For Immediate Release

BERKELEY REP JOINS THEATRES NATIONWIDE TO LAUNCH
THE GHOSTLIGHT PROJECT

Collective action event on the eve of presidential inauguration

January 11, 2017 - Berkeley Rep today announced that at 5:30pm on Thursday, January 19, 2017 — the eve of the presidential inauguration — it and over 100 theatres and theatrical organizations across the country will launch The Ghostlight Project, a collective, simultaneous action, together creating “light” for challenging times ahead. Inspired by the tradition of leaving a ghost light on in a darkened theatre, artists and communities will make or renew a pledge to stand for and protect the values of inclusion, participation, and compassion for everyone — regardless of race, class, religion, country of origin, immigration status, (dis)ability, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

“As a convener of artists and communicator of diverse points of view, theatres play a unique role in our communities,” states Michael Leibert Artistic Director Tony Taccone. "The Ghostlight Project corrals our symbol of light and safety in service of affirming the power of community and inclusion. Although the future appears uncertain, we must stand strong as artists and as members of the community we serve.”

Berkeley Rep’s event will be held at 5:30pm in the Theatre’s Narsai M. David Courtyard, located at 2025 Addison Street. There will be a short program of speaking followed by the ceremonial lighting. This event is open to all. Members of the community are invited to bring an electric light, flashlight, an electric candle, or smartphone.

At the same time, a related gathering of Bay Area theatremakers will take place in San Francisco, outside American Conservatory Theater’s Geary Theater at 415 Geary Street.

More information on The Ghostlight Project national action can be found at https://theghostlightproject.com.

WHERE:  Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison Street, Berkeley
WHEN: Thursday, January 19, 2017, at 5:30pm
WHO: Berkeley Rep artists and community members — all are welcome

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 Peet’s Theatre, 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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