

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kevin Kopjak | Prismatic Communications | kevin@prismaticcommunications.com

BERKELEY REP SCHOOL OF THEATRE LAUNCHES DIG IN

The innovative initiative brings digitally captured performances and interactive experiences to school communities across California at no cost

BERKELEY, CA (February 13, 2023)—The **Berkeley Rep School of Theatre** is excited to launch **DIG IN**, Berkeley Rep's new digital initiative that provides school communities across California with no-cost digital access to professionally captured performances and interactive experiences and provides an online creative community for emerging artists in all genres. DIG IN has two components—the Digital Library and the Virtual Stage – that provide expanded accessibility to professional theatre and inspire creativity in the next generation of artists.

"Berkeley Rep is committed to our values of innovation, equity, and discovery," said **Tom Parrish**, Berkeley Repertory Theatre's managing director. "DIG IN will provide students and teachers with incredible access to theatrical resources and experiences that can provide entry points for new audiences, tools for artists and students to harness their creative power and build empathy, and curricular support in a variety of subjects."

The DIG IN Digital Library contains high-quality recordings of innovative productions, including works that align directly with California Core Curriculum and CASEL Standards. Any student in California will be able to digitally access full theatre productions, performance clips, production programs, resource guides, video lessons in arts or humanities, career development interviews, and interactive challenges to create content on social media and in a virtual theatre space.

The DIG IN Virtual Stage activates dialogue among students and young adults with the productions on Berkeley Rep's stages. Students and young adults will create stories, music, video, dance, visual art, poetry, and theatre pieces through interactive challenges on social media and our virtual stage.

DIG IN is available for use in the classroom and can be shared in educational settings, as curricular programming for school clubs and campus affinity groups. It is a new platform that gives direct access to any student by leveling the playing field for entrance.

"DIG In goes beyond passive viewing of content," said **Dylan Russell**, associate director of School of Theatre and leader of DIG IN. "We are growing an online maker space for young-adult storytellers to create art that responds to the work on Berkeley Rep's stages. It is a new way to inspire emerging theatre-makers to respond, create, and be in dialogue with our productions through a multiplicity of art forms."

The current schedule of digital productions offered through 2023 are:

- *Goddess*
- *Sanctuary City*
- *the ripple, the wave that carried me home*
- *Wuthering Heights*
- *Clyde's* (Available spring 2023)
- *Cambodian Rock Band* (Available spring 2023)

To sign up for DIG IN programming, visit: berkeleyrep.org/digin.

###

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

ABOUT THE BERKELEY REP SCHOOL OF THEATRE

Berkeley Rep creates ambitious theatre that entertains and challenges its audiences, provokes civic engagement, and inspires people to experience the world in new and surprising ways. The School of Theatre supports this mission through meaningful connections between audiences and our mainstage work, creative entry points for new audiences, tools for artists and students to harness their imaginative power, and immersive training for future theatre makers.

Having first opened its doors in 2001, the School of Theatre offers programming as eclectic as the productions onstage at Berkeley Rep, reaching some 20,000 people in the Bay Area each year. Driven by an expanding community of inspired, curious, and creative theatre lovers, the School's programming provides opportunities for engagement on a variety of levels. Learn more at berkeleyrep.org/school