FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERKELEY REP’S RADIO PLAY IT CAN’T HAPPEN HERE ATTRACTS OVER 15,000 HOUSEHOLDS
105 Broadcast Partners Nationwide Contribute to Success

October 21, 2020- On Tuesday, October 13, Berkeley Repertory Theatre debuted their audio adaptation of the Sinclair Lewis classic It Can’t Happen Here to great success. The production, streamed as a radio play via the theatre’s YouTube Channel, attracted over 15,000 total households during a one-week period, surpassing expectations.

“I am proud and grateful that so many people have taken the time to engage with this adaptation of Sinclair Lewis’ shockingly timely novel,” says Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer. “In these days of isolation, it is a source of both solace and inspiration to imagine people in communities across the country listening to this story. It was an honor to partner with more than 100 organizations nationwide, each sharing It Can’t Happen Here for free with their audiences and communities. And more than anything, I hope this motivates each of us to vote in this crucial election.”

The new audio adaptation will remain available free (in four 30 minute segments) on Berkeley Rep’s YouTube channel through Sunday, November 8. In addition, broadcast partner Roundabout Theatre will hold two community conversations to discuss the play and listeners’ responses via Zoom on Sunday, October 25 at 2pm and 5pm PST/8pm EST. Pre-register for the 2pm ET HERE or the 5pm ET HERE.

Praise from listeners:

"Loved this brilliant production! A lot to think about. Hope it encourages people to vote!“ – Deborah B

"I was completely knocked out by the sound design and the score. Bravo!“ – Julie W

"Thank you very much for producing this. The uncanny resemblance of today is striking. We are doomed to repeat what we don’t learn from." – Norman L

Written in 1935 during the rise of fascism in Europe, Sinclair Lewis’ darkly satirical novel It Can't Happen Here follows the ascent of a demagogue who becomes president of the United States by promising to return the country to greatness. In 2016, Berkeley Rep unveiled a new stage play adapted from Lewis’ prescient novel. Now, Berkeley Rep reprises that production, but this time as a radio play in four episodes. The audio drama is offered free to organizations and audiences across the country. The Theatre intends for the project to encourage dialogue and motivate citizens to exercise their civic power and vote.

Broadcast Partners as of 10/20/2020
16th Street Theater (Berwyn, Illinois)
A/C Theatre Company (Phoenix, Arizona)
ACT - A Contemporary Theatre (Seattle, Washington)
Adams State University Theatre (Alamosa, Colorado)
Alley Theatre (Houston, Texas)
American Conservatory Theater (San Francisco, California)
American Stage Theatre Company (St. Petersburg, Florida)
Arden Theatre Company (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
Arena Stage (Washington, D.C.)
Aurora Theatre Company (Berkeley, California)
Bag&Baggage Productions (Hillsboro, Oregon)
Bishop Arts Theatre Center (Dallas, Texas)
Brüka Theatre Of The Sierra (Reno, Nevada)
Butler University Theatre (Indianapolis, Indiana)
Capital Repertory Theatre (Albany, New York)
Capital Stage Company (Sacramento, California)
Center Theatre Group (Los Angeles, California)
Central Works (Berkeley, California)
Chance Theater (Anaheim, California)
Chilisplay (Tempe, Arizona)
Cinnabar Theater (Petaluma, California)
Columbia College Chicago Theatre Department (Chicago, Illinois)
Contra Costa Civic Theatre (El Cerrito, California)
Cornell University Department of Performing and Media Arts (Ithaca, New York)
Cottage Theatre (Cottage Grove, Oregon)
Custom Made Theatre Co. (San Francisco, California)
Edge Effect Theater (Madison, Wisconsin)
Episcopal High School (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
Everyman Theatre (Baltimore, Maryland)
Festival Playhouse of Kalamazoo College (Kalamazoo, Michigan)
Foothill Theatre Arts (Los Altos, California)
Forward Theater Company (Madison, Wisconsin)
George Street Playhouse (New Brunswick, New Jersey)
Goodman Theatre (Chicago, Illinois)
Griffin Theatre Company (Chicago, Illinois)
Guthrie Theater (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
Hammer Theatre Center at San Jose State University (San Jose, California)
Howard University Department of Theatre Arts (Washington, D.C.)
Huntington Theatre Company (Boston, Massachusetts)
Indiana Repertory Theatre (Indianapolis, Indiana)
International City Theatre (Long Beach, California)
Iowa Stage Theatre Company (Des Moines, Iowa)
Island Shakespeare Festival (Langley, Washington)
Jewel Theatre Company (Santa Cruz, California)
Juneteenth Theatre Justice Project (Berkeley, California)
KFGM - Missoula Community Radio (Missoula, Montana)
Kendal at Oberlin (Oberlin, Ohio)
Kent State University at Stark (North Canton, Ohio)
La Jolla Playhouse (La Jolla, California)
Lisbon Public Library (Lisbon, Iowa)
Main Street Theater (Houston, Texas)
Marbletown Arts Association (Stone Ridge, New York)
Marin Shakespeare Company (San Rafael, California)
Marin Theatre Company (Mill Valley, California)
Mendocino Theatre Company (Mendocino, California)
Merced County Arts Council (Merced, California)
Merced Shakespearefest (Merced, California)
Michigan State University Department of Theatre (East Lansing, Michigan)
Minority Voices Theatre (Eugene, Oregon)
New Conservatory Theatre Center (San Francisco, California)
The New School College of Performing Arts (New York, New York)
Northlight Theatre (Skokie, Illinois)
Notre Dame Film, Television, and Theatre (Notre Dame, Indiana)
The Oasis Theatre Company (Santa Fe, New Mexico)
Oregon Contemporary Theatre (Eugene, Oregon)
Out of the Box Theatriscs (New York, New York)
Ozark Living Newspaper Theatre Company (Conway, Arkansas)
People’s Light (Malvern, Pennsylvania)
Philadelphia Theatre Company (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
Phoenix Creative Collective (Merced, CA)
Pittsburgh Public Theater (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
Project Big Top (Merced, California)
Red Earth Theatre (Sedona, Arizona)
Redwood Playhouse (Gaberivelle, California)
Remote Theater (Santa Clara, California)
Rivendell Theatre Ensemble (Chicago, Illinois)
Rogue Theater Company (Ashland, Oregon)
Roundabout Theatre Company (New York, New York)
Rutgers University-Newark (Newark, New Jersey)
Saint Cloud State University (Saint Cloud, Minnesota)
San Francisco Shakespeare Festival (San Francisco, California)
Santa Clara University (Santa Clara, California)
Santa Cruz Actors’ Theatre (Santa Cruz, California)
Seattle Repertory Theatre (Seattle, Washington)
Shattered Globe Theatre (Chicago, Illinois)
Shotgun Players (Berkeley, California)
South Coast Repertory (Costa Mesa, California)
The State Theatre (Modesto, CA)
Stories on Stage (Boulder, Colorado)
Syracuse Stage (Syracuse, New York)
Texas A and M, Commerce (Commerce, Texas)
Theatreworks Colorado Springs (Colorado Springs, Colorado)
TheatreWorks Silicon Valley (Mountain View, California)
Trilogy Theater Group (Rio Vista, California)
University of Oklahoma/Helmerich School of Drama (Norman, Oklahoma)
USC School of Dramatic Arts (Los Angeles, California)
UC Merced (Merced, California)
UC Santa Barbara, Department of Theater and Dance (Santa Barbara, California)
Very Little Theatre (Eugene, Oregon)
The Village Repertory Co. (Charleston, South Carolina)
WOBC-FM (Oberlin, Ohio)
Water Street Barn (Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts)
Weathervane Theatre (Whitfield, New Hampshire)
We Players (San Francisco, California)
Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater (Wellfleet, Massachusetts)
Z Space (San Francisco, California)

The *It Can’t Happen Here* creative team includes **Tony Taccone** (Adaptor), **Bennett S. Cohen** (Adaptor), **Lisa Peterson** (Director) **Paul James Prendergast** (Sound Designer and Music)

The full cast for *It Can’t Happen Here*, in alphabetical order, includes:

- Elijah Alexander (General Edgeways/Bishop Prang)
- Danforth Comins (Philip Jessup)
- Scott Coopwood (Shad Ledue)
Citizens, campaigners, soldiers, workers, radio voices, announcers, and many others all played by members of the company and Paul James Prendergast.

*It Can’t Happen Here* is made possible thanks to the generous support of sponsors Barbara & Rodgin Cohen and Paul Haahr & Susan Karp. Berkeley Rep also thanks its 2020-21 Season Sponsors: BART, Peet’s Coffee, Bruce Golden & Michelle Mercer, Jack & Betty Schafer, and The Strauch Kulhanjian Family.

**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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