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BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES FULL CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR OCTAVIO SOLIS' *MOTHER ROAD*

From one of the most celebrated living writers of the Mexican American experience, *Mother Road* is a 21st-century tale inspired by John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

Berkeley Rep's Peet's Theatre
June 14—July 21, 2024

BERKELEY, CA (May 2, 2024)—Today, **Berkeley Repertory Theatre Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer** and **Managing Director Tom Parrish** announced the full cast and creative team for *Mother Road*, **Octavio Solis'** 21st-century tale inspired by John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, performing at Berkeley Rep's **Peet's Theatre** (2025 Addison St., Berkeley) **June 14–July 21, 2024**. Press night will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2024. Single tickets (*starting at \$22.50, plus a \$9 order fee*) are on sale now and can be purchased online at berkeleyrep.org/shows/mother-road/ or by phone at **510-647-2949** (Tue–Sun, 12–7 p.m.). *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

“When I heard the first public reading of *Mother Road* at the 2015 Latinx Theatre Commons Carnival, I remember being captivated by the musicality of Octavio's writing and the epic scale of this story which was inspired by John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*,” said director **David Mendizábal**. “By taking something so iconically American and continuing the legacy of the Joad family through the lens of a Mexican American migrant worker, Octavio's play is a reminder of the many people, cultures, and stories that define what it means to be an American. I am elated to get to bring this beautiful story to my artistic home, Berkeley Rep, and to welcome Octavio back to the Bay Area.”

In *Mother Road*, William Joad has no heir to bequeath the family farm to—until he learns about Martín Jodes, a young Mexican American migrant worker descended from Steinbeck's protagonist Tom Joad. In a reversal of the Joads' mythic journey, William and Martín embark on a road trip from California's migrant farm camps back to Oklahoma, where they reckon with their brutal pasts and forge an unlikely bond. Along their journey on the Mother Road, they gather a chorus of travelers. Witness Solis' soaring poetry, gritty realism, and mythic scope as he captures the intersection of people, cultures, and migration in the American West.

Directed by Berkeley Rep Associate Artistic Director **David Mendizábal**, the cast of *Mother Road* includes **James Carpenter** as William Joad and **Emilio Garcia-Sanchez** as Martín Jodes. Rounding out the cast are (in alphabetical order) **Cher Alvarez**, **Scott Coopwood**, **Daniel Duque-Estrada**, **Branden Davon Lindsay**, **Marilet Martinez**, **Michael Moreland Milligan**, **Lindsay Rico**, **Kenny Scott**, **Benny Wayne Sully**, **Angel Villalobos**, **Courtney Walsh**, and **Kenneth Watkins**.

The creative team for *Mother Road* includes **Tanya Orellana** (Scenic Design), **Rodrigo Muñoz** (Costume Design), **Cha See** (Lighting Design), **Jake Rodriguez** (Sound Design), **Ritmos Tropicocosmos** (Original Music), **Taylor Williams** (Casting), **Elisa Guthertz** (Stage Manager), and **Christina Hogan** (Assistant Stage Manager).

Mother Road is made possible by support from **Christina Crowley**.

Berkeley Rep recognizes the generous support of **BART** and **Peet's Coffee**, Berkeley Rep's official season sponsors. Berkeley Rep is also delighted to recognize the support at the season sponsor level from **Stephen & Susan Chamberlin**, **Yogen & Peggy Dalal**, **Bruce Golden & Michelle Mercer**, **Frances Hellman & Warren Breslau**, **Wayne Jordan & Quinn Delaney**, **Jonathan Logan**, **Gisele & Kenneth F. Miller**, **Jack & Betty Schafer**, **The Strauch Kulhanjian Family**, **Kelli & Steffan Tomlinson**, and **Gail & Arne Wagner**.

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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.