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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEENS CONVENE FREE THEATRE CONFERENCE AT BERKELEY REP

WHO: Bay Area teens who love theatre

WHAT: The third annual **Teen Theatre Conference** at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre**

WHERE: Berkeley Rep School of Theatre / 2071 Addison St @ Shattuck / Downtown Berkeley

WHEN: Register by Friday, December 1 for event on **Sunday, December 17, 1 – 6 PM**

HOW MUCH: Free!

INFO: 510.647.2974, www.berkeleyrep.org/teencouncil, or teencouncil@berkeleyrep.org

NOVEMBER 9, 2006 – As part of its ongoing effort to foster young artists in the community, Berkeley Repertory Theatre invites local youth to the third annual Teen Theatre Conference on Sunday, December 17. High school students from throughout the Bay Area are welcome at this free event organized by Berkeley Rep's Teen Council. From 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM, teens will participate in a hands-on performance project and practical seminars led by theatre professionals – all in a supportive environment of fellow theatre enthusiasts.

“At the Teen Theatre Conference, teens will discover a network to support their artistic endeavors, learn how they and their drama programs can better support one another, and return to their schools with new ideas about how the professional process relates to their work,” says **Rachel Fink**, director of the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre. “By exposing teens to experts in the field, we help broaden their artistic awareness. And by facilitating a peer network of teens who are passionate about theatre, we hope to further the development and visibility of the high-school theatre community.”

Participants will choose one of five tracks to focus on at the conference: acting, directing, journalism and the arts, producing, or technical design. Each group will be led by a respected professional from the Bay Area theatre community – such as Berkeley Rep's dramaturg, **Madeleine Oldham**; local director **Elizabeth Williamson**; and **Chad Jones**, theatre critic for the *Oakland Tribune*.

All participants will be asked to read a script before the conference and, during the first half of the day, each group will focus its discussion and exercises on that script. Then, for the remainder of the afternoon, teens will work together and apply what they've learned by producing a short work of theatre. As a result, they will gain essential insight into how each discipline is an integral part of the dramatic process.

To participate in Berkeley Rep's third annual Teen Theatre Conference, please register by Friday, December 1. For more information, call 510.647.2974, visit www.berkeleyrep.org/teencouncil, or e-mail teencouncil@berkeleyrep.org.

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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. The Council's activities include playwriting workshops, play-reading groups, trips to local theatres, and an annual festival of one-act plays written, performed, and staged entirely by teens.

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