For Immediate Release

SINGLE TICKETS TO GO ON SALE FOR MIRA NAIR’S MONSOON WEDDING
ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Much-beloved film becomes a musical at Berkeley Rep

November 9, 2016- Berkeley Rep today announced that single tickets for the world premiere of the new musical Monsoon Wedding will go on sale to the general public on Monday, November 14. Monsoon Wedding will have its world premiere at Berkeley Rep’s Roda Theatre next spring. Previews begin Friday, May 5, 2017 and the show runs through Sunday, June 25, 2017. Press night for Monsoon Wedding will be Friday, May 19, 2017.

Individual tickets will go on sale at noon on Monday, November 14. Individual tickets start at $35 and can be purchased online at berkeleyrep.org. Starting Tuesday, November 15 at noon, tickets will also be available by phone at 510 647-2949.

Acclaimed film director Mira Nair (Salaam Bombay!, Queen of Katwe) will helm the musical stage adaptation of her 2001 hit film Monsoon Wedding alongside what Nair calls an “international dream team” of creative collaborators. “It has been my dream to bring Monsoon Wedding to the stage, almost since its inception,” explains Nair, who began her career in the theatre. “It’s an honour to have brought together such fine artists — Sabrina, Vishal, and Susan — who share my vision to bring this eternal story to life on stage.”

Monsoon Wedding is the perfect storm that starts brewing when family members from around the world descend on Delhi for a nonstop four-day celebration of an arranged marriage between a modern upper-middle-class Indian family’s only daughter and an American guy she’s never met. But the bride is having an affair, her father’s financial troubles deepen, and dark family secrets surface. The forecast calls for drama, love, hope, laughs and a whole lot of rain.

Monsoon Wedding features a book by Sabrina Dhawan, music by Vishal Bhardwaj, lyrics by Susan Birkenhead, scenic design by Mikiko Suzuki MacAdams, costume design by Arjun Bhasin, lighting design by Donald Holder, projection design by Peter Nigrini, music supervision by Carmel Dean, music direction by Greg Kenna, and choreography by Lorin Latarro.

MIRA NAIR (Director)
Mira Nair was born and raised in Rourkela, India, and went on to study at Delhi and Harvard universities. She began as an actress before segueing to make documentaries. Her narrative feature debut, Salaam Bombay! (1988), won the Camera d’Or and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language film. A resourceful and determined independent filmmaker who casts unknowns alongside Hollywood stars, Nair has directed Mississippi Masala (1991), The Perez Family (1995), Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love (1996), Hysterical Blindness (2002), Vanity Fair (2004), The Namesake (2006), Amelia (2009), and The Reluctant Fundamentalist (2012). Her recent film, Queen of Katwe, about a Ugandan girl with an aptitude for chess, stars Lupita Nyong’o and David Oyelowo.
VISHAL BHARDWAJ (Composer)
Vishal Bhardwaj is an Indian film music composer, director, writer, and playback singer. He also produces films under his banner VB Pictures. Bhardwaj has composed music and songs for numerous films such as Maachis (1996), Satya (1998), Chachi 420 (1998), Godmother (1999), and the wildly popular theme songs for The Jungle Book in Hindi. As a director, he is known for his adaptations of Shakespeare’s plays – Maqbool (2003), based on Macbeth; Omkara (2006), based on Othello; and Haider (2014), based on Hamlet. Other directorial titles include Makdee (2002), The Blue Umbrella (2005), Kaminey (2009), 7 Khoon Maaf (2011), and Matri ki Bijlee Ka Mandola (2013). His music and films have won several national and international awards.

SUSAN BIRKENHEAD (Lyricist)
Susan Birkenhead received a Tony Award nomination and a Drama Desk Award for her lyrics for Jelly’s Last Jam (1992). She was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Triumph of Love (1998). She was nominated for a Tony Award for Working (1978), and won an Outer Critics Circle Award for What About Luv? (1991). She won an L.A. Drama Critics Award for Minsky’s (2009). She is also currently working on The Secret Life of Bees with Lynn Nottage, Duncan Sheik, and Sam Gold, and Betty Boop with David Foster, Sally Robinson, and Jerry Mitchell.

SABRINA DHAWAN (Author)
Sabrina Dhawan worked as the screenwriter on the award-winning film, Monsoon Wedding. She also cowrote the films Ishqiya, Kaminey, and Rangoon with Vishal Bhardwaj. In the 15 years Dhawan has worked as a screenwriter, she has worked with various studios and independent production companies including 20th Century Fox, UTV Films, Killer Films, Fox Searchlight, Fox, HBO Canal Plus, PBS, and ABC Family. This is her first work for the stage.

LORIN LATARRO (Choreographer)
Lorin Latarro recently choreographed Broadway’s Waitress, the Broadway transfer of Donmar Warehouse’s Les Liaisons Dangereuses with Janet McTeer and Liev Shreiber, Waiting for Godot with Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart, and she is the associate choreographer of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time. Other choreography includes Lin-Manuel Miranda’s This American Life: 21 Chump Street at BAM, Shaina Taub’s Twelfth Night and Lear DeBessonet’s The Odyssey at the Delacorte (the Public Theater), Queen of the Night (Drama Desk Award), Dear Mr. Rosewater and Fanny at Encores, Best Is Yet to Come (Drama Desk Award) at 59E59, Beaches The Musical at Drury Lane, Peter and the Wolf at BAM, Green Day’s Grammy performance, Kiss Me Kate at Barrington Stage, Bruce Hornsby’s SCKBSTRD at Signature Theatre, PBS Live from Lincoln Center, Die Zauberflote and Love for Three Oranges at Juilliard Opera, Ingmar Bergman’s Nora at Westport Playhouse, Jasper in Deadland at Prospect Theater, My Fair Lady at Cape Playhouse, City Club at Minetta Lane. Latarro is the associate choreographer of American Idiot and the Metropolitan’s Rigoletto.

MIKIKO SUZUKI MACADAMS (Scenic Designer)
Mikiko Suzuki MacAdams has worked on many acclaimed Broadway shows including Fiddler on the Roof, The King and I, Bridges of Madison County, Golden Boy, That Championship Season, Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, Next Fall, and Joe Turner’s Come and Gone, and for the U.S., UK, and Australian national tour of Lincoln Center Theatre’s production of South Pacific, U.S. tour of Bridges of Madison County and The King and I.

ARJUN BHASIN (Costume Designer)
Arjun Bhasin recent film work includes About Ray, Love is Strange, Begin Again, Life of Pi, The Reluctant Fundamentalist, 5 Flights Up, and Dil Dhadakne Do. Bhasin resides in New York City and recently completed production on season one of HBO’s Divorce starring Sarah Jessica Parker.

DONALD HOLDER (Lighting Designer)
Donald Holder has been nominated for 11 Tony Awards, winning the 1998 Tony Award for Best Lighting Design as well as the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Lighting Design for The Lion King. He won a second Tony in 2008 for the revival of South Pacific. His lighting design for Ragtime was nominated for a
2010 Tony Award for Best Lighting Design of a Musical. Additional Broadway credits include Big Fish; Annie (revival); Golden Boy; Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark; Arcadia; The Motherf**cker with the Hat; Promises, Promises; Les Liaisons Dangereuses; Radio Golf; The Little Dog Laughed; Movin' Out; and A Streetcar Named Desire. He was the theatrical lighting designer for seasons one and two of the NBC-Universal Television Series Smash.

PETER NIGRINI (Projection Designer)
Peter Nigrini has designed on Broadway for The Heidi Chronicles, An Act of God, The Best Man, Felaf!, 9 to 5, and Say Goodnight, Gracie. Other designs include Dear Evan Hansen (Second Stage Theatre, Arena Stage); Here Lies Love (the Public Theater/Royal National Theatre-London); Amelie (Berkeley Rep); Grounded (the Public Theater); Invisible Thread (Second Stage Theatre); Fetch Clay, Make Man (New York Theatre Workshop, McCarter Theatre Center); The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity (Second Stage Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, Dallas Theater Center); Notes from Underground (Yale Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Theatre for a New Audience); Grace Jones’ – Hurricane Tour (Hollywood Bowl, Hammerstein Ballroom); Rent (New World Stages); Elsewhere (BAM); Haroun and the Sea of Stories (New York City Opera); Blind Date (Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance); and The Orphan of Zhao (Lincoln Center Festival). Nigrini is a founding member of the Obie Award-winning theatre company Nature Theater of Oklahoma for which he has designed scenery, costumes, lighting, and projection for No Dice (Soho Rep), Romeo and Juliet (Salzburger Festspiele), and Life and Times (Burgtheater, Vienna), among others. Awards include the first ever Drama Desk for Outstanding Projection Design and 2013 Hewes Design Award for Here Lies Love, and a special Lortel Award for Grounded.

CARMEL DEAN (Music Supervisor)
Carmel Dean is a composer, arranger, musical director, and pianist. She was most recently the musical director/conductor of the Broadway musical If/Then starring Idina Menzel, and was music supervisor of the subsequent national tour. Other Broadway credits include Hands on a Hardbody, American Idiot, and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Off-Broadway credits include Everyday Rapture, Vanities and Elegies – A Song Cycle by William Finn. International credits include Chicago (Hong Kong) and the 2000 Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies (Sydney). Dean has also served as Chita Rivera’s musical director for many national and international appearances, and she performed with Green Day on the Grammy Awards in 2010.

GREG KENNA (Music Director)
Greg Kenna’s previous credits include Frozen (workshop), An American in Paris (Broadway and Paris), The Wiz Live! (NBC), Dogfight (Second Stage Theatre), The Sound of Music and Guys and Dolls (Carnegie Hall), You Never Know and Lysistrata Jones (Meadow Brook Theatre). He is a graduate of NYU/Steinhardt.

For the 2016-17 season Berkeley Rep recognizes the generosity of season sponsors of BART, Peet’s Coffee, and Wells Fargo. Monsoon Wedding is also made possible by the support of individual season sponsors Jack and Betty Schaffer, Michael and Sue Steinberg, and The Strauch Kulhanjian Family. Lead sponsors are Bruce Golden and Michelle Mercer. Executive sponsors include Robin and Rich Edwards, Pam and Mitch Nichter, and Gail and Arne Wagner.

ABOUT BERKELEY REP
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