



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERKELEY REP'S ANNUAL GALA RETURNS WITH OVATION
Celebrating the Return of Live Performance
54th anniversary festivities benefit the Theatre's artistic and educational programming

March 17, 2022 – On Friday, April 29 Berkeley Repertory Theatre invites guests to its signature event **OVATION**, an evening to celebrate the organization's 54th anniversary by honoring the Theatre's return to live performances. The event will take place at **5PM** at **The Presidio Theatre**, in San Francisco's Presidio.

The event is both a spectacular party and an opportunity to celebrate and support the Theatre's innovative work both on and off stage, from its productions and new play development program to its efforts to nurture the next generation of theatre makers and theatre lovers. Since the start of the pandemic, Berkeley Rep has worked to support its artists, plan bold and innovative productions, and explore creative ways to present the craft of theatre. After a two-year hiatus, guests will reconnect in person with luminary artists and friends to experience theatre, live from the stage.

"After two years of virtual galas, we are thrilled to be welcoming back so many artists and friends who have been part of our history," says departing Managing Director Susie Medak. "On a personal note, I can't believe this will be my last gala as managing director. I have seen the event grow and expand over the years, and I am so proud of our Development staff and vigilant volunteers, past and present, who make up the gala committee, all of whom have worked tirelessly and demonstrated tremendous dedication. I look forward to toasting the future and Berkeley Rep's continuing commitment to artists and the development of new work."

The evening will begin with an elegant seated dinner al fresco for Ovation sponsors presented by **McCalls**, the Bay Area's preeminent caterer for over 40 years, in the beautiful courtyard of the **Presidio Theatre**. After dinner, guests will be ushered indoors for a night of tributes and performances from a few talented artists who have graced Berkeley Rep's stage including: EGOT-winner **Rita Moreno**, **Amber Iman** (soon to be seen this summer in Berkeley Rep's world premiere production of *Goddess*), **Adrian Blake Enscoe** (*Swept Away*) **Rebecca Naomi Jones** (*American Idiot*), and **Ephraim Sykes** (*Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations*). Renowned choreographer **Lorin Latarro** (*Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Waitress*, *Monsoon Wedding*) will direct; **Carmel Dean** (*American Idiot*, *Monsoon Wedding*) serves as music director. After the show, the celebration continues with dancing under the stars.

OVATION is made possible by the generosity of platinum sponsors **Michelle Mercer and Bruce Golden**, **Marcia Grand**, **The Strauch Kulhanjian Family**, and **Gail and Arne Wagner**. The planning committee for the event includes **Sandra Eggers** (co-chair), **Christine Rupp** (co-chair), **Ronnie Caplane**, **Narsai David**, **Richard Edwards**, **Robin Edwards**, **Jill Fugaro**, **Scott Haber**, **Sandra McCandless**, **Sudha Pennathur**, **Laura Severino**, **Audrey Rose Sockolov**, **Jean Strunsky**, and **Gail Wagner**.

Tickets for Berkeley Rep's **OVATION** begin at **\$100**. Sponsorships are available at several different tiers - **\$1,000** and **\$1,500** (Silver and Gold sponsor tickets) - **\$6,000** (Bronze), **\$7,500** (Silver table), **\$12,500** (Gold table), **\$25,000** (Platinum table). All proceeds from the event support all of the work on Berkeley Rep's stages, as well as the Theatre's arts education and new play development programs.

For more information, contact Elaina Guyett at eguyett@berkeleyrep.org or 510 647-2909.

Berkeley Rep is a vaccinated company, including staff, artists, and volunteers. Health and safety guidelines can be found [here](#).

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

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ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS:

OVATION on the stage: Celebrating the Return of Live Performance, a gala to benefit Berkeley Repertory Theatre

WHEN: Friday, April 29 @ 5:00PM

WHERE: 99 Moraga Ave, San Francisco, CA 94129

HOW MUCH: Individual tickets begin at \$100. Sponsor tickets begin at \$1,000; tables are priced between \$7,500 and \$25,000

INFO & TIX: (510) 647-2901 or www.berkeleyrep.org/ovation/