FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERKELEY REP EXTENDS AMÉLIE, A NEW MUSICAL

EIGHT PERFORMANCES ADDED – NOW PLAYING THRU OCT 11

September 14, 2015 – Due to an exuberant reception from critics and audiences alike, Berkeley Repertory Theatre is proud to announce that Amélie, A New Musical, will extend for an additional week. Originally scheduled to close on October 4, the world premiere will now play through Sunday, October 11. Starting at noon today, tickets for the added eight performances can be purchased by phone at (510) 647-2949 or online at berkeleyrep.org.

Critics unilaterally agree Amélie, A New Musical is a magical and enchanting world premiere:

- “A dreamy movie becomes a dream of a stage musical,” proclaims Robert Hurwitt in the San Francisco Chronicle. “Wit crackles and charm fills the house.... Director Pam MacKinnon creates a seamless blend of visual, narrative and performance delights. And Samantha Barks inhabits the title role so luminously she might make you forget there was anyone else onstage — if the rest of the cast weren’t perfectly brilliant in turn.”

- Adds Karen D’Souza from the Bay Area News Group, “It’s impossible not to be charmed by aspects of Daniel Messé and Nathan Tysen’s score and Craig Lucas’ (“Prelude to a Kiss,” “The Light in the Piazza”) quirky book…. Barks and Chanler-Berat generate more than enough chemistry as the young lovers and their first kiss is beyond precious. It’s almost as cute as Savvy Crawford, who plays young Amélie, swinging her braids as she chats up her doomed pet goldfish, Fluffy.”

Amélie captured our hearts in the five-time Academy Award-nominated 2001 French film. Now she comes to the stage in an inventive and captivating new musical directed by Tony Award winner Pam MacKinnon, who is known for her work on Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? and Clybourne Park. With a book by Craig Lucas (An American in Paris, Prelude to Kiss), the musical features a stirring score by Daniel Messé of the band Hem and lyrics by Messé and Nathan Tysen (The Burnt Part Boys). Amélie, A New Musical is produced by special arrangement with Aaron Harnick, Triptyck Studios, and SBR Productions.

The cast for Amélie, A New Musical in alphabetical order includes: David Andino (Blind Beggar/Garden Gnome), Samantha Barks (Amélie), Randy Blair (Hippolito), Adam Chanler-Berat (Nino), Alison Cimmet (Amandine/Philomene), Savvy Crawford (Young Amélie), Carla Duren (Gina), John Hickok (Raphael/Bretodeaux), Alyse Alan Louis (Georgette), Shannon O’Boyle (Swing), Maria-Christina Oliveras (Suzanne), Tony Sheldon (Dufayel/Collignon), Perry Sherman (Lucien), Jacob Keith Watson (Swing), and Paul Whitty (Joseph).

The show features scenic and costume design by David Zinn, lighting design by Jane Cox, sound design by Kai Harada, and projection design by Peter Nigrini with music direction by Kimberly Grigsby and choreography by Sam Pinkleton. The orchestra includes Kimberly Grigsby (Conductor, Keyboards), Dana Bauer (Woodwinds), Kathy Marshall (Violin), Vanessa Ruotolo (Cello), Wendy Tamis (Harp), Schuyler McFadden (Guitar), Allen Biggs (Percussion), Richard Duke (Bass), and Kevin Porter (Contractor).
FACT SHEET

AMÉLIE, A NEW MUSICAL

WHO:
Book by Craig Lucas
Music by Daniel Messé
Lyrics by Nathan Tyse & Daniel Messé
Musical direction by Kimberly Grigsby
Musical staging and choreography by Sam Pinkleton
Directed by Pam MacKinnon

Featuring: David Andino (Blind Beggar/Garden Gnome), Samantha Barks (Amélie), Randy Blair (Hipolito), Adam Chanler-Berat (Nino), Alison Cimmet (Amandine/Philomene), Savvy Crawford (Young Amélie), Carla Duren (Gina), John Hickok (Raphael/Bretodeaux), Alyse Alan Louis (Georgette), Maria-Christina Oliveras (Suzanne), Tony Sheldon (Dufayel/Collignon), Perry Sherman (Lucien), Paul Whitty (Joseph), Shannon O’Boyle (Swing), Jacob Keith Watson (Swing), Kimberly Grigsby (Conductor, Keyboards), Dana Bauer (Woodwinds), Kathy Marshall (Violin), Vanessa Ruotolo (Cello), Wendy Tamis (Harp), Schuyler McFadden (Guitar), Allen Biggs (Percussion), Richard Duke (Bass), Kevin Porter (Contractor).

Creative team: David Zinn (scenic and costume designer), Jane Cox (lighting designer), Kai Harada (sound designer), Peter Nigrini (projection designer), Kimberly Grigsby and Daniel Messé (vocal arrangers), and Bruce Coughlin (orchestrator).

WHAT:
Amélie captured our hearts in the five-time Academy Award–nominated film — now she comes to the stage in an inventive and captivating new musical. Embark on a mesmerizing journey with inquisitive and charmingly shy Amélie as she turns the streets of Montmartre into a world of her own imagining, while secretly orchestrating moments of joy for those around her.

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

WHEN:
Now playing through October 11, 2015
- Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday @ 8:00 PM
- Wednesday @ 7:00 PM
- Saturday @ 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM (no matinees on 8/29 & 9/5)
- Sunday @ 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM (no matinees on 8/30 & 9/6)

SPECIAL EVENTS:
FREE docent talks: Before Tuesday and Thursday evening performances and discussions after all matinees.
FREE Post-play discussions: Friday 9/18, Tuesday 9/22, and Thursday 10/1 following the performance.

HOW MUCH: $55 - $109 (subject to change) TIX & INFO: (510) 647-2949 – berkeleyrep.org
Discounts: Half-price tickets available under 30 years of age; $10 discount for students and seniors one hour before curtain; Groups of 10 or more, email: groups@berkeleyrep.org