FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANNY SCHEIE HOSTS THE YEAR’S HOTTEST PARTY AT BERKELEY REP’S GALA

Guests gather for a deliciously theatrical extravaganza at the Four Seasons San Francisco

FEBRUARY 25, 2013 – On April 20, Berkeley Repertory Theatre invites guests to don their bowties, boas, and bling for the grandest, funniest, and most delicious party of the year. Join Danny Scheie – the Bay Area’s prince of comedy – for OVATION, a night of delectable food, fine wine, and extravagant revelry to celebrate the neighborhood playhouse with an international reputation.

OVATION is an epicurean extravaganza where theatre lovers, gourmands, and philanthropists gather to party for a cause. Everyone knows that Berkeley Rep launches innovative shows for the Bay Area and beyond – but most people don’t realize that the Tony Award-winning nonprofit earns only half its income through ticket sales. This gala helps make up the difference, ensuring that audiences continue to experience the artistic excellence they’ve come to expect.

“The gala is critical to the Theatre’s well-being,” says Artistic Director Tony Taccone, “and it’s also a great party. Having Danny Scheie as our MC should be great fun, and the food and wine will amaze you. Whether you come because you believe in the importance of the arts in our society and the impact of arts education on our future – or just for an excuse to dress up and celebrate – you’ll have a fantastic time while supporting a good cause.”

Get a ticket – or an entire table – for OVATION. Feast on a four-star meal prepared by the executive chef of the Four Seasons San Francisco, Mark Richardson, and overseen by food connoisseur and radio personality Narsai David. Dive into an exciting auction led by DawnMarie Kotsonis, the expert auctioneer and professional clown who has been featured in the Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and Wine Spectator. Win collectable wines and gift certificates for elegant hotels, restaurants, and arts organizations – or go home with exclusive access to incredible adventures like a trip to the misty mountains of Machu Picchu or two tickets to Elton John’s legendary Oscar Party. And laugh all evening at the hilarious remarks of Danny Scheie, whose work at Berkeley Rep has been called “comic genius” and “a tour de force of murderously comic, canny and catty derangement” by the San Francisco Chronicle.

OVATION features exquisite wines from Donkey and Goat Winery, Match Vineyards, Quady Winery, Raymond Vineyards, Domaine Carneros by Taittinger, and Wente Vineyards – as well as fine spirits courtesy of Distillery No. 209 and St. George Spirits. Guests will take home delicious delicacies, thanks to Guittard Chocolate Company, IZZE Sparkling Juice Company, Peet’s Coffee & Tea, Semifreddi’s, and Somersault Snack Co. They’ll also receive special gifts from Algenist, Dolphin Graphics, EO Products, and Fossil, which has a long history of supporting Berkeley Rep.

OVATION is made possible by seven Spotlight Sponsors: Chevron, Jill and Steve Fugaro, Meyer Sound, Osterweiss Capital Management, Marjorie Randolph, the Roda Group, and Jean and Michael Strunksy. Led by Jill Fugaro and Jean Strunsky, the planning committee for the event includes Blair Buster, Martha Ehmann Conte, Daniel David, Thalia Dorwick, Rich and Robin Edwards, Scott Haber, Diane Manley, Pamela Nichter, Marjorie Randolph, and Felicia Woytak.

(MORE)
Tickets for OVATION begin at $500. Tables are priced between $5,000 and $20,000. All proceeds from the event support the nonprofit Berkeley Repertory Theatre and the organization’s education and outreach programs. For more information, contact Lily Yang at (510) 647-2909 or lyang@berkeleyrep.org – or simply click berkeleyrep.org/ovation.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to an international leader in innovative theatre. Known for its core values of imagination and excellence, as well as its educated and adventurous audience, the nonprofit has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. A not-for-profit organization, the theatre welcomes an annual audience of 200,000, serves 23,000 students, and hosts dozens of community groups, thanks to 1,000 volunteers and more than 330 artists, artisans, and administrators. Its bustling facilities – which include the 400-seat Thrust Stage, the 600-seat Roda Theatre, the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, the Osher Studio, and a spacious new campus in West Berkeley – are helping revitalize a renowned city.

In four decades, four million people have enjoyed more than 300 shows at Berkeley Rep. Seven shows developed here have ended up on Broadway in the last 12 years. Thirteen landed off Broadway, three turned into films, and one is headed for Hong Kong. These shows have gone on to win five Tony Awards, seven Obie Awards, nine Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, and many other honors. In recognition of its place on the national stage, Berkeley Rep received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997. Come see tomorrow’s plays today at Berkeley Rep.

# # #

ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHO: Danny Scheie hosts epicureans at Berkeley Rep's annual fundraiser
WHAT: OVATION, a deliciously theatrical gala to benefit Berkeley Repertory Theatre
WHEN: Saturday, April 20 @ 5:30 PM (reception) and 7:30 PM (dinner)
WHERE: Four Seasons San Francisco, 757 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94103
HOW MUCH: $500 for tickets; tables for $5,000 to $20,000
INFO & TIX: (510) 647-2909 or berkeleyrep.org/onstage

# # #