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ALL WEAR BOWLERS FOR A HILARIOUS HOLIDAY TREAT AT BERKELEY REP
“A parade of classic slapstick, elegant pratfalls, and rigorous sleight of hand!” – *NY Times*

OCTOBER 17, 2006 – For the holidays, Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents a limited engagement of *all wear bowlers*, a hilarious vaudeville hit that’s left a deafening trail of laughter across four continents. Created and performed by **Trey Lyford** and **Geoff Sobelle**, *bowlers* is “easily the most funny and original show this year,” according to the *New York Times*. Directed by **Aleksandra Wolska**, this side-splitting display of clowning begins previews in Berkeley Rep’s Roda Theatre on **November 24**, opens **November 29**, and closes **December 23**. The executive producer for *all wear bowlers* is the Strauch Kulhanjian Family and the production sponsor is The Mechanics Bank. The season producers for Berkeley Rep’s 39th year are Wayne Jordan and Quinn Delaney, and the official season sponsors are BART and Wells Fargo.
Wear your bowler to the Theatre and receive a free gift!

“Every generation has its own sense of humor,” remarks **Tony Taccone**, artistic director of Berkeley Rep. “Trey and Geoff are the post-postmodern interpreters of a tradition that follows Buster Keaton, Samuel Beckett, and Andy Kaufman. They maintain that we now live in what might be called the Age of the Ridiculous, and that the only way to survive the particular inanities and insanities of today’s world is through humor.”

“A singularly inventive and surreal vaudeville act,” raves the *New York Times*. “Imagine Laurel and Hardy stuck in a Magritte painting... The show features a constant parade of classic slapstick, elegant pratfalls, and rigorous sleight of hand.”

In the tradition of Laurel and Hardy, Buster Keaton, and Samuel Beckett, *all wear bowlers* is brimming with hilarious entertainment. Drawing on their mutual love for motion pictures, vintage vaudeville, and stage magic, Sobelle and Lyford created *bowlers* and have rolled it around the world. These clowns may come from the era of silent films, but they’ve left audiences laughing aloud in Asia, Australia, Europe, and the United States! See what happens when they tumble out of their movie and into a wacky world without gravity. During development of the show, the pair was mentored by two renowned new vaudevillians beloved of Bay Area audiences: **David Shiner** and **Geoff Hoyle**. Then *all wear bowlers* went on to win a New York Innovative Theatre Award

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

and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award. It's an uproarious romp, a holiday treat that opens the day after Thanksgiving and closes the night before Christmas Eve.

Geoff Sobelle is the co-artistic director of rainpan43. A Philadelphia-based theatre artist, he is also a company member of the Pig Iron Theatre Company, an Obie Award-winning physical theatre ensemble that just celebrated its tenth anniversary. Sobelle was awarded an Independence Foundation Fellowship and a grant from the Philadelphia Theatre Initiative (PTI) to create *all wear bowlers* with Lyford. He recently received a second grant from PTI to produce an absurdist, Rube Goldberg-inspired piece entitled *machines, machines, machines, machines, machines, machines, machines* next season with rainpan43. Sobelle's credits also include Hal in *Proof* and Jacques, Oliver, and Silvius in *As You Like It* with Arden Theatre Company; Sebastian in *Twelfth Night* at Folger Theatre; Antipholus of Ephesus in *The Comedy of Errors* at Lantern Theater Company; and Kinesias in *Lysistrata* and Lucky in *Waiting for Godot* at Stanford University. He has been nominated for three Barrymore Awards – including the prestigious F. Otto Haas Award for Emerging Philadelphia Theatre Artist – and was named Best Theater Talent for 2004 by *Philadelphia Magazine*. For 2006, he received a Pew Fellowship in the Arts as a performance artist. Sobelle is a graduate of Stanford and – like the stars of last season's Berkeley Rep hit, *The Miser* – trained at École Jacques Lecoq in Paris.

Trey Lyford is a New York-based theatre artist and co-artistic director of rainpan43. Following the success of *all wear bowlers*, rainpan43 premiered its new work *Amnesia Curiosa* to sold-out houses at the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival this summer. Lyford has performed across the United States – including at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles, Folger Theatre, the HBO Comedy Festival in Aspen, HERE Arts Center, La Jolla Playhouse, and Soho Repertory Theatre – and at venues around the world, such as Edinburgh's Aurora Nova, London's Gate Theatre, and the Sydney Opera House. In addition to creating his own work, Lyford is an associate artist with the Obie-winning company called The Civilians, where he worked on *Gone Missing*, *(I Am) Nobody's Lunch*, and *Paris Commune*. He has also developed original pieces with San Francisco's Joe Goode Performance Group (*Hapless* at Intersection for the Arts) and Philadelphia's Pig Iron Theatre Company (*Joan of Arc*). This spring he will begin development of *machines, machines, machines, machines, machines, machines, machines* with Sobelle and Quinn Bauriedel, as well as collaborate with actor Daoud Heidami on an original work currently titled *I Am Brown*. Lyford is a graduate of Vassar College and earned an MFA from the University of California at San Diego, where he studied with Berkeley Rep's associate artistic director, **Les Waters**.

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Aleksandra Wolska holds a PhD from Stanford in dramatic theatre and criticism, as well as an MFA in directing from Boston University. She is a member of Rainshadow Film Company and the co-founder of Stanford Summer Theatre. At SST, she staged a production of Ionesco's *The Chairs* starring **Geoff Hoyle** and a production of Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, featuring Hoyle and Sobelle. She also directed two works by Max Frisch (*Biedermann* and *Firebugs*) and *When the Shark Bites*, an adaptation of Bertolt Brecht's texts. Formerly an assistant professor of theatre at the University of Minnesota, Wolska has conducted extensive research and study of Renaissance drama, Shakespeare, performance theory, and phenomenology of performance. She is currently completing her book on early modern stage practices entitled *Shakespeare's Enchanted Objects: Alchemical Transformations on the Renaissance Stage*.

Let's not forget to tip our hats to the **design team** for *all wear bowlers*. **Ed Haynes** (scenic designer) has served as the resident scenic designer for Center Theatre Group for 17 years. He designed Berkeley Rep's production of *Having Our Say* and served as production designer for Fox TV's *Culture Clash*. His work has also been seen at countless other theatres including the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Alley Theatre, Hollywood Bowl, Intiman Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Odyssey Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, South Coast Repertory, Trinity Repertory Company, and Tiffany Theatre. **Tara Webb** (costume designer) is a freelance theatre artist working on a Master's degree in visual culture at New York University. In New York, her costumes have been seen in *The Collapsible [sic] Giraffe's 3 Virgins*, *Bend Your Mind Off*, and *Witch Mountain, Black Tarantula*; Cynthia Hopkins' operettas *Accidental Nostalgia* and *Must Don't Whip 'Um*; and Theatre of a Two-Headed Calf's *Kabuki Major Barbara*. Webb also helped hone The Wooster Group's video technique, allowing actors onstage to take live cues from video images, and is currently working with Lisa D'Amour on *Stanley 2006*, which will debut at HERE in October. **Randy "Igleu" Glickman** (lighting designer) has been collaborating with Lyford and Sobelle on *all wear bowlers* since 2002. He is a company member of the Hypothetical Theatre Company and Irondale Ensemble Project in New York City, where his other credits include *Clubbed Thumb*, *Luna Stage*, and the *Mint Theater Company*. Glickman also designs lighting for private homes throughout the New York area. He holds a BA from Vassar and an MFA in design from UCSD. A member of *Pig Iron Theatre Company*, **James Sugg** (sound designer) has also designed for Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arden Theatre Company, Folger Theatre, Freedom Theatre, Lantern Theater Company, Lucidity Suitcase Intercontinental, Princeton University, Seattle Repertory Theatre, The University of the Arts, and The Wilma Theater. His work has been recognized with five Barrymores for Outstanding Sound

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ALL WEAR BOWLERS FOR A HILARIOUS HOLIDAY TREAT AT BERKELEY REP / 4 OF 5

Design, including the F. Otto Haas Award for Emerging Philadelphia Theatre Artist. Most recently, Sugg composed country/bluegrass tunes for the Mark Twain musical *A Murder, A Mystery and A Marriage*, which premiered this spring at Delaware Theatre Company. The stage manager for this production is **Michelle Blair**.

Of course, playing silent films is a necessary part of a play about silent films – so *all wear bowlers* includes **film clips created by Michael Glass** (filmmaker). Glass holds an MFA in filmmaking from NYU and a BA in psychology from Stanford. He is a founding member of Spillfilm, an ensemble of stage writers and actors working in film. His recent projects include *Little Gold Men*, which Spillfilm created with Sobelle and Lyford. **Michael Friedman** (film score composer) is a founding associate artist of The Civilians and an artistic associate at New York Theatre Workshop. A former MacDowell Fellow, Friedman's work has been heard at noted theatres around the world including American Repertory Theatre, La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, the Humana Festival, Playwrights Horizons, The Public Theater, Roundabout Theatre Company, Soho Rep, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and the Gate and Soho Theatres in London.

Theatre-lovers can cap off their *bowlers* experience with **13 magical events**:

- *Opening night* festivities are held on Wednesday, November 29.
- *Post-play discussions* moderated by theatre professionals follow the 8:00 PM shows on Thursday, November 30; Friday, December 8; and Tuesday, December 12.
- Free 30-minute *docent presentations* about the show are held during the run every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 PM: November 28, November 30, December 5, December 7, December 12, December 14, December 19, and December 21.
- *Target @ Teen Night* begins at 6:30 PM on Friday, December 1 and includes dinner, a performance of *all wear bowlers*, and a behind-the-scenes discussion with a member of the artistic team. Tickets are \$5 for members of Berkeley Rep's Teen Council, \$20 for all other teens. For more information, call 510.647.2978 or e-mail school@berkeleyrep.org.

Tickets for *all wear bowlers* are on sale now, priced from \$33 to \$61. Subscriptions to Berkeley Rep's spectacular 2006/07 Season are also available, starting as low as \$123 and including the best seats at the lowest prices for this show. Discounts are available for students, seniors, groups, UC Berkeley alumni, employees of K-12 schools, and anyone under 30 years of age. For every weekday performance, half-price HotTix go on sale that day at noon at the box office. All discounts are subject to availability.

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Early birds can take advantage of two **special offers** on seats in the mezzanine for this show. Buy a ticket by Thanksgiving for any performance through Friday, December 1, and it's half price. Full-time students and anyone under 30 years of age can save even more with \$10 seats to any preview performance! These tickets must be purchased by Thanksgiving, identification is required, and there is a limit of one \$10 ticket per person. And remember: anyone who wears a bowler to the Theatre gets a free gift!

Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre is located at 2015 Addison Street, one block from Berkeley's downtown BART station and close to AC Transit bus lines. The theatre is accessible to the handicapped, offering wheelchair seating and special services for those with hearing- or vision-impairment. For tickets or information, call **510.647.2949** or toll-free at **888.4.BRT.Tix** – or simply click 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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ALL WEAR BOWLERS

FACT SHEET

WHO: Created and performed by Geoff Sobelle and Trey Lyford
 Directed by Aleksandra Wolska
 Designed by Ed Haynes (sets), Tara Webb (costumes), Randy “Igleu” Glickman (lights), James Sugg (sound), Michael Glass (filmmaker), and Michael Friedman (film score composer)

WHAT: *all wear bowlers*
 A hilarious vaudeville hit that’s left a deafening trail of laughter across four continents

WHERE: Berkeley Repertory Theatre’s Roda Theatre
 2015 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley

WHEN: Previews on 11/24 - 11/28/2006 – Performances on 11/29 - 12/23/2006

- Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays @ 8:00 PM
- Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM
- Saturdays @ 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
- Sundays @ 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- No matinees during previews

all wear bowlers / limited

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
nov 24–dec 23					nov 24	25
					8pm ●	8pm ●
26	27	28	29	30	dec 1	2
7pm ●		8pm ●	8pm ■	8pm ◆	8pm	2/8pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2/7pm		8pm	7pm	8pm	8pm ◆	2/8pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2/7pm		8pm ◆	7pm	8pm	8pm	2/8pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
2/7pm		8pm	7pm	8pm	8pm	2/8pm

docent talks ● previews
 opening night ◆ discussion

Special Events –
Opening night: Wednesday 11/29 @ 8:00 PM
Post-play discussions: Thursday 11/30, Friday 12/8 & Tuesday 12/12 @ 8:00 PM
Docent presentations: Tuesdays 11/28, 12/5, 12/12 & 12/19 @ 7:00 PM and
 Thursdays 11/30, 12/7, 12/14 & 12/21 @ 7:00 PM
Target @ Teen Night: Friday 12/1 @ 6:30 PM

HOW MUCH: Previews\$33 Sundays (2 PM & 7 PM) \$49
 Tues (8 PM) / Wednesdays (7 PM) ..\$45 Friday evenings (8 PM)..... \$55
 Thursdays (2 PM & 8 PM)\$47 Wednesday opening (8 PM) \$61
 Saturday matinees (2 PM).....\$47 Saturday evenings (8 PM) \$61

Discounts: • \$10 preview tickets for full-time students and those under 30
 • ½ price tickets available most other days for those under 30
 • ½ price mezzanine seats for people of any age to any show through 12/1
 • ½ price rush tickets for students and seniors sold ½ hour before curtain
 • 20 half-price HotTix go on sale Tuesday through Friday at noon
 • Groups of 15+ may contact 510.647.2918 or groups@berkeleyrep.org

TIX & INFO: 510.647.2949 – toll-free 888-4-BRT-Tix – www.berkeleyrep.org