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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LUMINOUS WORLD PREMIERE OF *TO THE LIGHTHOUSE* AT BERKELEY REP**  
**Collaboration by Dresher, Shank, and Waters illuminates Woolf's landmark novel**

JANUARY 17, 2007 – Berkeley Repertory Theatre proudly announces the world premiere of *To the Lighthouse*, a luminous adaptation of **Virginia Woolf's** landmark novel which is brought to the stage in a captivating collaboration from Obie Award-winning director **Les Waters**, acclaimed composer **Paul Dresher**, and accomplished playwright **Adele Edling Shank**. Last year, Waters gave the Bay Area a breathtaking production of *The Glass Menagerie* with Rita Moreno and introduced East Coast audiences to *Eurydice*, Sarah Ruhl's beautiful new take on the Orpheus myth – now he provides a profound reflection upon another famous family.

*To the Lighthouse* begins previews in Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre on **February 23**, opens **February 28**, and closes **March 25**. The production sponsors for this show are American Express, the Bernard Osher Foundation, and the Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation; the executive producers are Rick Hoskins and Lynne Frame, John and Helen Meyer, and the Strauch Kulhanjian Family. This project was supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, and play development funds were generously provided by the Mosse Foundation Artistic Development Fund. The producers for Berkeley Rep's 39<sup>th</sup> year are Wayne Jordan and Quinn Delaney, and the official season sponsors are BART and Wells Fargo.

"It's a challenge and an inspiration to work on an adaptation of such amazing material," **Waters remarks**. "In both content and style, Virginia Woolf was one of the greatest novelists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. *To the Lighthouse* is about the power of art to pin down and capture a moment in time – and it will speak to anyone who has a family. I know that it has deep resonance for me regarding my own relatives and my native England."

Virginia Woolf's virtuosity poured forth in revolutionary books which burst the boundaries of prose. Driven to reveal the inner lives of women, she penned masterworks such as *Mrs. Dalloway*, *A Room of One's Own*, and *Orlando*. Now Adele Edling Shank follows in her footsteps with an enchanting adaptation of ***To the Lighthouse***. Waters and his talented cast bring Woolf's

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incandescent characters to life as Dresher's brilliant music illuminates the Ramsay house. Here a couple live, love, and endure; children play, fight, and grow; and a painter struggles to capture the transient beauty of life. This exceptional team transforms an extraordinary novel into unforgettable theatre.

**Les Waters** (director) is in his fourth year as associate artistic director of Berkeley Rep, where he has staged *Big Love*, *Eurydice*, *Fêtes de la Nuit*, *Finn in the Underworld*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *The Pillowman*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, and *Yellowman*. The *New York Times* placed his production of *Eurydice* at Yale Repertory Theatre among the Top 10 Plays of 2006, and *Time Out New York* named his off-Broadway staging of *Apparition* one of the Best 5 Plays of 2005. Waters won an Obie Award for *Big Love* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and his other New York credits include the Manhattan Theatre Club, The Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival, Signature Theatre Company, and an upcoming production of *Eurydice* at Second Stage Theatre. He often works with prominent playwrights like Caryl Churchill and Charles Mee, and champions important new voices, such as Jordan Harrison, Sarah Ruhl, and Anne Washburn. Waters has directed for renowned theatres throughout the United States and the United Kingdom.

**Adele Edling Shank** (playwright) has written numerous plays which have been produced throughout the United States and in England, with multiple productions at Magic Theatre and the Humana Festival of New American Plays. Her works include the California Plays – a series of six interconnected stories set in the Golden State – as well as *Sex Slaves*, *War Horses*, *With Allison's Eyes*, and *The Wives of the Magi*. Her daring script *Rocks in Her Pocket* features the ghosts of Diane Arbus, Sylvia Plath, and Virginia Woolf. Shank also wrote *Dry Smoke* – a chamber opera text performed by the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra – and the text for two works by British choreographer Yolande Snaithe. She is an editor for *TheatreForum* and an active professor emeritus at the University of California, San Diego, where she served as head of the playwriting program.

**Paul Dresher** (composer) is an internationally active composer noted for his ability to integrate diverse musical influences into his unique personal style. He and his work have been heard around the world – including at BAM's Next Wave Festival, Carnegie Hall, Festival d'Automne à Paris, Lincoln Center, Munich State Opera, and the New York Philharmonic. A current Guggenheim fellow, he has collaborated with diverse artists such as choreographer Margaret

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Jenkins, poet June Jordan, playwright Charles Mee, and director Robert Woodruff. Berkeley Rep commissioned the score for this show, building on Drescher's previous achievements at the Theatre: *Dream of a Common Language* and *Ravenshead*. He has also received commissions from the American Repertory Theater, Chamber Music America, the Kronos Quartet, the Library of Congress, Meet the Composer, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, and Spoleto Festival USA. Drescher's most recent project was *The Tyrant*, a solo chamber opera for tenor John Duykers that premiered at Cleveland Opera and will be presented by Cal Performances in June.

The Ramsay family is portrayed by a **multigenerational cast** that combines Broadway veterans with hot local talents. In New York, **Whitney Bashor** (Cam Ramsay/Prudence Ramsay) performed in *Bus to Buenos Aires* at the Ensemble Studio Theatre and *White Noise* at the Kirk Theatre, as well as concert productions of *Become: The Music of Pasek and Paul* at Joe's Pub, *Edges* with Abingdon Theatre Company, and *Prom King* at Second Stage. She has also appeared at the Sundance Theatre Lab, in the film *Off the Black*, and on television's *All My Children* and *Love Monkey*. **Noah James Butler** (Paul Rayley) has been acting in local theatre and commercials for eight years. He has worked for Bus Barn Stage Company, Impact Theatre, the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Subterranean Shakespeare, TheatreFirst, Theatre Rhinoceros, Transparent Theater, and the Willows Theatre Company. Butler made a memorable debut on Berkeley Rep's stage when, as the understudy for Clive in *Cloud 9*, he was called upon to give two performances. **Monique Fowler** (Mrs. Ramsay) has many New York credits, including *You Can't Take it With You* on Broadway and *The Skin Game* off Broadway. She is an associate artist of the Old Globe Theatre, where she portrayed Virginia Woolf in *Vita and Virginia*. Her other regional experience includes shows at the Alley Theatre; Dallas Theater Center; the Denver Center Theatre Company; Hartford Stage; La Jolla Playhouse; Long Wharf Theatre; the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey; the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, DC; and South Coast Repertory. **Edmond Genest** (Mr. Ramsay) has performed on Broadway in *Dirty Linen* and *New-Found-Land*, *The Elephant Man*, *A Few Good Men*, *Onward Victoria*, *The Real Thing*, and two productions of *Whose Life is it, Anyway?* Off Broadway, he has appeared at Hudson Guild, Naked Angels Theater Company, Playwrights Horizons, and Roundabout Theatre Company. His regional credits include the Alley, the Alliance Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, The Kennedy Center, Long Wharf Theatre, and Yale Rep, as well as 11 seasons at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and five at the Williamstown Theatre Festival.

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**Lauren Grace** (Minta Doyle) played the title role in *Emma*, Dulce in *Ice Glen*, and Hilda in *The Master Builder* for Aurora Theatre Company. She has also appeared at American Conservatory Theater in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *A Mother*, and *The Voysey Inheritance*; at the Orpheum Theatre in *Holes*; at the Phoenix Theatre in *Cooking with Elvis*, *Othello*, and *Desdemona*; at the Zeum Theater in *Hilda*; and in other productions with TheatreFirst and Upon These Boards. Last season, **Clifton Guterman** (Andrew Ramsay/James Ramsay) portrayed the title role in Waters' world premiere of *Finn in the Underworld* at Berkeley Rep and Smike in *Nicholas Nickleby* at the California Shakespeare Theater. His regional credits also include *Bat Boy: The Musical* at Dad's Garage Theatre; *Beautiful Thing* and *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* at Actor's Express Theatre; David H. Bell's *A Christmas Carol* at the Alliance; and *She Loves Me* at Arena Stage. **David Mendelsohn** (Charles Tansley) has appeared locally in many shows, including *Come, My Beloved* with Traveling Jewish Theatre; *The Dreamstealers* and *The Illusion* at FoolsFury; *Emma* at the Aurora; *Enrico IV* and *The Misanthrope* at A.C.T.; and *Macbeth* at Cal Shakes. He also spent five seasons with the Carmel Shakespeare Festival, where his credits include *The Beard of Avon*; *Edward III*; *Henry VI, Parts 1, 2, and 3*; *The Taming of the Shrew*; and *Twelfth Night*. **Jarion Monroe** (William Bankes) has acted on Berkeley Rep's stage nearly every season since 1985, including memorable roles in *Hard Times*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *Mother Courage*, *Our Town*, *Rhinoceros*, and *Volpone*. His stage and screen credits also include appearances on *Frasier* and *Seinfeld* and regional work at A.C.T., the Ahmanson Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Cal Shakes, the Magic, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, South Coast Rep, and Yale Rep. **Rebecca Watson** (Lily Briscoe) appeared in the Broadway production of *By Jeeves*, the Broadway workshop of *Little Women*, and off-Broadway presentations of *The Cocoanuts*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Tim and Scrooge*. Her regional credits include the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Arizona Theatre Company, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, Goodspeed Musicals, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Paper Mill Playhouse, Pittsburgh Public Theater, and Studio Arena Theatre. The ensemble for *To the Lighthouse* will also include four local children.

A team of **distinguished designers** has been assembled to build this *Lighthouse*. **Annie Smart** (scenic designer) has created sets and costumes for countless theatres in the United States and her native England. Berkeley Rep audiences will recall her stunning designs for *Big Love*, *Fêtes de la Nuit*, *Finn in the Underworld*, *Honour*, *Irma Vep*, *Passing Strange*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, and *Yellowman*. **Christal Weatherly** (costume designer) collaborated with Waters on *Apparition* for New York's Connelly Theatre, *Fêtes de la Nuit* for Berkeley Rep, and *Wintertime* for La Jolla Playhouse and Long Wharf Theatre. Her many other credits include *Culture Clash's Zorro in Hell*

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in Berkeley and La Jolla. Last season, **Matt Frey** (lighting designer) lit Waters' productions of *Finn in the Underworld* and *The Glass Menagerie* at Berkeley Rep. He has designed numerous productions in New York and across the nation, as well as recent shows at the Barbican Theatre in London and the Corn Exchange Theatre Company in Dublin. **Darron L. West** (sound designer) also collaborated on Waters' premiere of *Finn in the Underworld*. His work has been heard on Broadway, off Broadway, nationally, and internationally. A company member of Anne Bogart's SITI Company, he won an Obie for SITI's production of *Bob* at the New York Theatre Workshop. **Jedediah Ike** (video designer) has created sets for NBC, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and numerous shows at UCSD, where he earned an MFA in theatre design and won two KPBS Patte Awards for his designs. Selections of his work will be seen at the next Prague Quadrennial. The stage manager for this production is **Elizabeth Moreau**.

Theatre-lovers can enjoy **14 special events** that shed additional light on this show:

- *Target @ Teen Night* begins at 6:30 PM on Friday, February 23 and includes a preview performance, dinner catered by Bar Ristorante Raphael, and a behind-the-scenes discussion with a member of the artistic team. Tickets are \$5 for members of Berkeley Rep's Teen Council, \$20 for all other teens. For more information, call 510.647.2978 or e-mail school@berkeleyrep.org.
- *Opening night* festivities are held on Wednesday, February 28, including a pre-show dinner for donors at Downtown Restaurant and a post-show party for the audience catered by Venus Restaurant and Raymond Vineyard & Cellar.
- *Page to Stage*, a free talkback with Waters sponsored by Peet's Coffee and Tea, occurs on Monday, March 19 at 7:00 PM.
- Three *post-play discussions* moderated by theatre professionals follow the 8:00 PM shows on Thursday, March 1; Friday, March 9; and Tuesday, March 13.
- Every Tuesday and Thursday, free 30-minute *docent presentations* about the show are held in the Jazzcaffè next door to Berkeley Rep, down the stairs at 2087 Addison Street. They begin at 7:00 PM on February 27 and March 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, and 22.

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**Tickets** for *To the Lighthouse* are on sale now, priced from \$33 to \$61. Hold onto your seats! Purchase tickets for the last three shows in Berkeley Rep's 2006/07 Season and receive a significant discount, as well as priority seating and special benefits. **Discounts** are also available for senior citizens, full-time students, groups, UC Berkeley alumni, employees of K-12 schools, and anyone under 30 years of age. For every weeknight performance, half-price HotTix go on sale that day at noon at the box office. All discounts are subject to availability.

**Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre** is located at 2015 Addison Street, one block from Berkeley's downtown BART station and close to AC Transit bus lines. The theatre is accessible to the handicapped, offering wheelchair seating and special services for those with hearing- or vision-impairment. For tickets or information, call **510.647.2949** or toll-free at **888.4.BRT.Tix** – or simply click [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org).

#### **ABOUT BERKELEY REP**

Founded in 1968, the Tony Award-winning Berkeley Repertory Theatre has established a national reputation for its ambitious programming and dynamic productions. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Tony Taccone and Managing Director Susan Medak, Berkeley Rep seeks to engage its audience in an ongoing dialogue of ideas. Through its bold choice of material and vivid style of production, Berkeley Rep reflects a commitment to diversity, excitement, and quality. The company is especially well known for its presentations of important new dramatic voices and its fresh adaptations of seldom-seen classics. In 2001, Berkeley Rep opened the Roda Theatre, a 600-seat proscenium theatre that complements the 400-seat Thrust Stage, and the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, housed in the Nevo Education Center. The addition of these two buildings has transformed what was once a single stage into a vital and versatile performing arts complex.

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# TO THE LIGHTHOUSE

FACT SHEET

**WHO:** Written by Adele Edling Shank  
 Adapted from the novel by Virginia Woolf  
 Music composed by Paul Dresher  
 Directed by Les Waters  
 Designed by Annie Smart (sets), Christal Weatherly (costumes),  
 Matt Frey (lights), Darron L. West (sound), and Jedediah Ike (video)  
 Featuring Whitney Bashor, Noah James Butler, Monique Fowler,  
 Edmond Genest, Lauren Grace, Clifton Guterman, David Mendelsohn,  
 Jarion Monroe, and Rebecca Watson

**WHAT:** *To the Lighthouse*, a world-premiere adaptation of the landmark novel

**WHERE:** Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Roda Theatre  
 2015 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley

**WHEN:** Previews on 2/23 - 2/27/2007 – Performances on 2/28 - 3/25/2007

- Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays @ 8:00 PM
- Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM
- Saturdays @ 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
- Sundays @ 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- No matinees during previews

**to the lighthouse / limited**

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
feb 23–mar 25						feb 23 8pm ● 8pm ●
25 7pm ●	26	27 8pm ● 8pm ●	28 8pm ■	mar 1 8pm ◆	2 8pm	3 2/8pm
4 2/7pm	5	6 8pm	7 7pm	8 8pm	9 8pm ◆	10 2/8pm
11 2/7pm	12	13 8pm ◆	14 7pm	15 8pm	16 8pm	17 2/8pm
18 2/7pm	19 ★	20 8pm	21 7pm	22 8pm	23 8pm	24 2/8pm
25 2/7pm						

□ docent talks      ● previews  
 ■ opening night    ◆ discussion  
 ★ page to stage

Special Events –  
*Target @ Teen Night*: Friday 2/23 @ 6:30 PM  
*Opening night*: Wednesday 2/28 @ 8:00 PM  
*Docent presentations*: Tuesdays 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, & 3/20 @ 7:00 PM and  
 Thursdays 3/1, 3/8, 3/15 & 3/22 @ 7:00 PM  
*Post-play discussions*: Thursday 3/1, Friday 3/9 & Tuesday 3/13 @ 8:00 PM  
*Page to Stage* (free talkback with Dresher & Waters): Monday 3/19 @ 7:00 PM

**HOW MUCH:** Previews .....\$33      Sundays (2 PM & 7 PM) ..... \$49  
 Tues (8 PM) / Wednesdays (7 PM) ..\$45      Friday evenings (8 PM)..... \$55  
 Thursdays (8 PM) .....\$47      Wednesday opening (8 PM) ..... \$61  
 Saturday matinees (2 PM).....\$47      Saturday evenings (8 PM) ..... \$61

Discounts: • ½ price tickets available to those under 30 (some restrictions apply)  
 • ½ price rush tickets for students and seniors sold ½ hour before curtain  
 • 20 half-price HotTix go on sale Tuesday through Friday at noon  
 • Groups of 15+ may contact 510.647.2918 or groups@berkeleyrep.org

**TIX & INFO:** 510.647.2949 – toll-free 888-4-BRT-Tix – [www.berkeleyrep.org](http://www.berkeleyrep.org)