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**BERKELEY REP ANNOUNCES
JOHN GALLAGHER, JR.
AND
STARK SANDS
TO CO-STAR IN WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL
*SWEPT AWAY***

Single tickets on sale today for the 2019-20 season

Discount ticket packages for multiple shows also available

August 8, 2019 — Berkeley Repertory Theatre announced today that Tony Award-winning actor **John Gallagher, Jr.** (*Spring Awakening*) and Tony Award nominee **Stark Sands** (*Kinky Boots*) will co-star in the world premiere musical ***Swept Away***. Inspired by and featuring the music of **The Avett Brothers**, the musical is written by Tony Award-winning stage and screen writer John Logan (*Red*, Broadway's *Moulin Rouge!*, *Skyfall*, *Gladiator*) and helmed by Tony Award-winning director Michael Mayer (*American Idiot*, *Spring Awakening*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*). ***Swept Away*** will begin performances on **Sunday, June 14, 2020**.

Swept Away marks a reunion for Gallagher and director Mayer, who were both part of Berkeley Rep's world premiere of *American Idiot* in 2009. Sands joined them in the Broadway production. *American Idiot* smashed box office records in Berkeley and went on to win two Tony Awards.

"I've so enjoyed my past collaborations with Johnny and Stark," said director Michael Mayer, "that I'm even more excited to make this new show with them next year."

Drawing from The Avett Brothers' vast body of work, ***Swept Away*** tells the story of a violent storm that sinks a whaling ship, and 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 — who 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 and Sean Hudock.

No strangers to the Berkeley area, The Avett Brothers will return to The Greek Theatre in Berkeley, CA on August 16 and 17, with an appearance on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* set for August 15.

JOHN GALLAGHER, JR. (Mate) John recently wrapped a series of high-profile film and television projects: HBO's *Westworld* with Evan Rachel Wood and Jeffrey Wright; Amazon Studio's anthology series *Modern Love* with Anne Hathaway, Tina Fey, and Dev Patel; *The Best of Enemies* with Sam Rockwell and Taraji P. Henson for STXfilms; Will Eubank's *Underwater* opposite Kristen Stewart for 20th Century Fox; and Amblin Partners' *Larry*, which is based on the horror short by Jacob Chase.

Recently, he appeared in *Peppermint* (Lakeshore Entertainment) opposite Jennifer Garner; the SXSW premiered Megan Griffiths' *Sadie* opposite Melanie Lynskey and Tony Hale; and *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, winner of the Grand Jury Prize of the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, opposite Chloë Grace Moretz. Other notable performances: Paramount/Bad Robot's *10 Cloverfield Lane* opposite Mary Elizabeth Winstead and John Goodman; *Short Term 12* opposite Brie Larson, Rami Malek, and Lakeith Stanfield; James Gunn and Greg McLean's *The Belko Experiment*; and Mike Flanagan's cult horror hit *Hush*.

Past television work includes: Jim Harper in Aaron Sorkin's *The Newsroom* (HBO); Christopher Kitteridge in Lisa Cholodenko's *Olive Kitteridge* (HBO) opposite Frances McDormand and Richard Jenkins; Zach on *High Maintenance* (HBO); and Lucas on *Easy* (Netflix). John is a regular on Broadway. He won a Tony Award originating the role of Moritz Stiefel in *Spring Awakening* (2008 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album); starred in the stage adaptation of punk rock band Green Day's rock opera *American Idiot* (2011 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album); and starred as Edmund Tyrone in *Long Day's Journey Into Night* alongside Michael Shannon, Jessica Lange, and Gabriel Byrne; and recently opened the American premiere of Nassim Soleimanpour's *NASSIM* at New York City Center's Stage II.

Stark Sands (Big Brother) Stark most recently appeared on Broadway in Aaron Sorkin's adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird* opposite Jeff Daniels. Prior to that, he was nominated for a Tony Award and received a Grammy Award for originating the role of Charlie Price in the Tony Award-winning musical *Kinky Boots*. Recent film credits include Steven Spielberg's *The Post* opposite Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep, the Coen Brothers' *Inside Llewyn Davis* with Oscar Isaac and Carey Mulligan, and Clint Eastwood's *Flags of Our Fathers* opposite Ryan Phillippe and John Slattery. He was most recently seen on television as the lead of the FOX series *Minority Report*. He made his Broadway debut in *Journey's End*, for which he received his first Tony Award nomination and won the 2007 Theatre World Award before going on to star in Green Day's rock musical *American Idiot*.

Berkeley Rep also announced that single tickets for all shows in its 2019-20 subscription season, including ***Swept Away***, will be available to the general public today.

Subscribers to Berkeley Rep get the best seats for these shows at the consistently lowest prices.

The 5-play Main Season package guarantees tickets to ***The Great Wave*, *White Noise*, *Becky Nurse of Salem*, *Culture Clash (Still) in America*, and *School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play***. Step up to the 7-play Full Season to include ***Swept Away* and *Dianne Wiest* in *Happy Days*** as part of your package. In addition to significant savings, subscribers receive valuable advantages such as the ability to reschedule performances for free, discounts when purchasing tickets for friends, and the opportunity to secure seats before the general public for special events.

Full (7-play) and Main (5-play) season ticket packages start as low as \$170 (7-play Full Season packages range from \$189 to \$623; 5-play Main Season packages range from \$170 to \$445). Additional subscription discounts for senior citizens, pre-K–12 educators, and patrons under age 35 are available. **“Choose your own” packages of three or more shows are also available** with regular-priced subscriptions starting at **\$105**.

Additional subscription discounts are available for senior citizens and pre-K–12 educators. Patrons under the age of 35 receive up to 50% off most single tickets and subscription packages. For all ticketing information, call 510 647-2949 or visit www.berkeleyrep.org.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED SHOWS IN BERKELEY REP'S 2019-20 SUBSCRIPTION SEASON

In a Japanese coastal town in 1979, teenage sisters Hanako and Reiko run onto the beach during a tremendous storm on a dare. Hanako is tragically swept out to sea, while Reiko survives – but recalls seeing three mysterious men on the shoreline. The authorities determine that Hanako has drowned, but her mother insists that her missing daughter is still alive. Spanning over 20 years and the two vastly different countries of Japan and North Korea, ***The Great Wave* by Francis Turnly** is at once a riveting geopolitical thriller and a powerful story of the unshakable bonds between a mother, a daughter, and a

sister who refuse to give up hope. Directed by **Mark Wing-Davey**, this American premiere starts September 2019.

Leo, Dawn, Ralph, and Misha are old friends. The two 30-something couples are educated, progressive, and cosmopolitan. But when a racially motivated incident with the police leaves Leo shaken, he makes a radical proposition to Ralph that forever alters the relationship between these four friends – and their view of the world. Brave, intelligent, and eviscerating, **White Noise** by Pulitzer Prize winner **Suzan-Lori Parks** and directed by **Jaki Bradley**, is one of the most talked about new plays tackling our rapidly unraveling social contract. We're proud to be the only regional theatre outside New York to present *White Noise* this year. West Coast premiere starts September 2019.

Out of work and out of love, Becky Nurse is an ordinary but strong-willed grandmother just trying to get by in post-Obama America. She's also the great-great-great-great-great-granddaughter of Rebecca Nurse, who was infamously executed for witchcraft in 1692 – but things have changed for women since then, haven't they? Desperate to raise her troubled teenaged granddaughter right, and also hook up with an old flame, Becky visits a local witch for help. But those spells and potions don't work out exactly as planned. The latest play from the Tony-nominated **Sarah Ruhl**, and directed by **Anne Kauffman**, **Becky Nurse of Salem** speaks to the trials and triumphs of women today – and is also a comedic, warmhearted story about trying to do the right thing in a chaotic world. World premiere starts December 2019.

The missionaries of mayhem are back with their unique, badass brand of Chicano satire in **Culture Clash (Still) in America!** Born here in the Bay and Los Angeles-based, **Culture Clash** first brought their dangerous and subversive version of documentary theatre to Berkeley audiences with *Culture Clash in AmeriCCA*, gleefully skewering American culture through the lens of the Latino experience. In this powerful, pointed, and downright hilarious update directed by **Lisa Peterson**, they turn their razor-sharp wit to everything from pussy hats to MAGA caps, laying down outrageous, biting, and thought-provoking monologues and sketch comedy about the immigrant experience in America right now. Starts February 2020.

Paulina, the reigning queen bee at Ghana's most exclusive boarding school, has her sights set on the Miss Universe pageant and the glamorous life that's sure to follow. But her plans and even her very reputation are shaken up when Ericka, a new student who's strikingly beautiful and talented, captures the attention of the pageant recruiter — and Paulina's hive-minded friends. Winner of the 2018 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play and the Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award, **School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play** by **Jocelyn Bioh** is a biting comedy that tackles the universal issues of beauty and self-worth that face teenage girls across the globe. Directed by **Awoye Timpo**. Starts March 2020.

Academy Award® winner **Dianne Wiest** plays Winnie in **Samuel Beckett's** masterpiece **Happy Days**, directed by **James Bundy**. With her husband Willie (**Michael Rudko**) increasingly out of reach and the earth itself threatening to swallow her whole, Winnie's buoyant optimism shields her from the harsh glare of the inevitable in this absurdly funny and boundlessly compassionate portrait of the human spirit. The *New York Times* declares Wiest is "extraordinary," capturing both the humor and the heartbreak of one of Beckett's most popular plays in this stunning Yale Repertory Theatre production. Starts May 2020.

Multiple Grammy Award nominee **The Avett Brothers**, hailed as "America's biggest roots band" by *Rolling Stone*, bring their signature blend of folk and rock 'n' roll attitude to the theatrical stage with **Swept Away**, a world premiere musical inspired by their 2004 album *Mignonette* and their vast body of music. The band joins forces with Tony Award-winning stage and screen writer **John Logan** (*Red*, Broadway's *Moulin Rouge!*, *Skyfall*, *Gladiator*) and Tony Award-winning director **Michael Mayer** (*American Idiot*, *Spring Awakening*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*). It's 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? Starts June 2020.

Full creative teams and casting for all shows will be announced at a later date.

For the 2019-20 season, Berkeley Rep recognizes **BART, Peet's Coffee**, and **Wells Fargo**, who have generously renewed their commitment as Berkeley Rep's official season sponsors. Berkeley Rep is also delighted to have **Bruce Golden and Michelle Mercer, Jack and Betty Schafer, Michael and Sue Steinberg, and The Strauch Kulhanjian Family** on board as season sponsors.

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. Be a Rep.

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