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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREE FAMILY FUN FOR 2007 AT BERKELEY REP'S SCHOOL OF THEATRE

Target ® Family Series offers free monthly classes for kids of all ages

JANUARY 3, 2007 – Today, as a New Year gift to local families, Berkeley Repertory Theatre announced the dates and themes for its free **Target ® Family Series**. On the **first Sunday of every month**, families are invited to learn the art of play in an interactive theatre workshop from **11:00 AM to 12:30 PM**. This program is only possible due to Target Corporation's generous support of the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre. There is **no cost** to attend; Berkeley Rep suggests instead that each family bring a book as a donation for the library at nearby John Muir Elementary School.

"Since it's designed for families of all ages and levels, the Target ® Family Series gives everyone an opportunity to play together," remarked Rachel Fink, director of the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre. "**Toddlers, school kids, teens, parents, and grandparents all participate** in these free workshops, forging bonds, learning teamwork, and nourishing a supportive and creative family environment. Why don't you come out and play?"

Here are the dates and themes for the first half of 2007:

- **January 7 – Creative Movement:** Celebrate International Creativity Month and explore the fundamentals of dance. Kids and parents will rediscover movement in a fun, game-playing environment while using music and storytelling to create dances and discover space. Witness the importance of movement for children and adults alike.
- **February 4 – Play Creation:** Feel the love this February and invest in your community. Kids and parents will come together to work as one large ensemble. Families will use dialogue, physicality, and improvisation to create an original play – as they play with the potential of theatre in their neighborhood.
- **March 4 – Art Explosion:** Celebrate Art History Month and the world premiere of *To the Lighthouse* at Berkeley Rep. Kids and parents unite to turn the room into one big collage. Families will play games with writing, storytelling, music, movement, painting, and sculpture. Uncover all the different ways of telling a story – then put them together.
- **April 1 – Ship of Fools:** Make merry this April Fool's Day – dance, mimic, slide, fall, wander, chase, hop, strut, somersault, jump, and follow the whimsical path of the clown. Families will play games that spark imagination, tickle funny bones, and explore jokesters throughout history. Come join the Ship of Fools.
- **May 6 – Character Creation:** Play with the limits of your voice, body, soul, and imagination while learning to pursue objectives and play actions. Families will work together to develop detailed characters and tell dynamic stories. Place your imagination center stage!
- **June 3 – Summer Fun:** Gain acting skills, tell stories, and make new friends. Learn how to turn a day at home into a day of laughter with family games, puppet making, and more. Slip into vacation mode with off-the-cuff fun that kids and parents can replay all summer long.

(MORE)

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

Target has been an ongoing supporter of Berkeley Rep's educational programs since 1986. "We are pleased to continue our partnership with Berkeley Rep to bring free and discounted programs to families in the Bay Area," remarks **Laysha Ward**, Target's vice president of community relations. "Through our sponsorship of several community programs, Target can make a real difference every day by making the arts more accessible to families, youth and teens."

The **Berkeley Rep School of Theatre** provides a wide array of programming for individuals of all ages. In addition to the Target ® Family Series, the School offers theatre classes for youth and adults; 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 more information, call 510.647.2972, e-mail school@berkeleyrep.org, or click berkeleyrep.org.

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ATTENTION, CALENDAR EDITORS:

- WHO: Toddlers, school kids, teens, parents, and grandparents
- WHAT: **Target ® Family Series**, monthly theatre workshops for the entire family
- WHERE: **Berkeley Rep School of Theatre**
The Nevo Education Center, 2071 Addison St @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley
- WHEN: The first Sunday of every month: **1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/1, 5/6 & 6/3, 11 AM – 12:30 PM**
- HOW MUCH: **Free!** (Suggested donation: bring a book for the library at John Muir Elementary)
- INFO: 510.647.2972 or berkeleyrep.org

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