



For photos, interviews, etc., contact:
Terence Keane, Director of Public Relations
510.647.2917, tkeane@berkeleyrep.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACCLAIMED ACTOR DELROY LINDO DIRECTS *BLUE DOOR* AT BERKELEY REP
Two Broadway actors embody four African-American characters in Barfield's breathtaking play

MARCH 1, 2007 – This April, acclaimed actor **Delroy Lindo** turns his hand to directing at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. *Blue Door*, a breathtaking new play from promising young playwright **Tanya Barfield**, begins previews on Berkeley Rep's intimate Thrust Stage on **April 6**, opens **April 11**, and closes **May 20**. The two-person show stars accomplished stage and screen actors **Teagle F. Bougere** and **David Fonteno**. The executive producer for *Blue Door* is the Strauch Kulhanjian Family; 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. Exceptional writing, sharp acting, and deft direction all enter through the *Blue Door*.

"Delroy and I have been in dialogue for three years, searching for the right project to collaborate on," comments Artistic Director **Tony Taccone**. "*Blue Door* immediately appealed to us, both in terms of its subject matter and its theatrical form. With Delroy bringing his personal experience and his enormous talent to this production, I'm excited to see what insights he'll bring to the play."

"I hope this is the start of an alliance," **Lindo remarks**. "Over the last few years, I've admired the various creative chances I've seen Berkley Rep take in compiling its seasons, and it's been very stimulating for me to become a part of that through the process of assembling a creative team for *Blue Door*. It's a challenging play to present successfully. But it's also an eloquent work, and I relish the opportunity of negotiating it and its themes – coming to terms with one's past in order to have a healthier future, forgiveness, the subjugation and repression of anger and rage, and the critical need to find constructive outlets for those feelings. These themes resonate keenly for me. I hope to translate that, with my creative team, into a powerful evening for the audience."

Blue Door is a searing examination of family and identity that will resonate with anyone who has ever struggled to live with – or escape – the past. When he refuses to attend the Million Man March, a professor finds his personal and professional lives thrown into turmoil. Unable to sleep in the bed abandoned by his wife, Lewis is visited by his ancestors – men who fought to be free, to vote, to obtain justice. In this powerful new play, two extraordinary actors embody four generations of African-American experience.

(MORE)

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

Delroy Lindo (director) came to prominence with his Broadway performance in *Master Harold and the Boys* and went on to portray Herald Loomis in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, earning nominations for the Tony Award and the Drama Desk Award. He has also worked off Broadway and in regional theatres throughout the United States and Canada, winning the NAACP Image Award for Best Actor when he played Walter Lee in *A Raisin in the Sun* at the Kennedy Center, Yale Repertory Theatre, and the Wilshire Theatre in Los Angeles. Lindo is best known, however, for his extensive screen time in films such as *Bright Angel*, *Broken Arrow*, *The Cider House Rules*, *Clockers*, *The Core*, *Crooklyn*, *The Devil's Advocate*, *Domino*, *L'Exil du Roi Behanzin*, *Feeling Minnesota*, *Get Shorty*, *Gone in 60 Seconds*, *Heist*, *The Last Castle*, *A Life Less Ordinary*, *Malcolm X*, *Mountains of the Moon*, *Mr. Jones*, *The One*, *Ransom*, *Romeo Must Die*, *Sahara*, and *Wondrous Oblivion*. He recently starred in the NBC television series *Kidnapped*, and has also appeared on CourtTV in *The Exonerated* and on HBO in *Lackawanna Blues* and *First Time Felon*. Portraying historical figures, Lindo has been seen as Clarence Thomas in the Peabody Award-winning *Strange Justice* on Showtime, Arctic explorer Matthew Henson in TNT's *Glory and Honor*, Ricardo Thornton in *Profoundly Normal* on CBS, and baseball legend Satchel Paige in HBO's *Soul of the Game*. Also for television, he conceived, hosted, and produced *Delroy Lindo on Spike Lee*, *Delroy Lindo in Conversation with Charles Burnett*, and *Delroy Lindo and Joan Chen: A Conversation*. He resides in Oakland with his family.

Tanya Barfield (playwright) studied in the exclusive playwriting program at the Juilliard School under Christopher Durang and Marsha Norman. She won the Helen Merrill Award for Emerging Playwrights, and *Ms. Magazine* recently named her "One of the 21 Young Women to Watch in the 21st Century." Although her work has been seen at the legendary Humana Festival, the Guthrie Theater Lab, and London's Royal Court Theatre, this is her first script to receive a major production. In the last year, *Blue Door* has been performed at Playwrights Horizons, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and South Coast Repertory. Her other plays include *121^o West*, *Dent*, *The Houdini Act*, and *The Quick*. Barfield received a 2006 Lark Play Development/NYSCA grant and a 2005 Honorable Mention for the Joseph Kesselring Prize for Drama, and twice she's been a finalist for the Princess Grace Award. A member of New Dramatists, she has been commissioned by Geva Theatre Center, the Mark Taper Forum, Playwrights Horizons, and South Coast Rep.

Teagle F. Bougere (Simon / Rex / Jesse) has performed on Broadway as Joseph Asagai in the recent revival of *A Raisin in the Sun*, earning a nomination for the Outer Critics Circle Award, and as Caliban in George C. Wolfe's production of *The Tempest*, for which he won a Drama League

(MORE)

Award. His off-Broadway credits include Banquo in *Macbeth* with Liev Schreiber at the New York Shakespeare Festival and Private Smalls in *A Soldier's Play* at Second Stage Theater. Regionally, Bougere played Christopher in *Blue/Orange* at The Old Globe Theatre and was a member of the resident acting company at Arena Stage for five seasons. His television credits include *The Conviction*, *Cosby*, *The Job*, *Law & Order*, and *Third Watch*. His film credits include *A Beautiful Mind*, *The Imposters*, *Murder in Black and White*, *A Night at the Museum*, *The Pelican Brief*, and *Two Weeks' Notice*.

David Fonteno (Lewis) was most recently seen as James in Philip Kan Gotanda's *Yohen* at New York's Pan Asian Repertory Theatre. His other New York credits include *Distant Fires* and *Force Continuum* at Atlantic Theater Company, Tom Stoppard's *Hapgood* at Lincoln Center, and David Hare's *Stuff Happens* at The Public Theater. Regionally, Fonteno has appeared in *Abstract Expressions* at Long Wharf Theatre; *Amen Corner*, *Lost Creek Township*, and *The Talented Tenth* at Crossroads Theatre Company; and *Wit* at George Street Playhouse. His film and television credits include *Conviction*, *DC 9/11: Time of Crisis*, *Devil in a Blue Dress*, *The Interpreter*, *Law & Order*, *Third Watch*, *The Wire*, and the network premieres of *Kidnapped* and *The Knights of Prosperity*. Known primarily as an actor, Fonteno also works as a composer. His recent musical projects include *King Hedley II* at Philadelphia Theatre Company, as well as various documentaries and presentational videos. He is a life member of The Actors Studio.

An expert **design team** has been recruited to beckon us through the *Blue Door*. **Kate Edmunds** (scenic designer) has designed many productions at Berkeley Rep, including *Endgame*, *Homebody/Kabul*, *Heartbreak House*, *The Lady from the Sea*, *The Revenger*, *Slavs!*, and *Twelfth Night*. Locally, she has worked at American Conservatory Theater, Aurora Theatre Company, Magic Theatre, and TheatreWorks, and her regional experience includes Alliance Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Arena Stage, CenterStage, the Goodman, the Huntington Theater Company, Seattle Rep, and Steppenwolf Theatre Company. After teaching design at the University of California at Berkeley for 13 years, she now teaches at UC Santa Cruz. **Emilio Sosa** (costume designer) designed the Broadway and London productions of *Topdog/Underdog*. His other New York credits include *All That I Will Ever Be* and *The Seven* at the New York Theatre Workshop; *Birdie Blue*, *Crowns*, and *Living Out* at Second Stage; *Caligula* at the Classical Theatre of Harlem; and *Radiant Baby* and *The Story* at The Public. Regionally, Sosa's work has been seen at Arena Stage, Bay Street Theatre, CenterStage, La Jolla Playhouse, and Madison Repertory Theatre. He is also the image consultant for the Lincoln

(MORE)

Center Jazz Orchestra, featuring Wynton Marsalis. **Kathy A. Perkins** (lighting designer) has worked throughout the United States, Europe, and South Africa. For three seasons, she was the designer for DanceAfrica at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and she has also served as resident designer for the Los Angeles Theatre Center and the LA Contemporary Dance Company. Her countless regional credits include shows at ACT/Seattle, Alliance Theatre, the Goodman, Manhattan Theatre Club, Seattle Rep, and the Taper. Chair of the lighting design program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Perkins has edited four books on women of the African diaspora. **André Pluess and Ben Sussman** (sound designers/composers) created sound for the Broadway productions of *I Am My Own Wife* and *Metamorphoses*. Berkeley Rep audiences will remember their work from *Honour*, *Metamorphoses*, and *The Secret in the Wings*. Based in Chicago, they have numerous credits with About Face Theatre, Court Theatre, the Goodman, Lookingglass Theatre, Steppenwolf, and the Victory Gardens Theater. Their work has also recently been heard at Arena Stage; Lincoln Center; the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, DC; and the Williamstown Theatre Festival. The stage manager for this production is **Michael Suenkel**, Berkeley Rep's resident production stage manager.

Berkeley Rep encourages theatre-lovers to step inside the *Blue Door* for **21 special events**:

- *Page to Stage*, a free talkback with Lindo, occurs on Monday, April 9 at 7:00 PM and is sponsored by Peet's Coffee and Tea.
- *Opening night* festivities are held on Wednesday, April 11, including a pre-show dinner for donors at Downtown Restaurant and a post-show party for the audience featuring wines from Raymond Vineyard & Cellar.
- *night/OUT*, an event for the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community, takes place on Thursday, April 12. The post-play party features dance music mixed by a cutting-edge DJ, gourmet hors d'oeuvres from Liaison Bistro, gorgeous blossoms from Darling Flower Shop, and complimentary drinks from Triple Rock Brewery and Raymond Vineyard & Cellar.
- *Target @ Teen Night* begins at 6:30 PM on Friday, April 13 and includes dinner catered by Bar Ristorante Raphael, a behind-the-scenes discussion with a member of the artistic team, and a performance of *Blue Door*. 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.

(MORE)

- *Student matinees* sponsored by Citigroup Foundation occur at noon on Thursday, April 26 and Thursday, May 10. Tickets are \$10 each, and a chaperone is admitted free for every 10 students. For details, call 510.647.2978 or e-mail school@berkeleyrep.org.
- *Post-play discussions* moderated by theatre professionals follow the 8:00 PM shows on Thursday, April 26; Tuesday, May 8; and Friday, May 11.
- Free 30-minute *docent presentations* about the show are held every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 PM: April 10, April 12, April 17, April 19, April 24, April 26, May 1, May 3, May 8, May 10, May 15, and May 17.

Tickets to enter Berkeley Rep's *Blue Door* are on sale now, priced from \$33 to \$61. 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.

Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage is located at 2025 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.

###



BLUE DOOR
FACT SHEET

WHO: A play with original songs by Tanya Barfield
 Directed by Delroy Lindo
 Starring Teagle F. Bougere and David Fonteno
 Designed by Kate Edmunds (sets), Emilio Sosa (costumes), Kathy A. Perkins (lights),
 and André Pluess and Ben Sussman (sound/composers)

WHAT: *Blue Door*, a breathtaking new play directed by Delroy Lindo

WHERE: Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Thrust Stage
 2025 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley

WHEN: Previews on 4/6 - 4/10/2007 – Performances on 4/11 - 5/20/2007

- Tuesdays & Fridays @ 8:00 PM
- Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM
- Thursdays & Saturdays @ 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
- Sundays @ 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- No matinees during previews or on 4/12, 4/21, 4/26, 5/5 & 5/10
- No performance on 5/18

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

- docent talks
- previews
- opening night
- ◆ discussion
- ★ page to stage
- ▲ night/OUT

Special Events –
Page to Stage (free talkback with Delroy Lindo): Monday 4/9 @ 7:00 PM
Opening night: Wednesday 4/11 @ 8:00 PM
night/OUT (LGBT event): Thursday 4/12 @ 8:00 PM
Target @ Teen Night: Friday 4/13 @ 6:30 PM
Student matinees: Thursday 4/26 & Thursday 5/10 @ noon
Post-play discussions: Thursday 4/26, Tuesday 5/8 & Friday 5/11 @ 8:00 PM
Docent presentations: Tuesdays 4/10, 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8 & 5/15 @ 7:00 PM and
 Thursdays 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17 @ 7:00 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: • ½ price tickets available for those under 30 (some restrictions apply)
 • 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