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BERKELEY REP DELAYS OCTOBER REOPENING
***Wintertime* will start 2021/22 season on November 12**

August 11, 2021 — Berkeley Repertory Theatre today announced that due to the increasing COVID cases spurred by the Delta variant and to ensure the utmost safety, the 2021/22 season will now begin **November 12, 2021** with the production of ***Wintertime***, reuniting playwright Charles L. Mee and director Les Waters.

"We care about the safety of our audiences, our artists, and our staff," says Managing Director Susie Medak. "At this moment in time it simply seems as though the most prudent choice is to postpone our opening for a month to allow this current wave of infection to run its course."

Originally, the 2021/22 season was scheduled to begin on October 1, 2021 with the world premiere of ***the ripple, the wave that carried me home***, written by Christina Anderson and directed by Miranda Haymon. That production will now be the final show of the 2021/22 season, beginning performances on **September 9, 2022**.

Berkeley Rep is a fully vaccinated company, including every staff member, artist, and volunteer. All patrons must present a vaccination card, a photo of their card, or a digital vaccine record (e.g., myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov) with matching photo ID. Masks must be worn at all times in all areas of the theatre.

Berkeley Rep will allow subscribers to view a show online if they determine they would feel more comfortable staying at home, as a form of "digital insurance."

For the most up-to-date information on our season shows and health and safety, please visit berkeleyrep.org.

**BERKELEY REP'S 2021/22 SUBSCRIPTION SEASON AND LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS
(PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED)****Wintertime**

By Charles L. Mee
Directed by Les Waters
Roda Theatre

Starts Nov 12, 2021

Priority On Sale Aug 20
General On Sale Sep 1

"Wacky, elegant and amazingly buoyant" (*Variety*). Berkeley Rep welcomes back Charles L. Mee and Les Waters, who have brought so much delight to our audiences with *Fêtes de la Nuit* and *Big Love*. Members of a gloriously eccentric family arrive at their summer house in the winter woods for supposedly secret rendezvous — and soon bodies collide, doors slam, dishes fly, and everyone's perfect plans go fantastically awry. With a wink to Magritte, a nod to Shakespeare, and a toast to the Greeks, this poetic and hyper-kinetic voyage through the human heart never lets us forget that love, like life, is eternal, messy...and wondrous.

Swept Away

Book by John Logan
Music and Lyrics by The Avett Brothers
Music Arrangements and Orchestrations by Chris Miller & Brian Usifer
Choreography by David Neumann
Directed by Michael Mayer
World Premiere
Peet's Theatre

Starts Jan 9, 2022

Priority On Sale Oct 15
General On Sale Oct 28

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.

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?

Produced by special arrangement with Matthew Masten, Sean Hudock, and Madison Wells Live.

Goddess

Conceived by Saheem Ali
Music and lyrics by Michael Thurber
Book by Jocelyn Bioh
Additional material by Mkhululi Z. Mabija
Choreographed by Darrell Grand Moultrie
Directed by Saheem Ali
World premiere
Roda Theatre

Starts Mar 19, 2022

Priority On Sale Dec 15
General On Sale Jan 7

Berkeley Rep presents the world premiere of an exuberant new musical by award-winning playwright Jocelyn Bioh (*School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play*) and composer Michael Thurber, conceived by director Saheem Ali. A young man returns home to 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 a joyful infusion of contemporary romance, ancient magic, and the irresistible vibes of African, jazz, and R&B music.

Octet

A Chamber Choir Musical
By Dave Malloy
Music Supervision and Music Direction by Or Matias
Directed by Annie Tippe
A co-production with Signature Theatre Company
West Coast premiere
Peet's Theatre

Starts Apr 20, 2022

Priority On Sale Jan 26
General On Sale Feb 9

Three-time Tony Award nominee Dave Malloy (*Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*) makes his Berkeley Rep mainstage debut with his latest award-winning off-Broadway hit. Eight internet-obsessed people meet in real life to share their stories and wrestle their demons, using nothing but a pitch pipe and the transcendent quality of their analog, a cappella voices. With witty lyrics, shimmering harmonies, and virtuosic solos, *Octet* sings of connection, redemption, hope — and how we can be truly present with each other. "You'll feel reassured, alarmed, enlightened and truly thrilled by what you hear," declares the *New York Times*.

Octet was commissioned and received its world premiere at Signature Theatre Company, where Dave Malloy is resident playwright.

Cambodian Rock Band

Written by Lauren Yee
Featuring songs by Dengue Fever
Directed by Chay Yew
A Signature Theatre Production
Roda Theatre

Starts Jun 3, 2022

Priority On Sale Mar 11
General On Sale Mar 25

Guitars tuned. Mic checked. Get ready to rock! This 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.

Sanctuary City

By Martyna Majok
West Coast premiere
Peet's Theatre

Starts Jul 8, 2022

Priority On Sale Apr 13
General On Sale Apr 29

Pulitzer Prize winner Martyna Majok brings us the powerful story of two young DREAMers who fight to establish a place for themselves in America, the only country they know as home. Poignant, timely, and highly theatrical, ***Sanctuary City*** illuminates the triumphs and challenges these lifelong friends face, and how much they are willing to risk for each other when they have everything to lose.

the ripple, the wave that carried me home

By Christina Anderson
Directed by Miranda Haymon
A co-production with Goodman Theatre
World premiere
Peet's Theatre

Starts September 9, 2022

Priority On Sale now available
General On Sale June 29

In this world premiere commissioned by Berkeley Rep, playwright Christina Anderson brings us a poignant, transporting, and quietly subversive story of racial justice, political legacy, and family forgiveness. Janice's childhood was steeped in her parents' activism as they fought for the integration of public swimming pools in 1960s Kansas and taught scores of Black children to swim. But Janice later steps away from her parents' politics and starts her own life and family far away — until she's pressed into speaking at a ceremony honoring her father. ***the ripple, the wave that carried me home*** is a moving exploration of a family's response to injustice and a daughter's reckoning with her political inheritance.

Mike Birbiglia: The Old Man and The Pool

Written and performed by Mike Birbiglia
Directed by Seth Barrish
Roda Theatre

Starts Jan 4, 2022

Priority On Sale Oct 12
General On Sale Oct 26

On the heels of his award-winning Broadway show *The New One*, comedian and storyteller Mike Birbiglia returns to Berkeley Rep with a tale of life, death, and his visits to a highly chlorinated YMCA pool. Like all of Birbiglia's shows, it blends absurd jokes and surprising stories for what amounts to one single story. It's a rumination on middle age that celebrates life while making detours into pizza math, pulmonary tests, and glass jars of peanut M&M's.

Fran Lebowitz
Roda Theatre

Starts Jan 21, 2022
Priority On Sale Oct 29
General On Sale Nov 12

Following her binge-worthy hit Netflix series, *Pretend It's a City*, Fran Lebowitz returns for six performances only to Berkeley Rep where she played to sold-out crowds in our Roda Theatre in 2018. In a cultural landscape filled with endless pundits and talking heads, Fran Lebowitz stands out as one of our most insightful social commentators. With her acerbic views on everything from current events and pet peeves to politics and the media, each performance promises to be unique and highly entertaining.

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**, **Gisele and Kenneth F. Miller**, and **The Strauch Kulhanjian Family**.

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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