



## NEWS RELEASE

**Press Contact:**

Tim Etheridge, Director of Public Relations  
510 647-2917; [tetheridge@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:tetheridge@berkeleyrep.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **COMEDIAN MIKE BIRBIGLIA RETURNS TO BERKELEY REP WITH A NEW SHOW** ***The Old Man and The Pool* debuts in January**

December 1, 2021—Berkeley Repertory Theatre announced today that comedian **Mike Birbiglia** will kick off the New Year with his latest show ***Mike Birbiglia: The Old Man and The Pool*** at the Theatre beginning January 4. Written and performed by Birbiglia with direction by **Seth Barrish**, this limited engagement show runs **January 4-23, 2022** in the Roda Theatre. Tickets are now on sale to the general public at [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org) or by calling **510-647-2949**.

Ben Brantley of the *New York Times* raved about Mike Birbiglia's recent Broadway show [The New One](#) awarding it his critics pick. In ***The Old Man and The Pool*** the comedian and storyteller returns with a tale of life, death, and his visits to a highly chlorinated YMCA pool. Like all of Birbiglia's shows, it blends absurd jokes and surprising stories for what amounts to one single story. It's a rumination on middle age that celebrates life while making detours into pizza math, pulmonary tests, and glass jars of peanut M&M's.

"I have been lucky enough to attend Berkeley Rep shows for many years," said Birbiglia. "My sister Patti lives in the Bay Area and she introduced me to The Theatre in the early 2000s, so performing there is a dream come true. I love everything about it. The theatre itself. The folks who run the theatre. The people who come to the shows. The Bay Area has smart, theatre-savvy audiences and when an artist is creating new work that's what they crave most. I debuted *The New One* at Berkeley Rep in 2017 and that show went all the way to Broadway. So maybe Berkeley has some kind of secret magical energy? It seems that way. Magic aside, I can promise the Berkeley audiences this: My director **Seth Barrish** and I constructed *The New One* to be a hybrid of comedy and emotionality into a single evening of theatre and ***The Old Man and The Pool*** has the exact same goal. We want you to laugh. We want you to feel. We try to delve into some big themes: life death, and mortality. But with jokes. And stories. A lot of them. I've been writing this show for three years and developing it on my *Working It Out* podcast with guests like Ira Glass and Tig Notaro and others, and Berkeley will be the place where people first get to see it formed as a single evening of theatre. I couldn't think of a better place." <https://www.berkeleyrep.org/shows/mike-birbiglia-the-old-man-and-the-pool/>

#### **ABOUT MIKE BIRBIGLIA**

Mike Birbiglia is a comedian, storyteller, director, podcaster, producer, and actor who has performed in front of audiences worldwide. His solo shows *Sleepwalk With Me*, *My Girlfriend's Boyfriend*, *Thank God For Jokes*, and *The New One* enjoyed successful off Broadway runs and his most recent show *The New One* moved to Broadway where he received the Drama Desk Award for outstanding solo performance. *The New One* and *Thank God For Jokes* became critically acclaimed Netflix specials. Birbiglia also wrote, directed and starred in the films *Sleepwalk with Me* and *Don't Think Twice*. His books, *Sleepwalk with Me and Other Painfully True Stories* and *The New One* are both National Bestsellers. He's appeared in the films *Trainwreck*, *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Popstars* as well as TV roles in *Orange Is the New Black* and

*Billions*. He hosts a podcast, *Mike Birbiglia's Working It Out*, and is currently touring with his newest show *The Old Man and The Pool*.

#### **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 5.5 million people have enjoyed nearly 500 shows at Berkeley Rep, which have gone on to win six Tony Awards, seven Obie Awards, nine Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, one Pulitzer Prize, and many other honors. Berkeley Rep received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997. 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. The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre engages and educates some 20,000 people a year and helps build the audiences of tomorrow with its nationally recognized teen programs. Berkeley Rep's bustling facilities — which also include the 400-seat Peet's Theatre, the 600-seat Roda Theatre, and a spacious campus in West Berkeley — are helping revitalize a renowned city. Learn more at [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org)

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