

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASEPress Contact: Kevin Kopjak, Prismatic Communications | kevin@prismaticSF.com“A striking Southern gothic work.” — *The New York Times*“You’ll be frightened in the best way possible.” — *TheaterMania*

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF YORK WALKER’S COVENANT

Directed by Taylor Reynolds, the haunting Southern Gothic thriller unravels truth from myth in a gripping story of secrets, superstition, and the stories we choose to believe

**Berkeley Rep’s Peet’s Theatre
November 6–December 13, 2026**

BERKELEY, CA (September 30, 2026) — **Berkeley Repertory Theatre (Berkeley Rep)** announced the cast and creative team for the West Coast premiere of **York Walker’s *Covenant***, a suspenseful Southern Gothic play that explores the price of wanting more—and the dangerous power of believing the rumors we tell about ourselves and one another. Directed by **Taylor Reynolds** (*Clyde’s* at Berkeley Rep), performances of *Covenant* will take place at **Berkeley Rep’s Peet’s Theatre beginning Friday, November 6 and running through Sunday, December 13, 2026**. Opening night (press night) will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2026. Single tickets (\$25–\$137) are available online at berkeleyrep.org or by phone at 510 647-2949 (Tue–Sun, 12pm–7pm).

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 that 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,” Walker’s *Covenant* unravels truth from myth in a gripping reckoning with what we choose to believe and what we cannot escape.

“People have made deals with various devils throughout human history, but York’s beautiful story expands and explodes those tropes, plunging us into the specificity of this particular family, in this town, in this moment,” said Berkeley Rep Artistic Director **Johanna Pfaelzer**. “York’s voice as a writer is truly singular, and I am delighted to bring this wildly talented artist back to the Bay Area, and fully trust that this community will fall under his spell.”.

"I've always been interested in what the horror/thriller genre could look like onstage," said playwright **York Walker**. "The seed of this play came from an image that came to me of a Black girl surrounded by darkness. That image, coupled with the myth of Robert Johnson, became a family drama about the secrets we keep from the people we love and how those secrets haunt us. Eventually the collision of family, folklore, and fear evolved into *Covenant*."

"The best feeling in the theatre is when you have a knot in your stomach and you don't know whether you're going to laugh, cry, or scream—*Covenant* gives you all three," said director **Taylor Reynolds**. "At the heart of every twist and turn is a family of Black women trying to figure out how to love one another, and whether the secrets they carry will bring them together or tear them apart. I love the horror genre and all the thrills this play delivers, but what really hooked me is the love between these characters. *Covenant* asks what happens when we're caught between safety and freedom, between who we're told we should be and who we know we are, and whether we're brave enough to be our true selves."

The cast of *Covenant* features (*in alphabetical order*): **Latoya Edwards** (Avery), **Israel Erron Ford** (Johnny "Honeycomb" James), **Alicia Pilgrim** (Violet), **Jeunée Tawn Simon** (Mama), and **Shian Tomlinson** (Ruthie). Understudies include **Anna Marie Sharpe**, **Titus VanHook**, and **Courtney Williams**. Casting is by **Destiny Lilly**.

The creative team for *Covenant* includes **York Walker** (Playwright), **Taylor Reynolds** (Director), **Teresa L. Williams** (Scenic Design), **Hahnji Jang** (Costume Design), **Alan Edwards** (Lighting Design), **Bailey Trierweiler & UptownWorks** (Sound Design), **Steve Cuiffo** (Special Effects Consultant), **Earon Chew Nealey** (Hair, Wigs, Makeup Designer), **David Möschler** (Vocal/Guitar Coach), **Andrea Caban** (Voice & Dialect Coach), **Dana Petersen** (Stage Manager), and **Anthony Lopez** (Assistant Stage Manager).

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 **The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**, as well as **Wayne Jordan & Quinn Delaney**, **Jerome & Thao Dodson**, **Helen & John Meyer**, **Sudha Pennathur & Edward Messerly**, **Jack & Valerie Rowe**, and **Jack & Betty Schafer**.

###

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.