FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERKELEY REP TO HOST OVATION GALA AT THE FOUR SEASONS

Theatrical extravaganza benefits Theatre’s artistic and educational programming

March 12, 2014 – On April 19 Berkeley Repertory Theatre invites guests to OVATION, a gala featuring an epicurean extravaganza where theatre lovers, gourmands, and philanthropists gather to party the night away for a cause. The glamorous evening will feature a five-star gourmet dinner, exclusive live-auction packages, and surprise entertainment — all in support of the Theatre’s artistic and educational programming. Always a memorable evening, OVATION is not to be missed!

“The gala is a rare opportunity to have in one room all the people who love and support Berkeley Rep,” says Michael Leibert Artistic Director Tony Taccone. “Through the enthusiastic support of the community’s leaders and its devoted playgoers, Berkeley Rep is able to uphold the artistic excellence for which we’ve become known. We welcome all who believe in the importance of the arts and the impact of arts education on our future. OVATION is going to be a spectacular evening in celebration of Berkeley Rep – let the good times roll!”

“Berkeley Rep’s OVATION gala promises to be a magical evening of glam, glitz, and glitter!” says Gala Co-chair Jill Fugaro. “It is a chance to experience not only the magic of an unforgettable dinner party and auctions, but also the opportunity to help us support incredibly talented performing artists who create the stories that help us understand our world.”

“Our guests return year after year because OVATION is entertaining and fun,” adds Co-chair Jean Strunsky. “This year we have new surprises to wow our guests. It takes a village to support Berkeley Rep, and we are grateful for the support of our community, which is how we can continue to serve our youth and bring innovative, award-winning theatre to Bay Area audiences.”

Get a ticket – or an entire table – for OVATION. Feast on a five-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. Experience the thrill of live bidding led by expert auctioneer DawnMarie Kotsonis for a chance to win collectible wines and gift certificates for elegant hotels, restaurants, and arts organizations. Other spectacular auction items include an incredible adventure to Vancouver in gorgeous British Columbia to experience majestic mountain views at Whistler, all while staying in luxurious Fairmont resorts; two tickets to Elton John’s legendary 2015 Oscar night dinner and party; a thrilling London West End theatre-filled adventure; a delicious private dinner at home of Chef Narsai David featuring an exceptional evening of food, wine, and conversation; a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for two to experience Sting’s new musical The Last Ship with two tickets to the opening-night performance and exclusive post-show party; and a New York getaway complete with tickets to Broadway shows and a weeklong stay in a spectacular Midtown Manhattan condominium.

OVATION features exquisite wines from Domaine Carneros by Taittinger, Hafner Vineyard, Match Vineyards, Pat Paulsen Vineyards, Quady Winery, and spirits from Greenbar Craft Distillery, Blind Tiger Cocktail Co. & East Bay Spice Company, St. George Spirits, Macallan Scotch & Black Grouse Scotch, and Tres Agaves Products, LLC. Guests will take home delicious delicacies, thanks to Miette Pâtisserie and Confiserie, Naked Juice Coconut Water, Peet’s Coffee & Tea, and Semifreddi’s. They’ll also receive special gifts from Dolphin Graphics, EO Products, Epi Center Medspa, and Fossil, which has a long history of supporting Berkeley Rep.

(MORE)
OVATION is made possible by four Limelight Sponsors: Fossil, the Four Seasons Hotel San Francisco, Bruce Golden & Michelle Mercer, and the Roda Group, in addition to eight Spotlight Sponsors: Dallas Summer Musicals & FireMused Productions, LLC; Fitzgerald Abbott & Beardsley; Forest Creatures Entertainment; Jill & Steve Fugaro; Meyer Sound; Osterweis Capital Management; Stewart & Rachelle Owen; and Jean and Michael Strunsky. Led by Jill Fugaro and Jean Strunsky, the planning committee for the event includes Daniel David, Thalia Dorwick, Rich Edwards, Robin Edwards, Scott Haber, Diane Manley, Pamela Nichter, Deborah Taylor, and Felicia Woytak.

Tickets for OVATION begin at $750. Tables are priced between $7,500 and $18,000. 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.

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ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: OVATION, a deliciously theatrical gala to benefit Berkeley Repertory Theatre
WHEN: Saturday, April 19 @ 5:30 PM (reception) and 7:30 PM (dinner)
WHERE: Four Seasons San Francisco, 757 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94103
HOW MUCH: $750 for tickets; tables from $7,500 to $18,000
INFO & TIX: (510) 647-2909 or berkeleyrep.org/onstage