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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Berkeley Rep Extends World Premiere Avett Brothers Musical  
*Swept Away* Due to Popular Demand  
Two Weeks of Performances Added – Now Playing Through  
Sunday, February 27, 2022**

**November 10, 2021** – Due to overwhelming demand from enthusiastic theatregoers in 42 states, Berkeley Rep has announced that the world premiere musical ***Swept Away*** will extend for an additional two weeks. Previews begin on **Sunday, January 9** with the show originally scheduled to close on February 13. The musical will now run through **Sunday, February 27**.

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

"This is such encouraging news as we prepare to welcome audience members back to the Theatre," affirmed Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer. "It's a testimony to people's appetite for live theatre, and the shared experience it provides, and an optimistic sign for us as well as our colleagues in the Bay Area. We are delighted and proud to be able to share ***Swept Away*** with additional audiences."

"We are honored that our new musical ***Swept Away*** is part of the return of live theatre and are thankful for everyone who will be traveling to Berkeley from around the U.S. and abroad to see it," said Seth Avett. "This project has been years in the making and we can't wait to share it with you all."

Tony Award-winning director **Michael Mayer** (*Spring Awakening*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) blew the roof off Berkeley Rep in 2009 with Green Day's *American Idiot*. Now he returns with a captivating world premiere musical, this time featuring a book by Tony Award-winning stage and screen writer **John Logan** (*Red*, Broadway's *Moulin Rouge!*, *Skyfall*, *Gladiator*), and music and lyrics by "America's biggest roots band" (*Rolling Stone*) and multiple Grammy Award nominee **The Avett Brothers**. Choreography is by **David Neumann** (*Hadestown*).

***Swept Away*** is set in 1888, off the coast of New Bedford, MA. When a violent storm sinks their whaling ship, the four surviving souls — a young man in search of adventure, his older brother who has sworn to protect him, a captain at the end of a long career at sea, and a worldly first mate who has fallen from grace — each face a reckoning: How far will I go to stay alive? And can I live with the consequences?

***Swept Away*** is produced by special arrangement with Matthew Masten, Sean Hudock, and Madison Wells Live.

Cast members include **Wayne Duvall**, **Adrian Blake Enscoe**, **John Gallagher, Jr.**, and **Stark Sands**. Members of the ensemble include **Taurean Everett**, **Cameron Johnson**, **Ben Toomer**, **Vishal Vaidya**, and **Jacob Keith Watson**.

The creative team includes **Chris Miller** and **Brian Usifer** (music arrangement and orchestrations), **Julie Wolf** (music direction), **Rachel Hauck** (scenic design), **Susan Hilferty** (costume design), **Kevin Adams** (lighting design), and **Kai Harada** (sound design).

For the 2021/22 season, 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 of **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**. **Swept Away** is made possible by executive sponsors **Lauren Edgerton**, **Jean** and **Michael Strunsky**, and **The Ira and Leonore S. Gershwin Philanthropic Fund**, and the **Mosse Artistic Development Fund**. **Swept Away** is a recipient of an **Edgerton Foundation New Play Award**.

#### **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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