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KIDS & ADULTS FALL FOR THE BERKELEY REP SCHOOL OF THEATRE
28 autumn classes include a special workshop for actors and directors with Tony Taccone

AUGUST 28, 2006 – Today Berkeley Repertory Theatre announced the autumn schedule for its School of Theatre, with **classes for youth and adults** starting on September 18 – including a special four-day Performance Workshop for Actors & Directors taught by the Theatre’s artistic director, **Tony Taccone**. All activities are held next door to the Theatre in the Nevo Education Center at 2071 Addison Street in downtown Berkeley.

“We’re all glad that autumn has come,” remarked **Rachel Fink**, the school’s director. “Tony’s glad to be home after directing two big shows in New York City this year – *Brundibar* and the Tony Award-winning *Bridge & Tunnel* – and we’re glad he’s home because that means we can share his expertise with our students. His workshop may be the highlight of the 15 classes we’re offering adult theatre enthusiasts this session, but we also have 13 classes for kids ranging from toddlers to teens.”

Now in its fifth year, the **Berkeley Rep School of Theatre** offers an interactive environment where students immerse themselves in all aspects of the craft and artistry of theatre, learning the commitment and technique necessary for artistic excellence. The fall session offers something for students of **all ages and all levels**, from beginners to professionals. All classes meet weekly for two to three hours with instructors who are nationally recognized teaching artists and theatre professionals. Class topics are as follows:

- **Classes for youth** (preschool through grade 8) include Circus Capers: Mime & Character Masks, Imagine Me & You: A Dancing Exploration for Parent & Child, Musical Theatre, Performance Ensemble, Stage Combat 1: Unarmed Combat, and Stage Combat 2: Broadsword. Two additional classes – Acting Adventures and Stories from Around the World – will be taught by **Elena Mulroney**, the new education associate at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre.
- **Classes for teens** include an Audition Lab, Hip Hop Theatre, Stage Combat: Rapier & Dagger, and a Teen Performance Lab of *Macbeth*. In addition, a Master Acting Intensive specifically for teens will be led by **Luanne Nunes de Char**, who spent a decade as resident director at the Denver Center of Performing Arts.
- **Classes for adults** include Acting (beginning through advanced), Audition Intensive, Cabaret, The Emerging Artist Series, Laban Movement for Actors, a Master Class in Scene Study & Creating Character, Playwriting, Preparing to be Surprised: Practical Techniques for Advanced Actors, The Rehearsal Process: From Script to Stage, Stage Combat: Rapier & Dagger, Taccone’s Performance Workshop for Actors & Directors, and Voice for Business Professionals. Finally, two intensive workshops led by accomplished local actor **Andy Murray** will focus on performing texts by great playwrights: Acting Chekov and Acting Shakespeare.

The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre also schedules **one-on-one audition coaches** for adults and **private voice teachers** for children and teens.

(MORE)

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Tony Taccone is in his tenth year as artistic director of Berkeley Rep, where he has staged more than 35 shows, including the world premieres of *Continental Divide*, *The Convict's Return*, *Culture Clash in AmeriCCa*, *The First 100 Years*, *Geni(us)*, *Ravenshead*, and *Virgin Molly*. He commissioned Tony Kushner's renowned *Angels in America*, co-directed its world premiere at the Mark Taper Forum, and has collaborated with Kushner on six projects. Their latest piece featured designs by beloved children's author Maurice Sendak: *Brundibar* debuted at Berkeley Rep and then traveled to Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven and the New Victory Theatre in New York City. Taccone recently made his Broadway debut with *Bridge & Tunnel*, which was universally lauded by the critics and won a Tony Award for its star, Sarah Jones. He also staged the show's record-breaking off-Broadway run, workshopped it for Broadway at Berkeley Rep, and directed Jones' previous hit, *Surface Transit*. In 2004, his production of David Edgar's *Continental Divide* transferred to the Barbican in London after playing the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Rep, and England's Birmingham Rep. Taccone frequently works in Ashland, where he has also directed *Coriolanus*, *Othello*, *Pentecost*, and the American premiere of Seamus Heaney's *The Cure at Troy*. His other regional credits include noted theatres such as Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arizona Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and San Francisco's Eureka Theatre, where he served six years as artistic director before coming to Berkeley Rep.

The **Berkeley Rep School of Theatre** provides a wide array of programming for individuals of all ages. In addition to classes for youth and adults, the School offers Target ® Story Builders, a drama workshop for elementary-school classrooms; the Student Matinee Series for middle- and high-school students; the Playmaking Project for high-school students and incarcerated youth; in-school residencies; teacher training; and a variety of outreach activities that encourage lifelong learning. The School also hosts the Teen Council, which allows youth to participate in all aspects of the dramatic process: on stage, backstage, and in front of the stage. Housed in the Nevo Education Center, the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre is supported by the Mosse Foundation for Arts and Education.

For complete details on the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre – including schedules, faculty bios, course descriptions, and registration information – call **510.647.2972** or visit berkeleyrep.org.

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ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHO: Theatre lovers of all ages and all levels
WHAT: Fall classes at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre
WHEN: Starting September 18, 2006
WHERE: 2071 Addison St @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley, CA 94704
HOW MUCH: Varies by class; scholarships available for youth
INFO: 510.647.2972 or berkeleyrep.org

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