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NEW YEAR MEANS NEW PLAYS AT BERKELEY REP

**In '07, Tony Award-winning theatre presents world premiere of *To the Lighthouse*,
West Coast premiere of Neil Bartlett's *Oliver Twist*,
The Pillowman from Oscar- and Tony-winner Martin McDonagh,
and Tanya Barfield's *The Blue Door* directed by Delroy Lindo**

NOVEMBER 29, 2006 – In 2006, Berkeley Repertory Theatre arranged to send four shows from the Bay Area to the Big Apple – now it celebrates the New Year with four new plays. The Tony Award-winning theatre will complete its 39th season with the world premiere of *To the Lighthouse*, the West Coast premiere of **Neil Bartlett's *Oliver Twist***, *The Pillowman* from Oscar- and Tony-winning writer **Martin McDonagh**, and **Tanya Barfield's *The Blue Door*** directed by **Delroy Lindo**. *The Pillowman* and *To the Lighthouse* will both be staged by Obie Award-winner **Les Waters**, Berkeley Rep's associate artistic director. This theatrical adventure is supported by BART and Wells Fargo, the official sponsors of Berkeley Rep's 2006/07 Season.

"This was a particularly fertile year for those of us at Berkeley Rep," says **Tony Taccone**, the Theatre's artistic director, "and I'm looking forward to the shows we've lined up for the first half of 2007. I'm proud to continue our tradition of presenting the best new voices in American theatre, even as we introduce adaptations of great works from the past. It's an honor to welcome distinguished artists such as Delroy, Tanya, Neil, and Adele to our stage, and to reunite our audiences with the incomparable work of Martin, Paul, and – of course – Les."

The year begins with an Oscar- and Tony-winning writer, an Obie-winning director, and a play the *New York Times* called "a spellbinding stunner"... Get ready for an edgy and enthralling evening when **Les Waters** tackles the latest shocking script from **Martin McDonagh**, author of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and *Six Shooter*. *The Pillowman* is a darkly funny thriller where "the laughs trail into gulps and gasps," a mystery where "whodunit" is the least of your concerns. A man tells creepy stories to entertain his mentally challenged brother – but then grisly murders that mirror these tales slice through town, and two cops come knocking. *The Pillowman* mesmerized audiences during its recent London and Broadway runs – don't miss it at Berkeley Rep.

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

To the Lighthouse is an ambitious adaptation of **Virginia Woolf's** visionary novel, a captivating collaboration from Obie-winning director **Les Waters**, acclaimed composer **Paul Dresher**, and accomplished playwright **Adele Edling Shank**. Waters combines Shank's script with a soaring score commissioned from Dresher to create a profound reflection on love, family, and the inexorable tide of time. *To the Lighthouse* illuminates the life of a house – where a couple live, argue, love, and endure; where children play, cry, and grow up; where a woman paints. She paints the sea. She paints the lighthouse. And, finally, she paints the stage. Be sure to come to the Roda Theatre in February for this remarkable world premiere.

In April, popular actor **Delroy Lindo** directs **Tanya Barfield's** breathtaking script, ***The Blue Door***, which wrests an African-American academic out of his ivory tower. After coming to prominence with Broadway performances in *Master Harold and the Boys* and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, Lindo reinforced his reputation with films such as *The Cider House Rules* and *Malcolm X*. Now he directs this powerful play from a promising young writer on Berkeley Rep's intimate Thrust Stage. 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, he is visited by his ancestors – men who fought to be free, to vote, to obtain justice. *The 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.

Finally, this season of surprises concludes with a *Twist*, an astonishing adaptation of a classic novel from one of Britain's most innovative theatre artists. Inspired by the vivid world of the Victorian music hall, **Neil Bartlett's *Oliver Twist*** uses the original language of **Charles Dickens'** novel to dramatize one of the most moving stories ever written about childhood. A cast of unforgettable characters brings the underworld of 19th-century London to life – a city teeming with danger and fear – all seen through the eyes of a bewildered child. By turns comic and tragic, musical and dramatic, Bartlett's *Twist* took London by storm. "This is Dickens in all his dark, gaudy glory," exclaims London's *Daily Telegraph*. "I really can't recommend this show too highly." *Oliver Twist* is produced in association with Theatre for a New Audience and American Repertory Theatre, and Berkeley Rep is thrilled to present its West Coast premiere in the Roda Theatre.

Tickets to these shows are priced from \$33 to \$61 and are on sale now. Purchase seats for three or more shows and receive a significant discount, as well as priority seating and special benefits. Discounts are also available for students, seniors, groups, UC Berkeley alumni, employees of K-12 schools, and anyone under 30 years of age.

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Berkeley Rep's **box office** is open Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 7:00 PM. It is located at 2025 Addison Street, just off Shattuck in downtown Berkeley, only half a block from BART and close to AC Transit bus lines. The Thrust Stage is at the same address; the Roda Theatre is immediately next door at 2015 Addison. Both theatres are accessible to the handicapped, offering wheelchair seating and special services for those with hearing- or vision-impairment. For tickets or information, visit berkeleyrep.org or call 510.647.2949 or toll-free at 1.888.4.BRT.Tix.

Founded in 1968, the Tony Award-winning **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** has established a national reputation for its ambitious programming and dynamic productions. The company is especially well known for its presentations of important new dramatic voices and its fresh adaptations of seldom-seen classics. In 2006, Artistic Director **Tony Taccone** took two shows to New York City: he directed **Sarah Jones'** Tony Award-winning *Bridge & Tunnel* and **Tony Kushner** and **Maurice Sendak's** *Brundibar*, both of which were embraced by Berkeley Rep audiences before heading east. Two other shows seen on its stages are also headed to Manhattan: the world premiere of **Stew's** *Passing Strange* is transferring to The Public Theater and Waters' production of **Sarah Ruhl's** *Eurydice* is slated to play Second Stage Theatre. Through its bold choice of material and vivid style of production, Berkeley Rep reflects a commitment to diversity, excitement, and quality.

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The Pillowman – Thrust Stage

Written by Martin McDonagh

Directed by Les Waters

January 12 – February 25, 2007 (Press Night: Wednesday, January 17)

To the Lighthouse – World Premiere – The Roda Theatre

Written by Adele Edling Shank

Adapted from the novel by Virginia Woolf

Original score by Paul Drescher

Directed by Les Waters

February 23 – March 25, 2007 (Press Night: Wednesday, February 28)

The Blue Door – Thrust Stage

Written by Tanya Barfield

Directed by Delroy Lindo

April 6 – May 20, 2007 (Press Night: Wednesday, April 11)

Oliver Twist – West Coast Premiere – The Roda Theatre

Based on the novel by Charles Dickens

Adapted and directed by Neil Bartlett

May 11 – June 24, 2007 (Press Night: Wednesday, May 16)

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