BERKELEY REP TO STREAM LOOKINGGLASS THEATRE COMPANY’S CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED PRODUCTION OF THE STEADFAST TIN SOLDIER

Written and Directed by Tony Award Winner and Bay Area Favorite Mary Zimmerman
From the Story by Hans Christian Andersen

December 1-27, 2020

November 24, 2020- Berkeley, CA- This holiday season Berkeley Rep will stream Tony Award winner (and frequent Berkeley Rep collaborator) Mary Zimmerman’s The Steadfast Tin Soldier, produced by Lookingglass Theatre Company. Beginning December 1 audiences and their families can experience the beloved classic as the production streams into their homes. Based on Hans Christian Andersen’s story about a little tin soldier who never gives up, this production is a gorgeous spectacle of music and movement that is perfect for the whole family.

Online access to the production is $25 and includes one livestream and on-demand video for 48 hours afterward. Access to a $25 livestream of The Steadfast Tin Soldier is free for 2021 Rep 7-Play subscribers. An Opening Night Livestream will take place December 1, 2020 at 6:30PM Central. Opening night is $75 and includes a pre-show event with live music hosted by Kasey Foster, who plays the Ballerina in The Steadfast Tin Soldier. Following the show, Lookingglass’ Artistic Producer Kareem Bandealy will host a Q&A with Adaptor/Director and Mary Zimmerman, Co-Sound Designer, Composer and Ensemble Member Andre Pluess, and Costume Designer Ana Kuzmanic.

Tickets are on sale now at https://www.berkeleyrep.org/season/2021/steadfasttinsoldier.asp.

Subscribe to Berkeley Rep today to get the best seats at the best prices to 7 live shows starting in 2021. Between now and then, the theatre will bring patrons new virtual programming called Rep On-Air — new programming like The Steadfast Tin Soldier with more to come in January.

Become a 2021 Rep 7-Play subscriber and get all of the Rep On-Air programming for free! The Rep 7-Play package starts at $196. Click here to subscribe.

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The cast of The Steadfast Tin Soldier features Ensemble Members Kasey Foster (Ballerina) and Anthony Irons (Goblin), with Joe Dempsey (Nursemaid), John Gregorio (Rat), and Alex Stein (Steadfast Tin Soldier).

Original music for The Steadfast Tin Soldier is composed by Ensemble Member Andre Pluess and Amanda Dehnert. Musicians include Leandro López Várady (Music Director/Piano), Greg Hirte (Violin), Juan Horie (Cello), and Constance Volk (Flutes).
The creative team includes **Todd Rosenthal** (scenic design), **Ana Kuzmanic** (costume design), **TJ Gerckens** (lighting design), Ensemble Member **Andre Pluess** and **Christopher M. LaPorte** (sound design), **Leandro López Várady** (associate arranger), Ensemble Member **Tracy Walsh** (choreography), Ensemble Member **Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi** (circus choreography), Chicago Puppet Studio (puppet design), **Amanda Herrmann** (properties), Rigability Inc. (rigging design), **Katrina Herrmann** (stage manager) and **Liz Anne Larsen** (assistant stage manager). The production was filmed in 2019 by HMS Media.

“I’m very glad that our little Tin Soldier managed to march his way into the hearts of so many, and that he’ll be coming back again in the Holiday season steadfast as ever. We wanted to make something that was visually and emotionally overpowering—as well as very funny—and do that with no spoken language at all,” says **Mary Zimmerman**. “I’m thrilled that people of all ages and from around the world will be able to watch the show and feel it all the same, no English required. I think the silence of the characters—and the beautiful music that accompanies their adventures—allows older members of the audience to fall into a private, younger part of themselves; and for children, they are watching something in the manner they are used to: gathering up the story through the intensity of their earnest attention, through their intelligence which has no words.”

**Production Support** provided by Nancy and Michael Timmers

**About the Artists**

**MARY ZIMMERMANN** (Playwright/Director/Lookingglass Ensemble Member) is a writer and director and has worked with Lookingglass for more than 25 years. For Lookingglass, Mary has adapted and directed *The Odyssey, The Secret in the Wings, The Arabian Nights, S/M, Eleven Rooms of Proust* (Co-production with About Face Theatre), *Argonautika, Treasure Island, and Metamorphoses*, which toured to Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Guthrie Theater the winter/spring of 2019. Mary is also part of the Goodman Theatre artistic team where she adapted and directed *The White Snake, The Jungle Book, Candide, The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci, Silk, Journey to the West, Mirror of the Invisible World, and a recreation of The Odyssey*, as well as directing *Wonderful Town, Pericles, The Baltimore Waltz, All’s Well That Ends Well*, and most recently *The Music Man*. She has also worked with: New York Shakespeare Festival in the Park, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Huntington Theatre Company, McCarter Theatre, Arena Stage, and Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C. New York credits: Lincoln Center, Second Stage Theatre, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and on Broadway at Circle in the Square Theatre. In the world of opera, she directed and co-wrote the libretto *Galileo Galilei* (composed by Philip Glass) that was produced at Goodman Theatre, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the Barbican Theatre in London. She has directed four operas at Metropolitan Opera: *Rusalka, Lucia Di Lammermoor, La Sonnambula*, and Rossini’s *Armida*, each of which has been broadcast live into movie theatres worldwide. In 1998, Mary received a MacArthur Fellowship and in 2002, the Tony Award for Best Director of a Play for *Metamorphoses* on Broadway. She is a Professor at Northwestern University, where she holds the Jaharis Family Endowed Chair in Performance Studies.


**KASEY FOSTER** (Ballerina/Lookingglass Ensemble Member) is a performer, choreographer, producer, and puppeteer. She a member of Actors’ Equity Association. Kasey was most recently seen on the
Lookingglass stage in last winter’s production of *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*. Other Lookingglass credits include *20,000 Leagues Under the Seas*, *Treasure Island*, *Moby Dick*, and *The Little Prince*. Recent on-camera credits include: *Chicago Med* and IFC’s *Documentary Now!* Kasey sings with bands Babe-alon 5, Grood, Kevin O’Donnell, Old Timey, This Must be the Band, and Nasty Buoy. She has created over fifty original works, and produces two annual series called *Dance Tribute* and *The ACTual Show*. kaseyfoster.com

**JOHN GREGORIO** (*Rat*) is delighted to return to Lookingglass and *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*. Regional credits include: *The Villain Supper Club* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre); *The Royale* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater); *Little Shop of Horrors, The 39 Steps* (Geva Theatre Center); *A Christmas Carol* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (North Shore Music Theatre); *The Legend of Pecos Bill* (Alliance Theatre); and *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (Dad’s Garage Theatre Company). Off-Broadway credits include: *Around the World in 80 Days* (The New Theatre at 45th St); *Silent Laughter* (Lamb’s Theatre); *The Nuclear Family* (founder/performer, The Belt Theatre); and *Clinton the Musical* (New York Musical Theatre Festival). TV credits include: *Extended Family* (Sundance Channel), *Good Eats* (Food Network), and *Smoking Gun TV* (Court TV). John is a founding member of Dad’s Garage Theatre Company (Atlanta) and a faculty member of the Heifetz International Music Institute.

**ANTHONY IRONS** (*Goblin/Lookingglass Ensemble Member*) returns to Lookingglass where he was last seen in *Act(s) of God*. Anthony a Congo Square Theatre Ensemble Member and has garnered Black Excellence Awards, Black Theatre Alliance Awards, and three Jeff Nominations. Chicago credits include: *Support Group for Men and Two Trains running* (Goodman Theatre), *How to Use a Knife* (Shattered Globe Theatre), *Jitney* (Congo Square Theatre), *History of Chicago* (The Second City) and *Waiting for Godot* (Court Theatre). Regional credits include: *Black Eagles* (Penumbra Theatre), *Hamlet* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival), and *As You Like It* (Georgia Shakespeare Festival). TV/Film credits include: *Empire, Sirens, Chicago Fire, Boss, Let’s Go To Prison*, and *The Lucky Ones*.


**LEANDRO LÓPEZ VÁRADY** (Associate Arranger/Music Director/Piano) was previously seen at Lookingglass in last season’s *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*. Leandro was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and graduated from the Catholic University of Argentina as Licentiate in Music, majoring in Composition with a Gold Medal and Awards. He traveled Asia with the Eldeé Young Quartet, and worked in Saint Martin’s Episcopal Church as Music Director. Leandro has performed around the world, including Poland, Cuba, and Bulgaria as pianist of the Orbert Davis’ Chicago Jazz Philharmonic; as well as Symphony Center, Harris Theater, Millennium Park, Auditorium Theater, Chicago Jazz Festival, Taste of Chicago, and the Jazz&Pop Festival in Buenos Aires. Leandro is the pianist for the Doug Lofstrom’s New Quartet, Steve Hashimoto’s Sueños, Juli Wood’s Chicago Calling, and the Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre Music Ensemble. Leandro received a Gold Record Award for his work on Mietek Szcześniak’s *Nierówmi* album. He teaches at Lewis University in Romeoville, IL.

**GREG HIRTE** (*Violin*) is an actor, musician, and composer in LA and Chicago. Greg was most recently seen at Lookingglass in last season’s *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* and before that, *Treasure Island*. Other recent theatre credits include: his 19th season with Goodman Theatre’s *A Christmas Carol*, Luther in *Ring of Fire: Music of Johnny Cash*, and Leon in *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* (American Blues Theater). Other Chicago credits include: performance and musical compositions for Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Court Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, and Piven Theatre Workshop (Jeff Award Nomination for Best Original Score, Sarah Ruhl’s *Melancholy Play*), as well as...
several international theater and music festivals. Greg is a member of several bands both local and national.

JUAN HORIE (Cello) makes his debut at Lookingglass. He has previously worked with Teatro Vista in *The Abuelas* as a cellist and musical consultant. Since his arrival to Chicago in 2017, he has performed with prominent Ensemble Dal Niente, is member of the 5th Wave Collective, Unconducted Orchestra, and often joins regional orchestras in the Chicagoland area. In his native Venezuela he was part of the renowned Teresa Carreño Youth Symphony Orchestra, participating in five European tours and one Asian tour, and in festivals such as Salzburg Fetzspiele and Beethoven-fest, and halls like Berliner Philharmonie, and Amsterdam Concertgebouw, among others. Teresa Carreño Youth Orchestra became Teresa Carreño Symphony Orchestra after a nation-wide audition, in which Juan earned a seat. He also played in Orquesta Barroca Simón Bolíva. Juan studied cello at Academia Latinoamericana de Violoncello in Caracas, and IUDEM, and Baroque Cello at the Academia Latinoamericana de Música Antigua.

CONSTANCE VOLK (Flutes) Constance Volk is a returning performer with Lookingglass for *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*. She performs with and is a founding member of Ensemble Dal Niente. Constance doubles on flute and vocals with Musical Bridges to Memory. She plays with Fulcrum Point New Music Project. Constance has worked with Spokane Symphony, Spektral Quartet, International Contemporary Ensemble, and Sympathy for Astronauts. She sings and flutes with Vicarious Tool Tribute. Constance also works as a visual artist in a variety of styles. Her paintings, poster art, coloring books, and portraits can be viewed at: constancevolk.com

KATRINA HERRMANN (Stage Manager) Chicago credits: *Seussical the Musical*, *Rock of Ages* (Drury Lane Theatre); *Cabaret* (Theatre at the Center); *The Hundred Dresses*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (Chicago Children’s Theatre); *Mary Page Marlowe* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *The Royale* (American Theater Company). Regional credits: *Diana, Queens, The Cake, At the Old Place* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Twisted Melodies* (Baltimore Center Stage). Off Broadway: *The Flick* (Barrow Street Theatre); *The Flick, The Whale, The Big Meal, Completeness, The Shaggs: Philosophy of the World, Kin, The Burnt Part Boys, Circle Mirror Transformation* (Playwrights Horizons); *Close Up Space* (Manhattan Theatre Club); *In the Wake* (The Public Theater). Katrina is a proud alum of The Theatre School at DePaul University and a member of Actors’ Equity Association. For nine years during the holidays, she worked for Santa Claus at Macy’s in New York City.

LIZ ANNE LARSEN (Assistant Stage Manager) has been a part of the stage management teams at Lookingglass for Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein, The Steadfast Tin Soldier* (2018 and 2019), *Plantation!, and Hard Times* (2017). Chicago stage management credits include Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Teatro ZinZanni—Chicago, The Art Institute of Chicago, Court Theatre, Sideshow Theatre Company, Haven Theatre, and 16th Street Theatre. Liz is a proud graduate of Oklahoma City University, BFA. Theatre Design & Production: Stage and Production Management.

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.
FACT SHEET / The Steadfast Tin Soldier

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The production was filmed by HMS Media.

Dates: December 1-27, 2020
The production will offer 8 showtimes/week. All patrons will have access to the production for 48 hours after the performance date and time.

Prices: $25 for Livestream (with 48-hour access)
$75 for Opening Night on December 1, 2020 at 6:30pm Central
Opening night includes a pre-show event with live music hosted by Ensemble Member Kasey Foster, who plays the Ballerina in The Steadfast Tin Soldier. Following the show, Artistic Producer Kareem Bandealy will host a Q&A with Adaptor/Director and Ensemble Member Mary Zimmerman, Co-Sound Designer, Composer and Ensemble Member Andre Pluess, and Costume Designer Ana Kuzmanic.

Box Office: Tickets are on sale now at https://www.berkeleyrep.org/season/2021/steadfasttinsoldier.asp.
The production will stream online through Stellar.

Running time: 1 hour, no intermission.