

BERKELEY REP

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PLEASE NOTE: To protect the privacy of our performers, this production is partnering with Yondr to ensure performances are phone-free. Upon arrival, all phones must be powered off and locked in Yondr pouches. Guests maintain possession of their phones and can unlock them at intermission as needed. All pouches will be opened at the end of the performance.

“An unadulterated pleasure. Powerfully moving and funny. When these women talk, we want to hear every word.” —*The New York Times*

**BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR
THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF BESS WOHL’S PULITZER PRIZE- AND
TONY AWARD-WINNING PLAY, *LIBERATION***

Directed by Tony Award nominee Whitney White, *Liberation* is an intensely relevant and biting funny memory play about what we inherit, what we forget, and what we’re still fighting to understand.

**Berkeley Rep’s Roda Theatre
October 23 – November 29, 2026**

BERKELEY, CA (September 15, 2026)—**Berkeley Repertory Theatre** announced the cast and creative team for the highly-anticipated West Coast premiere of *Liberation*, Bess Wohl’s Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play. Directed by Tony Award nominee **Whitney White** (Broadway’s *Jaja’s African Hair Braiding* and *Liberation*), performances of *Liberation* will take place at **Berkeley Rep’s Roda Theatre** beginning **Friday, October 23 and running through Sunday, November 29, 2026**. Opening night (press night) will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026. Single tickets (\$25-\$137) are available online at berkeleyrep.org or by phone at 510 647-2949 (Tue–Sun, 12–7PM).

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, *Liberation* is an 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**.

Berkeley Rep produces this West Coast premiere and regional co-production of *Liberation* following acclaimed New York runs both on- and off-Broadway, where it took home both the 2026 Tony Award for Best Play and the 2026 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, among numerous other honors.

"When I first saw *Liberation*, I felt as though Bess's gorgeous play, in Whitney's brilliant production, had been made for the Bay Area," said **Berkeley Rep Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer**. "What moved me so deeply is the way Bess takes these enormous questions about identity, freedom, and the progress we inherit from previous generations and makes them profoundly personal. At its heart, this is a story about a daughter trying to understand her mother and, in doing so, coming to understand herself. I can't imagine a more thoughtful and engaged audience for that journey than Berkeley Rep's."

"It's such an honor to get to share *Liberation*, and Whitney White's glorious production, with Berkeley audiences," adds playwright **Bess Wohl**. "This play is about the power of community and finding courage and support in one another, which is vital now more than ever. I couldn't be more grateful to be part of this wonderful season."

Said director **Whitney White**: "I am so excited to be bringing *Liberation* to Berkeley Rep. Berkeley has a very special relationship to the history of the women's movement having fostered and produced many champions of women's rights who laid the foundations of the movement and continue to push us forward today. *Liberation* was a labor of love and resistance, and I cannot wait for audiences to meet these unforgettable characters. I also feel incredibly grateful to be returning to the theatre after *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*. Meet us at the gym...in 1970."

The cast of *Liberation* features (in alphabetical order) **Felicia Curry** (Celeste), **Britt Faulkner** (Dora), **Katie Lowes** (Lizzie), **Irene Sofia Lucio** (Isidora), **Gunnar Manchester** (Bill), **Mary Gordon Murray** (Margie), **Veronica Otim** (Joanna), and **Evelyn Spahr** (Susan). Understudies include **Rolanda Bell**, **Nancy Carlin**, **Rachel Clausen**, and **Jeremy Kahn**. Casting is by **C12 Casting**.

The creative team for *Liberation* includes **Bess Wohl** (Playwright), **Whitney White** (Director), **David Zinn** (Scenic Design), **Qween Jean** (Costume Design), **Cha See** (Lighting Design), **Palmer Hefferan** (Sound Design), **Nikiya Mathis** (Wigs & Hair Design), **Gigi Buffington** (Voice & Dialect Coach), **Kelsey Rainwater** (Intimacy Consultant), **Annabel Heacock** (Associate Director), **Andie Leigh Burns** (Stage Manager), and **Kathleen Rose Gallardo** (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 by **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**.

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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.