



**For photos, interviews, etc. contact:**

Terence Keane, Director of Public Relations  
510.647.2917, [tkeane@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:tkeane@berkeleyrep.org)

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**PILLOWMAN GOES TO SCHOOL: ARTISTS FROM HIT SHOW TEACH AT BERKELEY REP**

**School of Theatre's spring session starts April 2 with 22 classes for kids, teens, and adults**

FEBRUARY 16, 2007 – Berkeley Repertory Theatre announced the spring schedule for its School of Theatre today, including three classes taught by artists from the Theatre's hit production of *The Pillowman*. With **22 classes for all ages and all levels starting on April 2**, the spring session offers something for everyone – working professionals, emerging artists, and theatre enthusiasts. Because of *The Pillowman's* sold-out, extended run, there's particular interest in two seminars on Acting Shakespeare taught by actor **Andy Murray** and a stage combat class led by the show's fight choreographer, **Dave Maier**. All activities are held next door to the Theatre in the Nevo Education Center at 2071 Addison Street in downtown Berkeley.

"There has been tremendous response to this show, so we're proud to share these artists with our students," remarks **Rachel Fink**, director of the School of Theatre. "Andy will be teaching a session of his Shakespearean acting class for teens and a separate session for adults. Dave's workshop will be open to anyone 16 or older. We're truly lucky to have such skilled professionals on our faculty."

Since 2001, the **Berkeley Rep School of Theatre** has offered 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. All classes meet weekly for two to three hours with instructors who are nationally recognized artists and teachers, and scholarship funds are available to increase access for youth and teens. Topics for this spring are as follows:

- **Classes for youth** (preschool through grade 8) include Acting Adventures, Imagine Me & You: A Dancing Exploration for Parent & Child, Musical Theatre, Stories from Around the World, and two new classes for middle-school students: Action-Packed Scene Study and Improv Sketch Comedy.
- **Classes for teens** include Murray's seminar on Acting Shakespeare and Maier's workshop entitled Stage Combat: Single Rapier, as well as a Teen Performance Lab using *As You Like It* as a text.
- Adults can also study Shakespearean acting with Murray or stage combat with Maier. Other **classes for adults** include Acting (beginning through advanced), Building a Character for Stage and Film, Callback Audition Intensive, the Emerging Artist Series, Full-Body Express, Physical Theatre: What's So Funny?, Playwriting I: An Introduction to Playwriting, Playwriting II: Writers' Group for Playwrights, Scene Study, and Voice for Professional Artists. The School also schedules one-on-one audition coaches for adults.

**Andy Murray's** previous performances at Berkeley Rep include *Fall*, *Macbeth*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. A familiar face on local stages, he has also appeared at American Conservatory Theater in *Edward II*, *The Gamester*, *The Rivals*, *The Time of Your Life*, and *The Voyage Inheritance*; San Jose Repertory Theatre in *Humpty Dumpty*, *Iphigenia*, *The Matchmaker*, and

(MORE)

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THE PILLOWMAN GOES TO SCHOOL AT BERKELEY REP / 2 OF 2

*Twelfth Night*; and more than 20 productions at California Shakespeare Theater, including *As You Like It*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, and *The Winter's Tale*. His other credits include shows at CenterStage, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Magic Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz.

**Dave Maier** is an associate instructor with Dueling Arts International. He has choreographed fights for A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, Cal Shakes, SF Playhouse, and The Shotgun Players, among others. He trained with Dueling Arts International and The Society of American Fight Directors. As the outreach coordinator at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, he teaches combat workshops throughout the Bay Area. He has also taught for A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory, Cal Shakes, the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, Intiman Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, and Seattle Rep.

The other respected artists serving as instructors for the spring session are **Jeffrey Bihl, Jon Burnett, Ron Campbell, Rebecca Castelli, MaryBeth Cavanaugh, Roni Dengel, Deborah Eubanks, Gary Graves, Marvin Greene, Gendell Hernandez, Greg Hubbard, Freesia Paclebar Huth, Joan Mankin, Elena Mulroney, Rebecca Stockley, and Michael Storm.**

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 – including schedules, faculty bios, course descriptions, and registration information – call **510.647.2972** or visit [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org).

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**ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS:**

WHO: Theatre lovers of all ages and all levels  
WHAT: Spring classes at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre  
WHEN: Starting April 2, 2007  
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](http://berkeleyrep.org)

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