FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARTY PEOPLE EXTENDS RUN AT BERKELEY REP

Critics call Party People “intellectually stimulating,” and “mightily entertaining!”

October 28, 2014 – Due to an exuberant reception from critics and audiences alike, Berkeley Repertory Theatre is proud to announce that Party People, a high-wattage fusion of story and song about the legacies of the Black Panthers and the Young Lords, will extend for an additional week, closing on November 23, 2014. Written by UNIVERSES (Steven Sapp, Mildred Ruiz-Sapp, and William Ruiz, aka Ninja) and based on dozens of interviews, Party People imagines the Black Panthers and Young Lords reuniting today at an art opening curated by a couple of young counterculturists, where old wounds open and generations collide. Helmed by Liesl Tommy, associate director at Berkeley Rep, and developed in The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep’s Center for the Creation and Development of New Work, Party People looks at the triumphant and complicated legacy of the Black Panthers and Young Lords and what happens to those who come after. Individual tickets start at $35 and can be purchased by phone at (510) 647-2949 or online at berkeleyrep.org.

Critics agree Party People blends intense historical drama with electrifying and mesmerizing musical performances:

- “Power to the people, indeed!” proclaims Robert Hurwitt in the San Francisco Chronicle. “As intellectually stimulating as its fluid, nonstop action is overwhelming…Fast, confrontational, reflective by turns, and packed with music and dance as propulsive as the years when the groups were spawned.”

- “Thrilling!” exclaims Karen D’Souza from the Bay Area News Group. “A relentlessly kinetic musical memoir about the ambitions and regrets of 1960s revolutionaries…The music, which incorporates salsa, hip-hop, gospel and blues, is flat-out hypnotic…Party People will leave its mark on you.”

- “Extraordinary!” declares Chad Jones in Theater Dogs. “As relevant and as thought-provoking as it is, Party People is also mightily entertaining…The audience was instantly on its collective feet at the show’s end, applauding thunderously, shouting and hooting.”

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 nearly 400 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. Learn more at berkeleyrep.org.

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FACT SHEET

Party People

WHO: Written by and starring UNIVERSES (Steven Sapp, Mildred Ruiz-Sapp, and William Ruiz, aka Ninja)

Developed and directed by Liesl Tommy

Choreography by Millicent Johnnie

Featuring: J. Bernard Calloway (Blue), Michael Elich (Marcus/FBI Agent), Christopher Livingston (Malik), Amy Lizardo (Clara), Jesse J. Perez (Tito), Sophia Ramos (Maruca), Robynn Rodriguez (Donna/Fina), Mildred Ruiz-Sapp (Helita), William Ruiz (Jimmy), Steven Sapp, (Omar), Reggie D. White (Solius), and C. Kelly Wright (Amira).

Creative team: Marcus Doshi (scenic and lighting designer), Meg Neville (costume designer), Broken Chord (sound design, vocal direction, and original compositions), and Alexander V. Nichols (projection designer).

WHAT: Get ready for a hyperkinetic mix of live video, hip hop, jazz, rock, gospel, blues, Latin rhythms, and spoken word as the explosive theatre ensemble UNIVERSES rocks and unlocks the radical and complicated legacy of the Black Panthers and Young Lords in this high-wattage fusion of story and song.

WHERE: Berkeley Repertory Theatre

Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison Street in Berkeley, CA 94704

WHEN: Now Playing Through Sunday, November 23, 2014

- Tuesdays and Fridays @ 8:00 PM
- Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM
- Thursdays @ 8:00 PM
- Saturdays @ 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM
- Sundays @ 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM
- No performance on 11/18

Special Events:

Free docent events: docent talks before Tuesday and Thursday evening performances and discussions after all matinees

Post-play discussions: UNIVERSES will be hosting talkbacks in the bar after evening performances on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

Open Captioned Performance: Sunday, 11/16 @ 2:00 PM

HOW MUCH: $35 - $87 (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 10 or more, contact (510) 647-2918 or groups@berkeleyrep.org

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