FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRIAN COPELAND’S 10th ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION
OF NOT A GENUINE BLACK MAN EXTENDED AT BERKELEY REP

Copeland’s hit solo show runs at Theatre’s Osher Studio through June

May 19, 2014 – Due to resounding praise from critics and an enthusiastic reception from audiences, Berkeley Repertory Theatre announces that Brian Copeland’s 10th anniversary presentation of Not a Genuine Black Man will extend for a month. The critically acclaimed show recounts Copeland’s compelling and moving story of growing up black in the 1970s in San Leandro, California, a city once nationally known as one of the most racist in America. With wit and heartfelt passion, he explores the themes of racial identity and, ultimately, belonging. Directed and developed in part by David Ford, Not a Genuine Black Man now plays through June 28, 2014 at the Theatre’s Osher Studio.

The longest-running solo show in San Francisco history, Not a Genuine Black Man continues to captivate audiences:

- “Personal, painful and often hilarious…” proclaims the Huffington Post. “Episodes of cruelty, humiliation, struggle and resilience punctuate the narrative, delivered most often with the innocence and bewilderment of a child, and generating laugh after laugh, before reflection…Copeland’s skill (and presumably that of collaborator/director David Ford) gives the narrative a seamless flow. It’s at once familiar and unique, funny and painful and poignant.”

- “Copeland has that special blend of comedy and drama; his show is amusing and ardent,” raves SF Weekly.

- “A beautiful mix of wry humor and heartbreak, indignation and inspiration, a singular story of extreme isolation that speaks to anyone who’s ever felt out of place,” adds the San Francisco Chronicle.

Brian Copeland has been in show business since he first stepped on the comedy stage at the tender age of 18. Soon he was headlining clubs and concerts across the country and opening for such artists as Smokey Robinson, The Temptations, Ringo Starr, and the queen of soul Aretha Franklin in venues from the Universal Amphitheater to Constitution Hall in Washington, DC. Soon, Copeland branched out into television, appearing on comedy programs on NBC, A&E, and MTV. He spent five years as co-host of San Francisco FOX affiliate KTVU’s breakfast program Mornings on 2 and two years hosting San Francisco ABC affiliate KGO’s Emmy Award-winning afternoon talk show 7Live. In 1995, ABC affiliate KGO Radio premiered The Brian Copeland Show. Its unique mix of talk and entertainment soon made it the most listened to program in its time slot. In 2004, Copeland premiered his first solo play, Not a Genuine Black Man, at the Marsh. This critically acclaimed exploration of race and identity created an audience-pleasing blend of laughter, tears, and sociology that led to the show becoming the longest-running solo play in San Francisco theatrical history.

(MORE)
Successful runs in Los Angeles and off Broadway and a bestselling book adaptation followed. Copeland’s other theatrical work includes *The Waiting Period*, a solo play about his lifelong struggle with depression, and the Christmas play *The Jewelry Box*, which opened November 2013 at the Marsh.

**Director David Ford** is a Goldie Award-winning playwright who has worked on countless solo shows over his 25-year career in the business. Frequently working on projects at the Marsh, Ford has collaborated with many Bay Area favorites including Charlie Varon, Marilyn Pittman, Geoff Hoyle, and Cherry Terror.

**Tickets start at only $35 – half that for anyone under 30 years of age.** Additional savings are available for groups, seniors, and students – meaning discounted seats can be obtained for as little as $14.50. For tickets or information, **call (510) 647-2949 or simply click [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org).**

**ABOUT BERKELEY REP**
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. In four decades, four million people have enjoyed more than 300 shows at Berkeley Rep. 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. 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.

# # #
FACT SHEET

NOT A GENUINE BLACK MAN

WHO: Written and performed by Brian Copeland
Developed by Brian Copeland and David Ford
Directed by David Ford

WHAT: Berkeley Rep presents Brian Copeland in Not a Genuine Black Man. It’s the show that blew the lid off racism in San Leandro… and made us laugh about it, back for its 10th anniversary. “Very funny,” raved the Chronicle. “Copeland is a winning, magnetic performer. More than that, he’s got an important tale to tell!”

WHERE: The Osher Studio, 2055 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94704
Located in the Arts Passage on Center Street between Shattuck and Milvia — just a block from Berkeley Rep

WHEN: EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 28
• Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays @ 8:00 PM through May 31
• Fridays and Saturdays @ 8:00 PM June 6 through June 28

HOW MUCH: $35 or $45 (subject to change)
Tix & Info: (510) 647-2949 or berkeleyrep.org
Discounts:
• Half-price tickets available for anyone under 30 years of age
• $10 discount for students and seniors one hour before curtain
• Groups of 10 or more, contact (510) 647-2918 or groups@berkeleyrep.org


###