For Immediate Release

BERKELEY REP PRESENTS THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF WHITE NOISE
New play by Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks

August 26, 2019 – Berkeley Repertory Theatre today announced the cast and creative team for the West Coast premiere of White Noise written by Pulitzer Prize winner Suzan-Lori Parks and directed by Jaki Bradley.

Leo, Dawn, Ralph, and Misha are old friends. The two 30-something couples are educated, progressive, and cosmopolitan. But when a racially motivated incident with the police leaves Leo shaken, he makes a radical proposition to Ralph that forever alters the relationship between these four friends — and their view of the world.

Brave, intelligent, and eviscerating, White Noise is one of the most talked about new plays tackling our rapidly unraveling social contract. Berkeley Rep is the only regional theatre outside New York to present White Noise this year.

“When I saw the world premiere of White Noise at The Public Theater this winter, I knew before the intermission that I wanted to bring it to Berkeley Rep,” says Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer. “It is poetic, challenging, timely, and sure to provoke the kinds of conversations that theatre is uniquely poised to enable, and that Berkeley Rep audiences do better than anyone.”

White Noise begins previews on Thursday, September 26 and runs through Sunday, November 10, 2019. Individual tickets begin at $30 ($15 if you're under 35) and can be purchased online at berkeleyrep.org or by phone at 510 647-2949. Discounted tickets for White Noise are also available as part of season subscription packages. Press night will be on Thursday, October 3.

Suzan-Lori Parks (Playwright)
Named among Time magazine’s “100 Innovators for the Next Wave,” Suzan-Lori Parks is one of the most acclaimed playwrights in American drama today. She is the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, is a MacArthur “Genius” Award recipient, and in 2015 was awarded the prestigious Gish Prize for Excellence in the Arts. Other grants and awards include those from the National Endowment for the Arts, Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, and New York Foundation for the Arts. She is also a recipient of a Lila-Wallace Reader's Digest Award, a CalArts/Alpert Award in the Arts, and a Guggenheim Foundation Grant. She is an alum of New Dramatists and of Mount Holyoke College. Her project 365 Days/365 Plays (where she wrote a play a day for an entire year) was produced in over 700 theatres worldwide, creating one of the largest grassroots collaborations in theatre history. Her other plays include Topdog/Underdog (2002 Pulitzer Prize winner), The Book of Grace, Unchain My Heart: The Ray Charles Musical, In the Blood (2000 Pulitzer Prize finalist), Venus (1996 Obie Award), The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World, Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom (1990 Obie Award, Best New American Play), The America Play, and Fucking A. Her adaptation of The Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess won the 2012 Tony
Award for Best Revival of a Musical. Her newest plays, *Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)* — set during the Civil War — was awarded the Horton Foote Prize and the Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama, as well as being a 2015 Pulitzer Prize finalist.

**Jaki Bradley** (Director)
Jaki is a Brooklyn-based director of new plays and musicals. Recent projects: *Radio Island* and *Good Men Wanted* (New York Stage and Film), *Breeders* (New Light Theater Project, Tony Critic’s Pick), *Mama Metallica* (Denver Center New Play Summit), and *Playing Hot* (Gym at Judson/Ars Nova). She has developed and presented work with The Public Theater, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Soho Rep, Clubbed Thumb, Goodspeed Musicals, Arena Stage, Ars Nova, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and The Flea. As an associate, she worked with Michael Greif, Leigh Silverman, Lisa Peterson, and Daniel Aukin. She has been a member of the Civilians R&D Group, an artist-in-residence at Ars Nova, a Drama League artist-in-residence, a member of the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, Williamstown Directing Corps, Lincoln Center Director’s Lab, and U.S. Fulbright Scholar. Her first feature film, a thriller set on Fire Island, is currently in post-production with Emblematic Pictures. jakibradley.com

**CAST**

**Therese Barbato** (Dawn)
Therese is delighted to be at Berkeley Rep for the first time. She made her Broadway debut this year in *King Lear* with Glenda Jackson. Her off-Broadway credits include *Prometheus Bound* (Classic Stage Company), *Mourning Becomes Electra* (The New Group), and numerous productions with Slant Theatre Project. She has worked regionally with Actors Theatre of Louisville, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, the Huntington Theatre, Boise Contemporary Theater, Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, Geva Theatre Center, and Olney Theatre Center. Film: *Prom King*, 2010. Therese trained at Boston University and the Juilliard School and is the host of that’s what she said podcast: thatswhatshesaidpod.com.

**Nick Dillenburg** (Ralph)
Nick is making his Berkeley Rep debut. Previous credits include *The Real Thing* (Broadway) with Ewan McGregor and Maggie Gyllenhaal. Off-Broadway credits include *Mary Page Marlowe* by Tracy Letts (New York premiere at Second Stage), *Teenage Dick* (The Public Theater), Henry V in *Into the Hazard: Henry V* (Walkerspace), *Hater* with Merritt Wever (Ohio Theatre), and Punchdrunk’s *Sleep No More*. He has been seen at the Guthrie Theater, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Berkshire Theatre Group, Portland Stage, and many more. He is perhaps best known for playing CO Ryder Blake on *Orange Is the New Black*. Other TV credits include: *Law & Order, Elementary, Person of Interest*, and *Blue Bloods*. He is a proud alum of the University of Connecticut where he holds an MFA in Acting.

**Chris Herbie Holland** (Leo)

**Aimé Donna Kelly** (Misha)
Aimé is thrilled to make her Berkeley Rep debut. She has appeared off-Broadway in *Exit Strategy* (Primary Stages) and *Macbeth* (Epic Theatre), in major regional productions of *Byhalia, Mississippi* (The Kennedy Center), *Father Comes Home from the Wars* (Goodman Theatre), and *The White Snake* (Baltimore Center Stage), and in the world premieres of James Ijames’ *Moon Walk Man*, *Applied

The creative team includes Adam Rigg (scenic designer), Tilly Grimes (costume designer), Alexander V. Nichols (lighting and video designer), Mikaal Sulaiman (sound designer), and Caparelliotis Casting.

For the 2019-20 season, Berkeley Rep recognizes BART, Peet’s Coffee, and Wells Fargo, who have generously renewed their commitment as Berkeley Rep’s official season sponsors. Berkeley Rep is also delighted to have Bruce Golden and Michelle Mercer, Michael and Sue Steinberg, Jack and Betty Schafer, and The Strauch Kulhanjian Family on board as season sponsors. *White Noise* is made possible by lead sponsors Frances Hellman and Warren Breslau, and executive sponsors Gail and Arne Wagner.

**ABOUT BERKELEY REP**

Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to an international leader in innovative theatre. Known for its ambition, relevance, and excellence, as well as its adventurous audience, the nonprofit has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. Over 5.5 million people have enjoyed nearly 500 shows at Berkeley Rep, which have gone on to win six Tony Awards, seven Obie Awards, nine Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, one Pulitzer Prize, and many other honors. Berkeley Rep received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997. To formalize, enhance, and expand the processes by which Berkeley Rep makes theatre, The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep’s Center for the Creation and Development of New Work was launched in 2012. The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre engages and educates some 20,000 people a year and helps build the audiences of tomorrow with its nationally recognized teen programs. Berkeley Rep’s bustling facilities — which also include the 400-seat Peet’s Theatre, the 600-seat Roda Theatre, and a spacious campus in West Berkeley — are helping revitalize a renowned city. Be a Rep.

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