For Immediate Release

THE BERNARD OSHER FOUNDATION AWARDS $75,000 TO BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE
Funding to support the theatre’s Rep-On Air series

December 15, 2020 - Berkeley Repertory Theatre today announced a one-time $75,000 grant from The Bernard Osher Foundation in support of the theatre’s Rep-On Air series of virtual programming. The Bernard Osher Foundation has been a major funder of the arts in Bay Area for decades, and has included support for Berkeley Rep each year since 1993.

Earlier this year Berkeley Rep announced several upcoming projects for Rep-On Air: Lookingglass Theatre Company’s The Steadfast Tin Soldier (now streaming); a series of location-based audio stories titled Place/Settings: Berkeley; and The Waves in Quarantine: A Theatrical Experiment in 6 Movements conceived by Tony Award-nominee Raúl Esparza and two-time Obie Award-winning director Lisa Peterson. All three productions feature the kind of innovative storytelling that speaks not only to our time, but also to the themes of hope, compassion, and connection. The $75,000 grant will ensure that Berkeley Rep can continue to bring theatre to audiences at home.

“Berkeley Rep has been a grantee of The Bernard Osher Foundation for more than three decades, and we recognize the unmatched challenges it is facing at this singularly disorienting time,” said Mary Bitterman, President of The Bernard Osher Foundation. “We applaud the company’s resilience and we welcome its creativity in developing Rep On-Air, a suite of virtual arts experiences that will delight audiences near and far.”

“A warm thank you to The Bernard Osher Foundation for supporting our efforts to keep theatre alive during this era of shelter in place,” said Managing Director Susie Medak. “Their support of Berkeley Rep has not wavered and we are eternally grateful.”

“Keeping art alive in this moment in time is critical to our community, and because of The Bernard Osher Foundation’s generosity, Berkeley Rep can continue to support extraordinary artists in bringing bold new virtual stories to our audiences until we can get back on stage,” said Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer.

ABOUT THE BERNARD OSHER FOUNDATION
The Bernard Osher Foundation, supporting higher education and the arts, was founded in 1977 by Bernard Osher, a respected businessman and community leader. The Foundation provides scholarship funding at colleges and universities across the nation, with a recent emphasis on assisting reentry students. In addition, the Foundation supports a national network of lifelong learning institutes for seasoned adults on the campuses of 124 institutions of higher education. The Foundation also benefits programs in integrative medicine at six universities in the United States and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. Finally, an array of performing arts organizations, museums, and select educational programs in the San Francisco Bay Area and the State of Maine receive Foundation grants. Barbro Osher, Honorary Consul General of Sweden in California, chairs the Foundation’s Board of Directors.
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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