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For Immediate Release**BERKELEY REP HOSTS FIRST EVER TEACHER APPRECIATION NIGHT****Berkeley Rep School of Theatre Welcomes Bay Area Educators Back to the Theatre**

May 6, 2022 – On Tuesday, May 3, the **Berkeley Rep School of Theatre** celebrated **National Teacher Appreciation Week** by inviting Bay Area educators to the theatre for its first ever Teacher Appreciation Night. The evening included a reception, where educators from across all nine counties of the Bay Area enjoyed refreshments while meeting School of Theatre staff, followed by remarks from Managing Director **Susie Medak** and Director of the School of Theatre, **Anthony Jackson**. Finally, educators were invited to attend Berkeley Rep’s acclaimed production of **Octet**.

This event serves to reaffirm Berkeley Rep’s commitment to Bay Area schools as the theatre emerges from the pandemic with a reinvigorated passion for serving and uplifting surrounding communities. “We are so thrilled to honor the heroic work that teachers have done over these past few years,” said Medak. “I want teachers to know that their impact stems far beyond just one student; whether it’s investing the extra time to make sure a student succeeds, or a moment of connection with a parent, the work that teachers do inspires countless generations, and we as a community are all the better for it.”

At the event, it was announced that Berkeley Rep’s popular student matinee programming will return for the 2022/23 season. Also announced was the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre’s new streaming initiative, spearheaded by the school’s new Associate Director, Dylan Russel. This pioneering initiative will offer free digital access to all Berkeley Rep shows for all California high schoolers. “We are aiming to reach all 65,000 ninth graders in Northern California in the next five years,” Jackson revealed. “Whether through our in-school workshops, Teen Council programming, or streaming initiative, we are so excited to be back in the classroom and back in community with these wonderful schools!”

ABOUT THE BERKELEY REP SCHOOL OF THEATRE

Berkeley Rep creates ambitious theatre that entertains and challenges its audiences, provokes civic engagement, and inspires people to experience the world in new and surprising ways. The School of Theatre supports this mission through meaningful connections between audiences and our mainstage work, creative entry points for new audiences, tools for artists and students to harness their imaginative power, and immersive training for future theatre makers.

Having first opened its doors in 2001, the School of Theatre offers programming as eclectic as the productions onstage at Berkeley Rep, reaching some 20,000 people in the Bay Area each year. Driven by an expanding community of inspired, curious, and creative theatre lovers, the School’s programming provides opportunities for engagement on a variety of levels. Learn more at berkeleyrep.org/school

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