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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANNY HOCH TO WORKSHOP NEW SHOW AT BERKELEY REP

Obie Award-winning hip-hop performer develops new material in front of a live audience

FEBRUARY 6, 2007 – This March, Obie Award-winning solo performer **Danny Hoch** returns to Berkeley Repertory Theatre with his latest work in progress. The audience becomes part of the process as this beloved hip-hop theatre artist gives a workshop of scenes from his next show. **There's no set, no costumes, no fancy light cues... just Danny** and his trademark torrent of words. Seating is extremely limited, as the workshop is open to the public on only four evenings: **Friday, March 9; Sunday, March 11; Monday, March 12; and Tuesday, March 13.**

"It's really exciting to welcome Danny back to Berkeley Rep," remarks **Tony Taccone**, the Theatre's artistic director. "I've been trying for three years to get him to perform on stage again – and he's back with a vengeance. While he's here, Danny's workshopping both a solo show about gentrification in New York City and a new musical about the birth of hip-hop. His material is always smart and funny, even as it truthfully explores serious issues. That's the signature style that won him such acclaim for *Jails, Hospitals & Hip-Hop* and *Some People*."

"I look forward to returning to Berkeley Rep to workshop my new material," **Hoch comments**. The Bay Area audience has always been very supportive, and a great meter with which to gauge whether things are working or not. Plus, the food is slammin'!"

Berkeley Rep's current hit, *The Pillowman*, was recently extended – so the Danny Hoch workshop takes the stage at the nearby **Gaia Arts Center**. Located at 2116 Allston Way, this venue is only three blocks from Berkeley Rep's performing arts complex in downtown Berkeley. Since this is a workshop, **ticket prices reflect a significant savings** on the usual price of a show at Berkeley Rep: general admission is only \$15, and high-school students with appropriate ID get a discounted price of just \$7. To purchase tickets, click berkeleyrep.org – or call Berkeley Rep's box office at 510.647.2949 or 1.888.4.BRT.Tix (toll-free).

Danny Hoch is an actor, playwright, and director whose breakthrough work – *Jails, Hospitals & Hip-Hop* – made its world premiere at Berkeley Rep in 1997. Seen around the world, Hoch's plays have garnered numerous honors including two Obie Awards and an Edinburgh Fringe First Award.

(MORE)

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

A pivotal figure in the development of hip-hop theatre, Hoch founded the Hip-Hop Theater Festival in 2000. The festival appears annually in Chicago, New York, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Washington, DC – and has presented more than 75 plays from across the globe. As a director, his work includes the bilingual *Representa* at the San Francisco International Arts Festival and Will Power's *Flow* at the New York Theatre Workshop, which was named one of the Top 10 Plays of 2003 by the *New York Times*. Hoch's writings on hip-hop, race, and class have appeared in *American Theatre*, *Harper's*, *The Nation*, the *New York Times*, and *The Village Voice*, as well as several books: *Creating Your Own Monologue*, *Extreme Exposure*, *Laughing in the Dark*, and *Out of Character*. The film version of *Jails, Hospitals & Hip-Hop* received an Urbanworld Film Festival Award, and his HBO special *Some People* was nominated for a Cable Ace Award. Hoch's other writing and acting credits for the screen include *American Splendor*, *Bamboozled*, *Blackhawk Down*, *HBO Def Poetry*, *Prison Song*, *Subway Stories*, *The Thin Red Line*, *War of the Worlds*, *Washington Heights*, and *Whiteboyz*, as well as the upcoming *Lucky You* and *We Own the Night*. Hoch is the recipient of numerous fellowships and grants, most recently a 2006 Creative Capital Grant and a 2005-2006 Performing Americas Grant from the Doris Duke Foundation and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

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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ATTENTION, CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHO: Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents Obie Award-winner Danny Hoch

WHAT: Danny Hoch workshop

The hip-hop theatre artist develops his next show in front of a live audience

WHERE: Gaia Arts Center / 2116 Allston Way @ Shattuck / Downtown Berkeley

WHEN: Friday, March 9 @ 8 PM

Sunday, March 11 @ 7 PM

Monday, March 12 @ 8 PM

Tuesday, March 13 @ 8 PM

HOW MUCH: \$15 – or only \$7 for high-school students with ID

INFO & TIX: 510.647.2949, 1.888.4.BRT.Tix or berkeleyrep.org

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