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BERKELEY REP BREAKS BOX OFFICE RECORDS – EXTENDS TWO SHOWS
Enthusiastic audiences demand to see more of *Argonautika* and *after the quake*

NOVEMBER 20, 2007 – With an earthquake in one theatre and a ship tossed by stormy seas in the other, Berkeley Repertory Theatre is beset by disasters – but the community response has been extraordinary! The Tony Award-winning theatre is riding a tidal wave of rave reviews, standing ovations, and sold-out houses with its celebrated productions of *after the quake* and *Argonautika*. Amidst record sales at the box office, Berkeley Rep is adding performances of both shows to meet the earth-shattering demand for tickets.

“We’re honored to present two exceptional productions from America’s leading directors – and truly thankful for the phenomenal audience response,” says **Tony Taccone**, the Theatre’s artistic director. “Add to that Berkeley Rep’s 40th birthday and our recent successes on both coasts, and we certainly have a lot to celebrate. This Thanksgiving, we could not be more grateful.”

Argonautika opened in the Roda Theatre on November 7 – and has already broken Berkeley Rep’s record for single-day sales several times! Now the show will sail on for an additional week, but it must close December 23. Next door, on the Thrust Stage, five performances have been added to the run of *after the quake*, but tickets continue to disappear. So an additional matinee will be offered on December 1. Nonetheless, the *quake* must end on December 2.

Based on the voyage of Jason and the Argonauts, *Argonautika* is the latest hit from the creator of *Metamorphoses* and *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci*. Tony Award-winning director **Mary Zimmerman** joins Jason on his ancient quest for the Golden Fleece – a journey of love and loss, hubris and honor, danger and adventure. In her latest perilous voyage, Zimmerman shows us that love is the bane of all mankind – and yet it’s all that we know of heaven on this earth. The *Chicago Tribune* calls *Argonautika* “**a masterpiece**,” and the *San Francisco Chronicle* declares, “If you can’t see it here, you should think seriously about booking a flight east.”

Meanwhile, two incredible talents collide in *after the quake*. Writer **Haruki Murakami** won Japan’s equivalent of the Pulitzer for novels like *Kafka on the Shore* and *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*. Director **Frank Galati** earned two Tony Awards for *The Grapes of Wrath*. With this poignant new play, they show us that a storyteller can’t dispel the world’s woes, but he can teach a child – and himself – how to face fear. A timid man woos an old flame, enchanting her anxious daughter with whimsical stories of a six-foot frog’s fight to save Tokyo. The *New York Times* calls *quake* “an elegant, economic, gently hypnotic piece of theatre,” and the *Los Angeles Times* asserts “the emotional aftershocks it carries are profound and lingering.”

In honor of its birthday, Berkeley Rep has introduced **new prices** that invite everyone to celebrate. Tickets start as low as \$33 – with discounts available for students, seniors, and anyone under 30 years of age. Seats for both shows are even more affordable as part of a multi-play subscription package.

Berkeley Rep’s box office is located at 2025 Addison Street, one block from Berkeley’s downtown BART station and close to AC Transit bus lines. For **tickets or information**, call 510.647.2949 or 888.4.BRT.Tix (toll-free). Even better, buy tickets without waiting on hold by clicking berkeleyrep.org.

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BERKELEY REP EXTENDS TWO SHOWS / 2 OF 2

ATTENTION, CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHO: Tony Award-winner Mary Zimmerman and an ensemble of exceptional actors

WHAT: ***Argonautika***, an exhilarating journey with Jason and the Argonauts

WHERE: Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre / 2015 Addison St @ Shattuck / Downtown Berkeley

WHEN: **Now playing through Sunday, December 23!**

- Tuesdays & Fridays @ 8 PM
- Wednesdays @ 7 PM
- Thursdays & Saturdays @ 2 PM & 7 PM
- Sundays @ 2 PM & 7 PM

- No performances on Thanksgiving (11/22)
- Extra 2 PM show added on 11/23
- No matinees on 12/1, 12/6, or 12/20

HOW MUCH: \$33 - \$69, discounts available for groups, seniors, students, and anyone under 30

INFO & TIX: 510.647.2949 or berkeleyrep.org

PHOTOS: <http://www.berkeleyrep.org/press/photos-07ar.asp>

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WHO: Popular author Haruki Murakami and two-time Tony-winner Frank Galati

WHAT: ***after the quake***, a poignant tale about life and love in the wake of an earthquake

WHERE: Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage / 2025 Addison St @ Shattuck / Downtown Berkeley

WHEN: **Now playing through Sunday, December 2!**

- Tuesdays & Fridays @ 8 PM
- Wednesdays @ 7 PM
- Thursdays & Saturdays @ 2 PM & 7 PM
- Sundays @ 2 PM & 7 PM

- No performances on 11/22 (Thanksgiving), 11/27, or 11/28
- No matinee on 11/29

HOW MUCH: \$33 - \$69, discounts available for groups, seniors, students, and anyone under 30

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