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**For Immediate Release****TOM PARRISH NAMED NEXT MANAGING DIRECTOR AT BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE  
Veteran theatre executive, producer, and consultant to begin September 12**

**July 14, 2022** - Berkeley Repertory Theatre and their Board of Trustees today announced that **Tom Parrish** will become the next managing director of the award-winning theatre company. The appointment comes following current Managing Director **Susie Medak's** retirement, which she had previously announced in January of this year. Parrish will join Artistic Director **Johanna Pfaelzer** as the next team to lead the revered company into a new era.

For the past 19 years, Parrish has worked as an executive or senior leader at numerous celebrated theatre companies, including Trinity Repertory Company, Geva Theatre Center, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, and San Diego Repertory Theatre. Most recently, Parrish served as the Interim Chief Operating Officer of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Parrish's selection follows a lengthy and comprehensive search for Susie Medak's successor conducted by **Arts Consulting Group** with a Search Committee of Board and staff members led by Board President **Emily Shanks**. In anticipation of the transition, Shanks, along with other members of the board, met with Berkeley Rep staff and interviewed those working in the arts from across the nation and abroad to help stakeholders understand the issues facing the field. The Search Committee received nearly 70 applications and ultimately interviewed a group of 13 candidates that included seven women, four individuals who identified as part of the BIPOC community, and five self-identified members of the LGBTQIA+ community. At every round, the Search Committee ensured there was diversity among the candidates, including race, gender, ability, age, sexual orientation, country of origin, and experience.

"The future of Berkeley Rep will be sensational under the leadership of Tom Parrish and Johanna Pfaelzer," said Search Committee chair and Board President **Emily Shanks**. "Tom is a skilled executive with an accomplished breadth of theatre experience. He has the qualities to infuse Berkeley Rep with fresh perspective. I am looking forward to having him as part of the leadership team."

"I am thrilled to welcome Tom Parrish to Berkeley Rep," said **Johanna Pfaelzer**. "His decades of service in the American theatre, combined with his deep commitment to ensuring that arts organizations reach beyond their walls to be vital, engaged members of their communities, make Tom a perfect choice to help lead Berkeley Rep's next era. He is known to lead with both rigor and empathy – those qualities, plus his lifelong passion for the craft of theatre-making, will be a great match for our company as we continue to emerge from the challenges of the last couple of years. I'm looking forward to working with Tom to build

on the extraordinary foundation that Susie and Tony created, and envision the next phase of this beloved company.”

**Susie Medak** added of the appointment, “I have known Tom for many years and have enormous respect for him. The Berkeley Rep Board has made a great choice. Tom’s commitment to theatre, to principles of inclusion and diversity, his financial and organizational acumen, and his appreciation for the responsibilities Berkeley Rep has to the many constituencies in our community make him well suited to partner with Johanna Pfaelzer.”

“Berkeley Rep has an outstanding reputation as one of the country’s finest theatre companies,” said **Tom Parrish**. “I am honored and thrilled to be partnering with Johanna in building upon a legacy of developing, producing, and presenting theatrical work that expands and diversifies audiences and sets standards of artistic innovation and production excellence. I look forward to collaborating with Johanna and the entire Berkeley Rep team and to building and developing relationships and community throughout Berkeley and the Greater Bay Area.”

Parrish will begin his tenure full-time on September 12, 2022 and will be relocating with his partner to the Bay Area from New York City. Susie Medak will continue in her position until August 31.

### **Tom Parrish Bio**

Tom Parrish’s career, the past 19 years of which have been as an executive or senior leader, spans all functional arts management disciplines in organizations with budgets up to \$35M ranging from multi-venue performing arts centers to major, Tony Award-winning theatre companies. As a producer, he has produced over 140 productions, including over 30 world premieres, 11 of which were world premiere commissions. Recognized as a thought and industry leader, he has served as Treasurer of the League of Resident Theatres, on the Board of Directors of Theatre Forward, and as a consultant to theatre producers and arts organizations around the country, most recently as Interim Chief Operating Officer of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Before relocating to New York City, Parrish served as Executive Director of Trinity Repertory Company, the Tony Award-winning State Theatre of Rhode Island. During his tenure, Trinity Rep commissioned, premiered, and produced the highest-grossing productions in organizational history; substantially increased ticket revenue and nearly doubled annual fundraising; deepened its vital relationship with Brown University resulting in tuition-free MFA programs and a Top 5 ranking in the world; and committed robustly to equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism. Under his leadership, Trinity Rep was recognized by Providence Business News for Excellence at a Mid-Size Company. Parrish and his work were recognized with the Best Practice Award for Leadership from the Initiative for Nonprofit Excellence at the Rhode Island Foundation, Providence Business News’ “Forty Under 40,” and Outstanding Eagle Scout Award from the National Eagle Scout Association.

Prior to Trinity Rep, Parrish served as Executive Director of Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, New York, where he was named to the Rochester Business Journal’s “Forty Under 40” and was recognized with the Community Person Award from the Hearing Loss Association of America – Rochester chapter for his efforts to make theatre more accessible. Prior to Geva, Parrish served as Executive Director of Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) in Lowell, Massachusetts, where he produced the company’s first off-Broadway production and was designated one of the Merrimack Valley’s “Forty Under 40.” Prior to MRT, he served as Associate Managing Director and General Manager of San Diego Repertory Theatre, where he received an NAACP Theatre Award for Best Producer and was named to San Diego Metropolitan Magazine’s “Forty Under 40.”

Parrish holds an M.B.A. and an M.A. in Arts Administration from Southern Methodist University and a B.A. in Theater Arts and Economics from Case Western Reserve University. He also attended the Commercial Theater Institute and National Theater Institute at the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center; Harvard Business School’s Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management, where he was an F. Steele Blackall III Fellow; and is certified in Leading Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by Northwestern University.

## **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)