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BERKELEY REP PRESENTS *GLASS MENAGERIE* WITH A.S.L. INTERPRETERS

Deaf and hard-of-hearing theatre-lovers to enjoy Rita Moreno's acclaimed performance

MAY 17, 2006 – Local theatre-lovers who are deaf or hard of hearing will be pleased to learn that Berkeley Repertory Theatre will present *The Glass Menagerie* with American Sign Language interpreters on Friday, June 9. This special evening will feature professional **interpreters from Stage Hands of the Bay Area in the theatre, the lobby, and the box office** to provide full access to Tony Award-winning theatre.

The Glass Menagerie stars legendary actress **Rita Moreno** and has attracted rave reviews, standing ovations, and sold-out houses since opening in April. The show begins at 8 PM on June 9, and an interpreter will also be present for a free docent presentation about Tennessee Williams beginning at 7 PM. Hearing patrons are also welcome at this performance.

"We're pleased to present this extraordinary show to theatre-lovers in the deaf community," remarks **Susan Medak**, managing director of Berkeley Rep. "Stage Hands provides experienced sign-language interpreters skilled in the art of interpreting live theatrical performances. We've consulted with their staff to identify preferred seating and sightlines in the theatre for deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons. People proficient in A.S.L. will be present in the lobby and at the box office as well to ensure a delightful evening for all. In our Thrust theatre, **hearing patrons can also be seated with an unobstructed view of the stage.** I'm proud to say that Berkeley Repertory Theatre is truly a place where all are welcome."

Following her stunning performance in *Master Class*, Rita Moreno returns to Berkeley Rep as Amanda in ***The Glass Menagerie***. It's another unforgettable performance from the woman who won the Oscar, the Tony, the Grammy, and two Emmys. Tennessee Williams' autobiographical masterpiece about Amanda and her fractured family is brought to the stage by the Theatre's associate artistic director, Obie-winner **Les Waters**, who gave audiences a lush and lyrical look at Williams' *Suddenly Last Summer* in 2003. In this tale of endurance and forgiveness, a young man is torn between obligation to his family and the need to lead a life of his own.

Tickets to this A.S.L. interpreted performance are available at the usual Friday night price: \$53. Admission is only \$26.50 for anyone under 30 years of age who is deaf or hard of hearing, and discounts are also available for groups, seniors, and students. To purchase seats, visit the box office at 2025 Addison Street in downtown Berkeley or call using the California Relay Service: just dial 711 and ask to be connected to 510.647.2949. Don't miss Rita Moreno in *The Glass Menagerie* on Berkeley Rep's intimate Thrust Stage.

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ATTENTION, CALENDAR EDITORS:

- WHO: Legendary actress Rita Moreno leads a stellar cast directed by Les Waters
- WHAT: Special performance of *The Glass Menagerie* featuring sign-language interpreters
- WHERE: Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage / 2025 Addison St @ Shattuck / Downtown Berkeley
- WHEN: Friday, June 9 @ 8:00 PM (free docent presentation at 7:00 PM)
- HOW MUCH: \$53 – only \$26.50 for anyone under 30 years of age who is deaf or hard of hearing
Additional discounts available for groups, seniors, and students
- INFO & TIX: Visit the box office – or dial 711 and ask to be connected to 510.647.2949
- PHOTOS: http://www.berkeleyrep.org/HTML/AboutTheRep/pressroom_photos_GM.html

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