



**For photos, interviews, etc. contact:**  
Terence Keane, Director of Public Relations  
510.647.2917, [tkeane@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:tkeane@berkeleyrep.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THREE LOCAL TEENS WIN WRITING COMPETITION AT BERKELEY REP**

**25 youth from eight communities participate in fifth annual Target ® Teen One Acts Festival**

FEBRUARY 22, 2007 – Berkeley Repertory Theatre’s School of Theatre is celebrating the fifth anniversary of its Target ® Teen One Acts Festival – which means that local teens have reason to celebrate too. Three teens have won the annual writing competition, and two dozen more are participating in the event. The winning scripts for 2007 are *Bookstore* by 18-year-old **Leslie Ribovich of Albany** and *Room 12* by 16-year-old **Katie Henry of Berkeley**. And, for the first time, this year’s festival will feature a short film: *The Immobile Elevator*, written by 16-year-old **Emily English of San Francisco**.

“The Festival keeps growing,” exclaims Rachel Fink, director of the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre. “This year, we have participants from **Albany, Berkeley, Danville, Oakland, Piedmont, San Francisco, Union City, and Walnut Creek**. And I’m thrilled that we’ve expanded the content to include a film also produced entirely by teens. The Target ® Teen One Acts Festival is truly a unique opportunity for youth to get hands-on experience in the arts under the guidance of seasoned professionals.”

In the annual **Target ® Teen One Acts Festival**, teens select original scripts penned by local students to be directed, performed, and produced by their peers. The winning writers are paired with mentors who are theatre professionals to receive feedback and support in revising their work for performance, and the entire process is supported by Berkeley Rep’s staff. The **dates for this year’s Festival** are March 30, March 31, April 1, April 6, and April 7. Performances are held at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre at 2071 Addison Street in downtown Berkeley. **Tickets**, available only at the door, are \$6 for students and \$12 for adults.

In *Bookstore*, two clerks watch the usual parade of patrons stroll through the shelves. Some are new, and some they know all too well. A romance begins, an important order is delayed, and a cat complicates everyone’s lives. A senior at Albany High School, **Leslie Ribovich** has displayed her passion for theatre as co-director of Berkeley Rep’s Teen Council and as teen

(MORE)

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

### THREE LOCAL TEENS WIN WRITING CONTEST AT BERKELEY REP / 2 OF 3

theatre correspondent for the *Oakland Tribune*. *Bookstore* is directed by 17-year-old **Hallie Sekoff of Berkeley**, a junior at the Urban School in San Francisco, and stage managed by 17-year-old **Paris Paul of Piedmont**, a junior at Piedmont High School.

In *Room 12*, a mysterious announcement appears on the school bulletin board, leading five students to a startling discovery at the first meeting of the "Eccentricity Club." **Katie Henry** is a junior at Berkeley High School and an editor for *The Jacket*, the school newspaper. *Room 12* is directed by another Berkeley High junior, 17-year-old **Greg Meyers of Berkeley**, and stage managed by Ribovich.

Finally, three people get trapped between floors in *The Immobile Elevator*, a short film penned by **Emily English**, a sophomore at San Francisco's Lick-Wilmerding High School. The anxiety builds in that claustrophobic chamber until an uncomfortable secret is revealed. *The Immobile Elevator* is directed by 18-year-old **Genevieve Michel of Albany**, a senior at Albany High who serves as co-director of the Teen Council, and stage managed by 16-year-old **Kacey Berry of Berkeley**, a junior at Berkeley High.

All three projects are performed entirely by local teens:

- The cast for *Bookstore* features 17-year-old **Ivie Arasomwan of Oakland**, a senior at Oakland Technical High School; 17-year-old **Spencer Fortin of Albany**, a junior at Albany High; 16-year-old **Scott Garriott of Oakland**, a sophomore at Skyline High School; 16-year-old **Natalya Gibbs-Kail of Berkeley**, a junior at Berkeley High; 16 year-old **Naomi Krupitsky-Wernham of Berkeley**, a junior at Berkeley High; 16-year-old **Malaika Kuria of Union City**, a sophomore at James Logan High School; 18-year-old **Olivia Obidah of Berkeley**, a senior at Berkeley High; and 17-year-old **Sam Weiner of Piedmont**, a senior at Piedmont High.
- The cast for *Room 12* includes 16-year-old **Chris Jones of Albany**, a sophomore at Albany High; 15-year-old **Annie Gillies of Berkeley**, a freshman at Berkeley High; 15-year-old **Michelle Roginsky of Walnut Creek**, a sophomore at Northgate High School; 16-year-old **Kendra Vaculin of Danville**, a sophomore at Carondelet High School in Concord; and 16-year-old **Philip Wong of Oakland**, a sophomore at the Bentley School in Lafayette.

(MORE)

### THREE LOCAL TEENS WIN WRITING CONTEST AT BERKELEY REP / 3 OF 3

- *The Immobile Elevator* is performed by 17-year-old **Armani Cooper of San Francisco**, a junior at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory School; 17-year-old **Spencer Fortin of Albany**, a junior at Albany High; and 16-year-old **Elena Wagoner of Berkeley**, a junior at Berkeley High.

The producer of this year's Target ® Teen One Acts Festival is 15-year-old **Mia Divecha of Berkeley**, a sophomore at Lick-Wilmerding High.

The **Berkeley Rep Teen Council** is a theatre youth group organized by teens for teens. Its goal is to foster the theatre audiences and theatre professionals of tomorrow by opening channels of communication between teens, theatre professionals, and the community at large. The Teen Council provides the opportunity for youth to participate in all aspects of the dramatic process: on stage, backstage, and in front of the stage through an affiliation with the Tony Award-winning Berkeley Repertory Theatre. **For more information**, visit [www.berkeleyrep.org](http://www.berkeleyrep.org), e-mail [teencouncil@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:teencouncil@berkeleyrep.org), or call 510.647.2974.

###

#### ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS:

- WHO: Local teens write, direct, perform, and produce their own scripts
- WHAT: The fifth annual **Target ® Teen One Acts Festival** featuring two short plays – *Bookstore* by Leslie Ribovich and *Room 12* by Katie Henry – and one short film, *The Immobile Elevator* by Emily English
- WHEN: Friday, March 30 @ 8:00 PM  
Saturday, March 31 @ 8:00 PM  
Sunday, April 1 @ 2:00 PM  
Friday, April 6 @ 8:00 PM  
Saturday, April 7 @ 8:00 PM
- WHERE: Berkeley Rep School of Theatre  
Nevo Education Center  
2071 Addison St @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley
- HOW MUCH: \$6 for students, \$12 for adults
- INFO: 510.647.2974 or [www.berkeleyrep.org](http://www.berkeleyrep.org)

###