

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS
2024 OVATION GALA**Gala to honor Tony Award winning director Michael Mayer
and philanthropists Yogen & Peggy Dalal****Special performances by four-time Tony Award nominee Raúl Esparza,
Tony Award winner John Gallagher, Jr., plus additional distinguished artists****Event proceeds support Berkeley Rep's artistic and education programs******* SATURDAY, APRIL 13 *******THE RITZ-CARLTON, SAN FRANCISCO**

SAN FRANCISCO (March 25, 2024)—**Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (Berkeley Rep) and gala co-chairs **Jill Fugaro** and **Sudha Pennathur** are proud to announce Berkeley Rep's **2024 Ovation Gala** being held on **Saturday, April 13** at **The Ritz-Carlton** in San Francisco (600 Stockton St.). Paying tribute to Berkeley Rep's history and future, this year's Ovation Gala will honor Tony Award winning director **Michael Mayer** (*American Idiot*; *Swept Away*; upcoming *Galileo: A Rock Musical*) and philanthropists **Yogen & Peggy Dalal**, lead supporters of the Musical Theatre Development Fund at Berkeley Rep. Proceeds from the event provide critical support to Berkeley Rep's artistic and education programs.

Individual tickets are available now starting at \$1,500. Sponsorships are available beginning at \$15,000 for up to 10 guests. For more information or to purchase tables or tickets, please visit berkeleyrep.org/support/ovation-gala/.

"Making world-class theatre, promoting lifelong learning, and building community – particularly in challenging times like these – truly takes a village on-stage and off. At the Ovation Gala, we are excited to raise funds to support these efforts and celebrate and salute the many people who make this work possible," said **Berkeley Rep Managing Director Tom Parrish**. "We are particularly thrilled to honor the talents of Michael Mayer, who has made an indelible impact on Berkeley Rep and the American Theatre through his directorial gifts, and philanthropists Yogen and Peggy Dalal, whose commitment to the theatrical artform, transformative storytelling, and the future of the field has uplifted numerous organizations."

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception, followed by an elegant, seated dinner. Guests will delight in a constellation of entertainment featuring special performances by four-time Tony Award nominee **Raúl Esparza**—star of Berkeley Rep's upcoming world premiere production, *Galileo: A Rock Musical*—and Tony Award **winner John Gallagher, Jr.** (*American Idiot* and *Swept Away* at Berkeley Rep). Additional distinguished guests will be announced at a later date.

The gala will also feature a live auction showcasing one-of-a-kind opportunities, including a year of Michelin Star dining, luxury Wine Country escapes in Calistoga and Healdsburg, and a sailing experience in the breathtaking Canary Islands aboard The World. Closing out the night will be an awards ceremony for this year's notable honorees and an indulgent dessert reception.

The Gala Committee—led by **Jill Fugaro** and **Sudha Pennathur**—includes **Anna Bellomo, Robin & Rich Edwards, Sandra Eggers, Sandra McCandless, Todd Rubin, Barbara Tomber,** and **Gail Wagner.**

Honorary Gala Committee includes **Narsai & Venus David, Marcia Grand, Jack & Betty Schafer, Audrey & Robert Sockolov, Michael & Sue Steinberg,** and **Jean Strunsky,** and in memory of **Michael Strunsky.**

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