theatre. Press night will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2026.**

Kicking off the new year, Berkeley Rep will produce the world premiere musical ***THE INTERESTINGS* (January 31–March 21, 2027)**, based on the novel by **Meg Wolitzer**. Six teenagers meet at an arts summer camp in the 1970s and form a lifelong bond over their shared dream of leading creative and inspiring lives. Decades later in New York City, that bond remains powerful, but so much else has changed. Featuring music and lyrics by Grammy Award-winning and Emmy and Tony Award-nominated artist **Sara Bareilles** (*Waitress*), a book by *The New York Times* best-selling novelist **Meg Wolitzer** and Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-nominated playwright **Sarah Ruhl** (*Eurydice*, *In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)*), and direction by Tony Award-winner **Michael Arden** (*Parade*, *Maybe Happy Ending*), *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. *The Interestings* is produced in association with **Matt Ross**. **Performances of *THE INTERESTINGS* will take place at Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre. Press night will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2027.**

Next, Berkeley Rep will produce the West Coast premiere of **Ryan J. Haddad's *HOLD ME IN THE WATER* (March 12–April 18, 2027)**. When Ryan falls for a man he just met, he's ready for the romance of his dreams. But as their connection grows, he learns that new heights of joy can bring deep insecurities to the surface. Written and performed by **Ryan J. Haddad** and directed by **Danny Sharron**, *Hold Me in the Water* is a playfully provocative and disarmingly vulnerable solo play about the passion and intimacy of first love. **Performances of *HOLD ME IN THE WATER* will take place at Berkeley Rep's Peet's Theatre. Press night will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2027.**

In early summer 2027, Berkeley Rep will produce the West Coast premiere of **Talene Monahon's *MEET THE CARTOZIANS* (May 21–June 27, 2027)**. In the 1920s, an Armenian American man wages a quiet legal battle for the right to belong. A century later, a group of Armenian Americans wage a different type of battle on the set of his descendant's reality television show. Talene Monahon's boldly imaginative new play stitches together historical drama and scorching satire in what *The New York Times* calls "wildly funny" and "pure entertainment." At once hilarious and haunting, *Meet the Cartozians* exposes a little-known chapter of American history while asking a question that refuses to stay in the past: Who gets to be American, and at what cost? *Meet the Cartozians* is a co-production with The Huntington. **Performances of *MEET THE CARTOZIANS* will take place at Berkeley Rep's Peet's Theatre. Press night will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2027.**

Closing out the 2026/27 season, Berkeley Rep will produce the West Coast premiere of **Tom Stoppard's *LEOPOLDSTADT* (June 4–July 11, 2027)**. Renowned dramatist **Tom Stoppard's** most personal, sweeping masterwork traces one Jewish family through sixty years of Viennese history — from the 19th century's glittering promise to the Holocaust's shattering aftermath. Winner of the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Play, *Leopoldstadt* moves with the rhythm of memory itself: vibrant, then fractured, then hauntingly still. Directed by Stoppard's long-time collaborator **Carey Perloff** in close partnership with Stoppard before his death, this monumental drama paints a deeply human portrait of what families carry, what they lose, and what they must fight to remember. **Performances of *LEOPOLDSTADT* will take place at Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre. Press night will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2027.**

Full-Season (7-play) subscriptions start at \$119 and are available now by visiting berkeleyrep.org/sub. Berkeley Rep Full-Season subscribers save up to 30% off individual ticket prices (or more with dynamic pricing for the most in-demand shows) and receive priority access to special limited-engagement events, free ticket exchanges, discounts on additional tickets and School of Theatre classes, and more! Individual tickets for each production will go on sale to the general public at a later date. All prices, dates, artists, and venues are subject to change.

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** and **The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**, as well as **Wayne Jordan & Quinn Delaney**, **Sudha Pennathur & Edward Messerly**, and **Jack & Betty Schafer**.

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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).