FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERKELEY REP EXTENDS RED HOT PATRIOT: THE KICK-ASS WIT OF MOLLY IVINS

Eight performances added due to popular demand

December 3, 2014 – Audiences and critics agree, Tony and Oscar nominee Kathleen Turner’s Berkeley Rep debut in Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins, is brilliant and powerful. Due to an enthusiastic reception, Berkeley Repertory Theatre is proud to announce that the show will extend for an additional week. In the one-woman show, Turner is all smarts and sass as beloved journalist and humorist, Molly Ivins. Written by twin sisters Margaret Engel and Allison Engel and directed by Obie Award winner David Esbjornson, this acclaimed production captures the red-headed reporter’s indomitable character by weaving personal anecdotes with her colorful take on national politics. Originally scheduled to close Sunday, January 4, Red Hot Patriot now plays through Sunday, January 11, 2015. Individual tickets start currently at $39 and can be purchased by phone at (510) 647-2949 or online at berkeleyrep.org.

Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins had its world premiere in 2010 at the Philadelphia Theatre Company, where Turner originated the role. Now, Turner has won the hearts of Bay Area audiences in this moving tribute to one of America's greatest voices. “A love-fest... Turner — a solid presence in blue denim work shirt, jeans and flaming red hair — delivers her lines with a half-gracious, half-defiant Texas twang and timing that makes the wit land with comic precision... Most of the words are by Ivins, and they had the audience roaring with laughter,” proclaims San Francisco Chronicle. “Turner exudes charm and self-assurance as Ivins, the staccato rhythm of her breathy diction landing deftly on the punch lines... What really comes across is the aforementioned “kick-ass wit” of Ivins in one pithy zinger after another,” declares Bay Area News Group.

Screen icon Kathleen Turner has garnered critical acclaim for her performances in various movies including Body Heat, for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe; Romancing the Stone and Prizzi’s Honor, which earned her a Golden Globe Award for each; Peggy Sue Got Married, which brought her both an Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe nomination; and War of the Roses with another Golden Globe nomination. Ms. Turner’s extensive film credits also include The Man with Two Brains with Steve Martin, Jewel of the Nile with Michael Douglas, The Accidental Tourist, V.I. Warshawski, John Waters’ Serial Mom, Naked in New York, Moonlight and Valentino, The Real Blonde, and Sofia Coppola’s The Virgin Suicides. Ms. Turner has also starred on Broadway in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, for which she received a Tony nomination; Indiscretions; The Graduate; and Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, for which she received a second Tony nomination. Ms. Turner had a major recurring role as Sue Collini on Showtime’s hit series, Californication. In the spring of 2010 Ms. Turner starred as Molly Ivins in the world premiere of Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins at Philadelphia Theatre Company and immediately following that shot the starring role in an independent film called The Perfect Family.
Ms. Turner most recently starred on Broadway in *High*, and in addition to her film and stage credits, she wrote of her many accomplishments and life experiences in her 2008 autobiography titled *Send Yourself Roses: Thoughts on My Life, Love, and Leading Roles*, which secured a position on the *New York Times* Best-Seller List.

**Michael Barrett Austin (Helper)**, a San Francisco Bay Area native, last worked with Berkeley Rep on *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*. Most recently, he was in the world premiere of *Manic Pixie Dream Girl* at the New York International Fringe Festival. Other theatrical productions include *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (San Francisco Playhouse), *Dracula* (Center Rep), *The Grapes of Wrath* (TheatreFIRST), and *The Internationalist* (Just Theater). Austin has also played locally with 42nd Street Moon, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Aurora Theatre, TheatreWorks, California Shakespeare Theater, PlayGround, Pacific Repertory Theatre, the Carmel Shakespeare Festival, San Jose Stage and Brava, among others.

**Margaret Engel (Playwright)** was a reporter for the *Washington Post*, *Des Moines Register*, and *Lorain Journal*, and was a Nieman fellow at Harvard University. She directs the Alicia Patterson Journalism Foundation and was the managing editor of the Newseum, the museum for news, in Washington, DC. She co-wrote *Food Finds: America’s Best Local Foods and the People Who Produce Them* with her twin, Allison, and helped turn the book into a show for Food Network, where it ran for seven years. It appears today on the Travel Channel. She serves on the boards of TheatreWashington/Helen Hayes Awards, the Fund for Investigative Journalism, and the Nieman Foundation. She chairs the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism awards board. She and her husband, Bruce Adams, wrote three editions of a travel guide to America’s baseball parks, with the help of their children, Emily and Hugh.

**Allison Engel (Playwright)** has been a newspaper reporter for the *Des Moines Tribune*, *San Jose Mercury News*, and *Pacific News Service* and was a Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University. She has also been a political speechwriter and aide for former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack and lieutenant governor Sally Pederson. In Iowa, she was active in the Des Moines Playhouse, serving as president and head of play selection. She has been a food columnist for *Saveur*, an architecture columnist for *Renovation Style*, and has written for many other national publications. She recently spent five years as director of communications at USC before becoming the associate director of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities at the university. She received an MA in screenwriting from USC in 2009.

**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. 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. Learn more at berkeleyrep.org.

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FACT SHEET

Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins

WHO: Written by Margaret Engel and Allison Engel
Directed by David Esbjornson
Starring Kathleen Turner with Michael Barrett Austin (Helper)

Creative Team: John Arnone (scenic designer), Elizabeth Hope Clancy (costume designer), Daniel Ionazzi (lighting designer), Rob Milburn and Michael Bodeen (sound design & original music), Maya Ciarrocchi (projection designer), and Paul Huntley (wig designer).

WHAT: In her Berkeley Rep debut, two-time Tony and Oscar nominee Kathleen Turner is all smarts and sass as the brassy, sharp-witted journalist and best-selling author, recounting her political rants and personal reflections with a liberal dose of piss and vinegar.

WHERE: Berkeley Repertory Theatre
Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Berkeley, CA 94704

WHEN: NOW THRU SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015
- Tuesdays and Fridays @ 8:00 PM
- Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM; 2:00 PM on 12/24 & 2:00 and 7:00 PM on 12/31
- Thursdays @ 8:00 PM; 2:00 & 8:00 PM on 12/4; No performance on Thursday 12/25
- Saturdays @ 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM; no matinee on 11/22 &12/6
- Sundays @ 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Special Events:
FREE docent events: docent talks before Tuesday and Thursday evening performances and discussions after all matinees

Post-play discussions: Thursday 12/11, Tuesday 12/16, and Friday 12/26 following the performance

Last Call: Friday 12/5 following the performance

Open Captioned Performance: Sunday 1/4 @ 2:00 PM

HOW MUCH: Premium: $77–113 · Section A: $61–89 · Section B: $39–71
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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