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BERKELEY REP PREMIERES WEEK 11 OF SUZAN-LORI PARKS' 365 DAYS/365 PLAYS

WHO: Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks
WHAT: Week 11 of **365 Days/365 Plays**, the premiere of seven short plays in an unprecedented, nationwide festival that lasts all year
WHERE: **Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre** / 2015 Addison St @ Shattuck / Berkeley
WHEN: **Sunday, January 28 @ 3:00 PM**
HOW MUCH: Pay what you wish
INFO: 510.647.2972 or berkeleyrep.org

JANUARY 3, 2007 – Berkeley Repertory Theatre is proud to announce that its School of Theatre is taking the baton in the nationwide premiere of **365 Days/365 Plays**, the innovative new work from Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks. Starting on November 13, 2002 – seven months after she won the Pulitzer Prize in Drama – Parks wrote a play every day for a year. The resulting scripts are now being produced across the country in what the *New York Times* dubbed **“the largest and most elaborate theatrical collaboration ever.”**

At 3:00 PM on Sunday, January 28, acting and directing students at Berkeley Rep will stage the seven short shows in Week 11 of Parks' opus. The performance will be held in Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre at 2015 Addison Street in downtown Berkeley. **Pay what you wish** to attend, and arrive early as seating is limited. Or enroll now in the School's winter session and participate in this incredible event!

“For me, the act of writing a play a day was great fun,” **Parks remarks**. “It was also like a puja, or an extended daily prayer. It was wild and necessary and arduous and delicious. Then Bonnie Metzgar and I created a production model which would speak to the spirit of my plays: a simultaneous and shared world premiere involving hundreds of theatres around the country.”

“We're excited to play a role in this nationwide event,” adds **Tony Taccone**, artistic director of Berkeley Rep. “Suzan-Lori Parks is one of our most important writers, and we join with our colleagues in this unique investigation of her work.”

In an unprecedented yearlong festival, *365 Days/365 Plays* is being performed concurrently by **more than 600 theatres in more than 30 cities** and communities across America – including Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, DC. Each play is a brief, brilliant snapshot from the imagination of one of the nation's leading playwrights.

The seven short shows to be seen at Berkeley Rep are titled as follows: “Between the 1st Rehearsal and the 2nd,” “The Wagon,” “Barefoot and Pregnant in the Park,” “Channel 5 Weather,” “Another Play in the House called ‘House of Jones,’” “Fatigue,” and “The Arrival of the End.” They will be staged by students from this session's directing seminar, which commences with a class led by Taccone and then continues under the leadership of **Jonathan Moscone**, artistic director of California Shakespeare Theater. The performers will be drawn from the School's intermediate and advanced acting classes, taught by **Marvin Greene** and **Andrew Hurteau**.

(MORE)

1997 tony award for outstanding regional theatre / a nonprofit corporation since 1968

As an undergraduate at Mount Holyoke College, **Suzan-Lori Parks** studied with the legendary novelist James Baldwin, who urged her to write for the stage. Parks went on to win two Obie Awards (for *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom* in 1990 and *Venus* in 1996), a “genius” grant from the MacArthur Foundation in 2001, and the 2002 Pulitzer Prize in Drama for *Topdog/Underdog*. Her other plays include *The America Play*, *Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*, *Devotees in the Garden of Love*, *Fucking A*, and *In The Blood*. Her first screenplay was for Spike Lee's 1996 film, *Girl 6*. She also worked with Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions on *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *The Great Debaters*, a forthcoming film directed by Denzel Washington. In addition, Parks has written several radio plays and the novel *Getting Mother's Body*. “A writer who crosses cultural boundaries, as well as social ones, she has had her work produced everywhere, from the smallest avant-garde stages to Broadway,” notes *The New Yorker*. “Her voice is both idiosyncratic and eerily familiar, one of few in the popular theatre to fully exploit the power of spoken black English.”

For more information on this project – or other activities at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre – call 510.647.2972, e-mail school@berkeleyrep.org, or visit berkeleyrep.org.

ABOUT BERKELEY REP

Founded in 1968, the Tony Award-winning Berkeley Repertory Theatre has established a national reputation for its ambitious programming and dynamic productions. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Tony Taccone and Managing Director Susan Medak, Berkeley Rep seeks to engage its audience in an ongoing dialogue of ideas. Through its bold choice of material and vivid style of production, Berkeley Rep reflects a commitment to diversity, excitement, and quality. The company is especially well known for its presentations of important new dramatic voices and its fresh adaptations of seldom-seen classics. In 2001, Berkeley Rep opened the Roda Theatre, a 600-seat proscenium theatre that complements the 400-seat Thrust Stage, and the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, housed in the Nevo Education Center. The addition of these two buildings has transformed what was once a single stage into a vital and versatile performing arts complex.

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