

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kevin Kopjak | Prismatic Communications | kevin@prismaticcommunications.com**BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE EXTENDS
WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL *THE LUNCHBOX******** Performances Now On Sale Through Sunday, July 5, 2026 *****

BERKELEY, CA (May 29, 2026) — Due to audience demand and critical acclaim, **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** has extended the world premiere musical, *The Lunchbox*, through **Sunday, July 5, 2026**. Tickets for all performances are available online at berkeleyrep.org or by phone at 510 647-2949 (Tue–Sun, 12pm–7pm).

Critics have hailed *The Lunchbox* as “rarest of rarities...astonishing and inspiring...*The Lunchbox* feeds the soul” (*TheaterDogs*), “a stunning, endearing masterwork” (*BroadwayWorld*), “a must-see of a new musical that already has the look, sound, and feel of a future Broadway hit” (*Theatre Eddys*), and “the musical equivalent of a starburst” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), with audiences praising the production’s emotional storytelling, vibrant score, stunning design, and powerful performances.

“It has been a joy seeing audiences connect with this beautiful new musical, leaping to their feet every night. We are excited to give even more people the chance to experience this story,” said **Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer**. “What Rachel Chavkin and this company have created is truly magical.”

In bustling Mumbai, a lunchbox delivery meant for one man lands in the hands of another, sparking an unlikely bond between a young wife longing to be seen and a widower nearing retirement. As notes pass back and forth with each meal, their words blossom into a romance that might save them both. Based on **Ritesh Batra**’s internationally acclaimed film, *The Lunchbox* is directed by Tony Award-winner **Rachel Chavkin** (*Hadestown*; *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*) and features a sweeping, intimate score by **the Lazours**.

Featuring **Manu Narayan** (*Company* on Broadway, *The Love Guru*, *Your Friends & Neighbors*) and **Kuhoo Verma** (*Heathers*, off-Broadway; *Monsoon Wedding* and *Octet* at Berkeley Rep), the cast of *The Lunchbox* also includes (in alphabetical order) **Hashini Amarasinghe**, **Savidu Geevaratne**, **Akshara Gunda**, **Shaarada Trayi Karthik**, **Benjamin Mathew**, **Vaibu Mohan**, **Shiv Nadkarni**, **Anisha Nagarajan**, **Nasir Panjwani**, **Yash Ramanujam**, **Sushma Saha**, **Kinshuk Sen**, **Caryna Shah**, **Aathaven Tharmarajah**, **Vishal Vaidya**, and **Levin Valayil**.

The creative team for *The Lunchbox* includes **Ritesh Batra** (Book and Co-Lyrics), **the Lazours** (Music and Co-Lyrics), **Rachel Chavkin** (Director), **Reshma Gajjar** (Choreographer), **Mimi Lien** (Scenic Design), **Arjun Bhasin** (Costume Design), **Bradley King** (Lighting Design), **Justin Stasiw** (Sound Design), **Charles G. LaPointe** (Wigs and Hair Design), **Nathan Koci** (Music Supervisor, Co-Orchestrations), **Rohan**

Krishnamurthy (Co-Orchestrations), **Daniel Lazour** (Co-Orchestrations), **Arun Ramamurthy** (Co-Orchestrations), **Sheela Ramesh** (Music Director), **The Telsey Office: Kristian Charbonier and Adam Caldwell**; **Keertana Sastry, Priya Ghosh** (Casting), **Mahira Kakkar** (Dialect Coach), **Becky Fleming** (Production Stage Manager), **Shana Ferguson** (Stage Manager), and **Kathleen Gallardo** (Assistant Stage Manager). *The Lunchbox* is produced in association with **Mark Lunsford** and **Nik Dodani**.

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, Jack & Betty Schafer, and Kelli & Steffan Tomlinson**.

The Lunchbox is made possible in part with the support of Dabbawallah sponsors **Yogen & Peggy Dalal** and **Sudha Pennathur & Edward Messerly**; Hidden Note sponsor **Anjali & Sundar Pichai**; Mumbai Local sponsor **Melinda Haag & Chuck Fanning**; Tiffin sponsors **Shelley & Jonathan Bagg, Dhanam Foundation, Thomas W. Edwards & Rebecca Parlette-Edwards, Scott & Sherry Haber, and Omar Khan & Kamini Ramani**. Berkeley Rep also acknowledges the generous support of *The Lunchbox* at the sponsor level from the **Laurents/Hatcher Foundation** and **Mechanics Bank**, and at the associate sponsor level from **PNC Bank**. *The Lunchbox* is made possible by Berkeley Rep's Musical Theatre Development Fund, with leadership support from **Yogen and Peggy Dalal**. Special thanks to the members of **Berkeley Rep's South Asian Leadership Council: Yogen & Peggy Dalal, Dhanam Foundation, Omar Khan & Kamini Ramani, Sudha Pennathur & Edward Messerly, and Anjali & Sundar Pichai**.

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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 91 world premieres. Berkeley Rep shows have gone on to win eight Tony Awards, nine Obie Awards, 14 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.