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TEENAGE ARTISTS CONVENE FREE THEATRE CONFERENCE AT BERKELEY REP

Event aims to connect drama departments and improve high-school shows

WHO: Students and teachers from drama programs at local high schools
WHAT: **Berkeley Rep's Teen Theatre Conference**
WHERE: Berkeley Rep School of Theatre / 2071 Addison St @ Shattuck / Downtown Berkeley
WHEN: **Saturday, March 18, 1:00 PM – 5:45 PM**
HOW MUCH: Free!
INFO: 510.647.2971, www.berkeleyrep.org, or school@berkeleyrep.org

FEBRUARY 18, 2006 – Students and teachers from drama programs at local high schools are invited to Berkeley Repertory Theatre on Saturday, March 18 for the second annual Teen Theatre Conference. As part of its ongoing effort to foster young artists in the community, Berkeley Rep announced today that its Teen Council is convening a symposium on “Improving the Quality of High-School Theatre.” From 1:00 PM to 5:45 PM, local youth will participate in practical seminars led by theatre professionals and panel discussions with their peers in a supportive and inspirational environment of fellow theatre enthusiasts.

“At the first Teen Theatre Conference in 2005, youth from throughout the Bay Area gathered to establish a peer network and support the excellence of high-school theatre,” says **Rachel Fink**, director of the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre. “This year’s conference continues that process, teaching students the fundamentals of staging plays in the professional world and how similar approaches can be applied at the high-school level. I am so proud of all the teen volunteers who make this possible and who are committed to improving their already wonderful shows.”

At the conference, artists and administrators from the Bay Area’s finest theatres will lead workshops for teens focused on audition technique, directing, dramaturgy, publicity, stage management, and technical theatre. Members of Berkeley Rep’s Teen Council will facilitate discussions of the current state of high-school theatre and the direction in which it is headed. In the end, teens will discover a network to support their artistic endeavors, learn how they and their drama programs can better support one another, and return to their schools with new ideas about applying the professional process to their own work.

For more information, visit www.berkeleyrep.org, e-mail teencouncil@berkeleyrep.org, or call 510.647.2972.

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The **Berkeley Rep Teen Council** is a theatre youth group organized by teens for teens. Its goal is to foster the theatre audiences and theatre professionals of tomorrow by opening channels of communication between teens, theatre professionals, and the community at large. The Teen Council provides the opportunity for youth to participate in all aspects of the dramatic process: on stage, backstage, and in front of the stage through an affiliation with Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Activities include poetry slams, improv nights, theatre workshops, a festival of one-act plays, and a theatre trip to New York City.

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