

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Kevin Kopjak | Prismatic Communications | kevin@prismaticcommunications.com

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE REVEALS ONE PRODUCTION OF ITS 7-SHOW 2024/25 SEASON, **UNCLE VANYA**

A co-production with Shakespeare Theatre Company of Washington, DC

Olivier Award-winner Conor McPherson's stunning adaptation of Anton Chekhov's masterpiece to feature Golden Globe and Emmy Award nominee Hugh Bonneville in a production helmed by Shakespeare Theatre Company Artistic Director Simon Godwin

BERKELEY, CA (March 26, 2024)—Berkeley Repertory Theatre Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer and Managing Director Tom Parrish revealed one production of the upcoming 7-show 2024/25 subscription season—Olivier Award-winner **Conor McPherson's** stunning adaptation of Anton Chekhov's masterpiece, *Uncle Vanya*. When the distinguished elderly owner of a rural estate returns with a new, young wife, Yelena, chaos erupts. Tensions run high, marriages reach their limits, confessions—and vodka—flow freely, and weapons are drawn. A co-production with **Shakespeare Theatre Company**, *Uncle Vanya* will star Golden Globe and Emmy Award nominee **Hugh Bonneville** (*Downton Abbey*, *Paddington*) and be directed by Shakespeare Theatre Company's Artistic Director **Simon Godwin**. *Uncle Vanya* will perform at **Berkeley Rep's Peet's Theatre** beginning **February 14, 2025 and running through March 23, 2025**.

"I am so proud to welcome Simon and Hugh to Berkeley," said **Pfaelzer**. "When Simon and I met to talk about a possible collaboration, I said 'Chekhov?', he said 'Vanya'? and the next words out of his mouth were 'with Hugh Bonneville.' And here we are! Conor McPherson's adaptation of Chekhov's gorgeous masterpiece feels so timely, and it will be a thrill to work with Simon to build a production around Hugh in this role. We at Berkeley Rep are so fortunate to have an audience whose appetites embrace true classics like *Uncle Vanya* alongside world premiere productions, who have built longstanding relationships with certain playwrights and directors, and still have the ability to fall in love each season with artists who are brand new to them. I look forward to sharing the season ahead!"



Full cast and creative team for *Uncle Vanya* will be announced at a later date. Berkeley Rep's full 2024/25 season lineup and performance schedule will be announced in mid-April 2024.

#

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 85 world premieres. Berkeley Rep shows have gone on to win 8 Tony Awards, 9 Obie Awards, 11 Drama Desk Awards, 1 Grammy Award, 1 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.

ABOUT SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY

For more than 35 years, the Tony Award-winning Shakespeare Theatre Company has dedicated itself to being the nation's premier classical theatre. Classical plays are realized best not by originalism but by walking the path Shakespeare himself followed, creating works that spoke to his own contemporary audience. STC tells vital stories in audacious forms, stories that are Shakespearean in the deepest sense, even if (and especially when) they are not written by Shakespeare. By focusing on works with profound themes and complex characters, STC's artistic mission is unique among regional theatres: to bring to vibrant life groundbreaking, thought-provoking, and eminently accessible theatre.

ABOUT HUGH BONNEVILLE

Hugh Bonneville's film credits include *Notting Hill*, *Iris*, *The Monuments Men*, *I Came By* and the three *Paddington* movies. *Paddington in Peru* opens in UK cinemas in November 2024. His television roles include Ian Fletcher in the BAFTA-winning *Twenty Twelve* and *W1A* (BBC) and Robert Crawley in ITV's global hit, *Downton Abbey*, for which he received nominations for a Golden Globe, two Emmys and along with his fellow cast members won three SAG Awards for Outstanding Ensemble in a Drama Series. He recently completed a four-part comedy drama, *Douglas Is Cancelled*, for ITV and is currently filming the second series of *The Gold*, a six-part drama about the 1983 Brink's-Mat bullion. The first series is available on BBC iPlayer and Paramount+. He plays Jonathan Wilde in Apple TV's *The Completely Made-Up Adventures of Dick Turpin*.

ABOUT SIMON GODWIN

Shakespeare Theatre Company: *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Timon of Athens*; Simon Godwin joined Shakespeare Theatre Company as Artistic Director in September 2019. He has served as Associate Director of National Theatre of London, Royal Court Theatre, Bristol Old Vic, and Royal & Derngate Theatre. INTERNATIONAL: UK: Royal Court Theatre: *Routes*, *If You Don't Let Us Dream*, *We Won't Let You Sleep*, *NSFW*, *The Witness*, *Goodbye to All That*, *The Acid Test*, *Wanderlust* | National Theatre: *Strange Interlude*, *Man and Superman*, *The Beaux' Stratagem*, *Twelfth Night*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (ft. Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo), *Simon Wood's Hansard*, *Romeo & Juliet* (ft. Josh O'Connor and Jessie Buckley and filmed for Sky Arts/PBS), *Much Ado About Nothing* | Royal Shakespeare Company: *Hamlet*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Timon of Athens* (ft. Kathryn Hunter and reimaged in 2020 for Theatre for a New Audience and STC). JAPAN: Theatre Cocoon: *Hamlet*. Other productions include *The Little Mermaid*, *Krapp's Last Tape/A Kind of Alaska*, *Faith*

Healer, Far Away, Everyman, Habeas Corpus and Relatively Speaking. AWARDS: Evening Standard/Burberry Award for an Emerging Director (2012).