



## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO 2021/2022 SEASON**

February 23, 2022—Berkeley Repertory Theatre announced today the critically acclaimed play ***Dana H.*** written by **Lucas Hnath** will replace ***Cambodian Rock Band*** and run this summer **Friday, June 3-Sunday, July 10**. ***Cambodian Rock Band*** has been moved to the 2022/2023 season. The world premiere musical ***Goddess***, originally slated to run this spring, will run **Friday August 13- Sunday September 25**.

***Dana H.*** is the astonishing true story of Dana who was held captive — trapped in a series of Florida motels, disoriented and terrified — for five months. Told in Dana's own words and reconstructed for the stage by her son **Lucas Hnath** (*A Doll's House Part 2*, *The Christians*), and directed by **Les Waters**, this innovative work shatters the boundaries of the art form and our understanding of good and evil. Winner of the Lucille Lortel Award for Best Solo Show, ***Dana H.*** also received a rave [review](#) from *The New York Times* when it played at the Lyceum Theater in the fall of 2021. And *Vulture Magazine* called it "[breathless and brilliant.](#)"

"As has been true for many of our fellow arts organizations across the country, the Omicron variant has wrought havoc with our ability to construct, rehearse and perform our planned productions, says Berkeley Rep's Artistic Director **Johanna Pfaelzer**. "In order to best support these two wildly ambitious upcoming shows, and honor the visions of these creative teams, we have made the tough decision to move ***Goddess*** a couple of months later, and to shift ***Cambodian Rock Band*** to next season. I am grateful to the artists involved for their flexibility, and delighted that our audiences will still be able to experience these projects that we have all been eagerly anticipating. It's thrilling to be able to bring **Les Waters'** critically lauded production of **Lucas Hnath's** groundbreaking ***Dana H.*** to Berkeley Rep later this spring. Most importantly, it has been a joy to begin to welcome people back to the theatre, and we are looking forward to sharing these stories with audiences over the next several months."

The world premiere musical ***Goddess***, with a book by award-winning playwright **Jocelyn Bioh** (*School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play*), a score by composer **Michael Thurber**, and conceived by director **Saheem Ali** is the story of a young man who returns home to the coastal city of Mombasa, Kenya to marry his fiancée and step into his family's political dynasty. But when he visits ***Moto Moto*** — a steamy afro-jazz club and the stomping ground of his youth — he finds himself drawn to a mysterious new singer. Inspired by the myth of Marimba, who created beautiful songs from her heartbreak, ***Goddess*** is infused with contemporary romance, ancient magic, and the irresistible vibes of African, jazz, and R&B music. **Saturday, August 13- Sunday, September 25**

***Cambodian Rock Band*** is **Lauren Yee's** darkly funny, electric new play with music, tells the story of a Khmer Rouge survivor returning to Cambodia for the first time in 30 years, as his daughter prepares to prosecute one of Cambodia's most infamous war criminals. Backed by a live band playing contemporary Dengue Fever hits and classic Cambodian oldies, this thrilling story toggles back and forth in time as

father and daughter face the music of the past. Directed by **Chay Yew**, this intimate rock epic about family secrets is set against a dark chapter of Cambodian history.

**Cambodian Rock Band** was developed in [The Ground Floor](#): Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work. **Dates will be announced later.**

Tickets for **Dana H.** will be on sale to the general public on Friday, March 25 at [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org) or by calling 510-647-2949.

**Dana H.** by Lucas Hnath is adapted from interviews with Dana Higginbotham conducted by Steve Cosson.

The Berkeley Rep production of **Dana H.** is in association with the Broadway producers, Matt Ross, Sally Horchow, Dori Berinstein.

The world premiere of **Dana H.** was produced in 2019 by Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles, California and first presented in New York in 2020 by Vineyard Theatre.

### **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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