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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE EXTENDS WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL,  
*GODDESS***

**By popular demand, six additional performances added – now playing through  
Saturday, October 1**

**September 7, 2022** – Following an overwhelmingly demand from audiences and rave reviews, Berkeley Rep has announced that the world premiere musical ***Goddess*** will extend for an additional week. The new musical will now run through **Saturday, October 1**. ***Goddess*** is conceived and directed by **Saheem Ali** (*Merry Wives, Fat Ham*), music and lyrics by **Michael Thurber** (*Merry Wives*), and written by **Jocelyn Bioh** (*Merry Wives, School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play*). Berkeley Rep presents the show by special arrangement with **No Guarantees and Octopus Theatricals**.

Starting today, tickets for the added **six** performances can be purchased online at [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org) and by phone at 510 647-2949.

### **Critical praise:**

"Berkeley Rep's *Goddess* is well on its way to the heavens.

*Goddess* finds fulfillment and riches from the fact that love happens at all — that it can make us unselfish, even for one fateful moment.

Amber Iman can throw her blue moon voice so that it seems to have a center of gravity outside her body. The cast members, under the direction of Saheem Ali, who also first conceived of the show, gush talent. The most stunning achievement of the world premiere is that in promising a goddess of music, it delivers."  
—San Francisco Chronicle

"Joyful...a uniquely entertaining creation of musical magic and dancing dynamics  
It's hard to know who to praise first: Michael Thurber's sensational African, Jazz, and R&B music and lyrics...choreographer Darrell Grand Moultrie's fusion of hip hop, modern, African, and street dance, or the troupe of singers and dancers who make the music and dance come alive.  
*Goddess* succeeds in delighting its audience.... Don't wait too long to get tickets."  
—Berkeleyside

"*Goddess*, an entirely original work.... a vibrant explosion of exuberance featuring a cast whose combined talent and charisma is stratospheric.  
Its humor, emotion and storytelling fuse into the very reason we love musical theater  
— it is communal, it is bigger than us and it is filled  
With emotions that are too rich for words alone.  
This show could be the burst of color, energy and new life that Broadway needs."  
—Chad Jones' Theatre Dogs

**Synopsis:** A mysterious singer arrives at Moto Moto, a steamy Afro-jazz club in Mombasa, Kenya. She casts an entrancing spell on everyone, including a young man who has returned home from studying in America. Will the big plans for his life — stepping into a political legacy and marrying his fiancée — be upended? Inspired by the myth of Marimba, the Goddess who created beautiful songs from her heartbreak, this is a rousing tale of romance, the supernatural, and the quest towards one's truest self.

***Goddess*** cast members include **Abena** (Rashida), **Melessie Clark** (Grio Trio (Mosi); U/S Siti, Balozi & Grio Trio (Tisa)), **Rodrick Covington** (Ahmed), **Zachary Downer** (Moto Moto Ensemble (Sameer); Dance Captain), **Amber Iman** (Nadira), **Grasan Kingsberry** (Moto Moto Ensemble (Jaali); Pastor Mwangi; Detective Wafula; U/S Madongo, Balozi, & Hassan), **Kingsley Leggs** (Hassan), **Kecia Lewis** (Siti), **Isio-Maya Nuwere** (Moto Moto Ensemble (Safiyah); U/S Mrs. Mwangi), **Aaron Patterson** (Moto Moto Ensemble (Yusef); U/S Omari & Ahmed), **Destinee Rea** (Cheche), **Phillip Johnson Richardson** (Omari), **Awa Sal Secka** (Grio Trio (Zawadi); U/S Nadira, Rashida & Grio Trio (Mosi)), **Lawrence Stallings** (Madongo), **Teshomech** (Grio Trio (Tisa); U/S Nadira, Cheche & Grio Trio (Zawadi)), **Quiantae Thomas** (Moto Moto Ensemble (Amina); Mrs. Mwangi; U/S Grio Trio (Mosi & Zawadi)), **Wade Watson** (Moto Moto Ensemble (Musa); Dance Captain), and **Reggie D. White** (Balozi).

***Goddess*** features direction by **Saheem Ali**, music and lyrics by **Michael Thurber**, a book by **Jocelyn Bioh**, additional material by **Mkhululi Z. Mabija**, choreography by **Darrell Grand Moultrie**, music direction by **Marco Pagua**, scenic design by **Arnulfo Maldonado**, costume design by **Dede Ayite**, lighting design by **Bradley King**, sound design by **Nevin Steinberg**, projections and video design by **Brittany Bland**, wig design by **Nikiya Mathis**, illusions by **Steve Cuiffo**, and casting by **Stewart/Whitley**.

***Goddess*** is a recipient of the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award.

For the 2021/22 season, Berkeley Rep recognizes the generous support of **BART** and **Peet's Coffee**, Berkeley Rep's official season sponsors. **Residence Inn by Marriot** is the official in-kind season sponsor. Berkeley Rep is also delighted to recognize the support at the season sponsor level of **Stephen** and **Susan Chamberlin**, **Bruce Golden** and **Michelle Mercer**, **Frances Hellman** and **Warren Breslau**, **Wayne Jordan** and **Quinn Delaney**, **Gisele** and **Kenneth F. Miller**, and **The Strauch Kulhanjian**

**Family. Goddess** is made possible by the support of **Descendant Cellars/ Chris and Michael Rupp, Anne and Anuj Dhanda, Kerry Francis** and **John Jimerson**, and **Mechanics Bank Wealth Management**.

#### **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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