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THE PIANIST OF WILLESDEN LANE EXTENDS RUN
AT BERKELEY REP THROUGH JANUARY 5

Critics call musical narrative “an astonishing tour de force” and “deeply moving”

November 6, 2013 – Berkeley Repertory Theatre announces that The Pianist of Willesden Lane, starring internationally acclaimed pianist Mona Golabek, is extending for an additional four weeks due to resounding praise from audiences and critics alike. A riveting tale of hope and the life-affirming power of music, The Pianist of Willesden Lane will now play through January 5 for an additional 28 performances. The show is adapted and directed by award-winning musician Hershey Felder and based on the book The Children of Willesden Lane by Golabek and Lee Cohen. Set in Vienna in 1938 and in London during the Blitzkrieg, the musical drama tells the true story of Golabek’s mother, Lisa Jura, a young Jewish musician whose dreams are interrupted by the Nazi regime. Golabek performs some of the world’s most beautiful music as she chronicles the true story of her mother’s survival.

Critics uniformly agree Golabek’s heartfelt tribute to her mother is unforgettable, poignant, and emotional:

- “An astonishing tour de force…Stunningly good!” declares Robert Hurwitt in the San Francisco Chronicle. “Mona Golabek doesn’t just tell a great story. Seated at a concert grand, she accompanies her tale with music that infuses, illustrates, amplifies and elevates The Pianist of Willesden Lane to make the personal universal and another generation so personal that you can’t help but feel your heart swell in response.”

- “Deeply moving!” proclaims Karen D’Souza of the San Jose Mercury News. “Pianist strikes a deep chord in its audience because it uses the power of music to reveal the fragility of humanity… [Mona Golabek’s] mastery as a musician lends to the emotional ferocity of the play, its depth and sweep.”

- “Remarkable!” hails Chad Jones of Theater Dogs. “What makes it so powerful as a theater piece is the music in combination with the story… but also by the act of Golabek reaching through history and her family tree to connect, musically, with her mother and grandmother and their powerful stories.”

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. Come see tomorrow’s plays today at Berkeley Rep.

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FACT SHEET

The Pianist of Willesden Lane

WHO:
Based on the book The Children of Willesden Lane
By Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen

Directed and adapted by Hershey Felder
Starring Mona Golabek as Lisa Jura

Creative team: Trevor Hay and Hershey Felder (scenic designers), Jaclyn Maduff (costume designer), Christopher Rynne (lighting designer), Erik Carstensen (sound designer), Andrew Wilder and Greg Sowizrdzal (projection designers).

WHAT:
In Pianist of Willesden Lane, Mona Golabek performs some of the world’s most beautiful music as she shares her mother’s riveting story of surviving the Nazi regime.

WHERE:
Berkeley Repertory Theatre
Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Berkeley, CA 94704

WHEN:
Extended through January 5, 2014
- Tuesdays @ 8:00 PM (student matinee on 12/10 @ noon)
- Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM
- Thursdays @ 8:00 PM-with bonus matinees at 2:00 PM on 11/7 and 12/5
- Fridays @ 8:00 PM
- Saturdays @ 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM-no matinee on 11/9
- Sundays @ 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM-no evening performance on 12/15, 12/22, 1/5
- No performance on 11/28, 12/24, 12/25, 12/30, and 12/31

Special Events:
Repartee: FREE docent talks @ 7:00 PM on Tuesday and Thursdays and free discussions after all matinees
Post-play discussion: Friday, 12/6 following the performance

COST: $29 - $89 (subject to change)

TIX & INFO: (510) 647-2949 – 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 15 or more, contact (510) 647-2918 or groups@berkeleyrep.org

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