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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BERKELEY REP OFFERS REVOLUTIONARY EVENTS FOR JEUNE LUNE'S *FIGARO***  
**Two free "page-turning" events complement wild West Coast premiere**

APRIL 29, 2008 – As Berkeley Rep's 40<sup>th</sup> season blazes to a close, theatre fans losing their heads over *Figaro* and the French Revolution have two unique opportunities to interact with the play: a Page to Stage talkback with the show's stars and a meeting of the Berkeley Rep Book Club.

"We feel incredibly lucky to share our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with enthusiastic audiences and talented artists like Theatre de la Jeune Lune," says **Susan Medak**, managing director of Berkeley Rep. "I love that our free events give people a different way to engage with the work on our stage. As our birthday season ends, let's *all eat cake!*"

- On **Friday, May 9**, the **Berkeley Rep Book Club** gathers at 6:30 PM to discuss *The Life and Times of the French Revolution* by Christopher Hibbert. This page-turning take on the events surrounding Napoleon, Mirabeau, Marat, and Robespierre provides a colorful backdrop for the theatrical antics of *Figaro* and the Count. You don't have to see the show to participate, but the text has been selected to deepen your appreciation of the play. To join the discussion, RSVP at 510.647.2916 or [bookclub@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:bookclub@berkeleyrep.org).
- Then **David Gockley** of the San Francisco Opera moderates a conversation with the leading lights of Theatre de la Jeune Lune. On **Monday, May 19**, he interviews the stars and creators of *Figaro* – **Dominique Serrand** and **Steven Epp** – for **Page to Stage**. Sponsored by Peet's Coffee and Tea, this series of discussions offers audiences insight into the plays produced at Berkeley Rep and the eminent artists behind them. No tickets are necessary for these free events, but seating is limited. Page to Stage begins at 7:00 PM; general-admission seating starts at 6:45. Donors in Berkeley Rep's Supporter Circle enjoy an exclusive post-talk reception with Gockley, Serrand, and Epp, catered by Maritime East.

After bringing us a delicious date with *The Miser* in 2006, the Tony Award-winning Theatre de la Jeune Lune returns for another eccentric take on a timeless text. ***Figaro*** marries music from Mozart's magnificent opera with famous characters from the plays of Beaumarchais to create an accessible and exceptional new show. In this West Coast premiere, an aging Figaro and the Count recall their rivalries years later amidst the bloodshed of the French Revolution. Steven Epp – the Miser himself – tackles the title role, while director Dominique Serrand portrays his fallen master. Lush video and live music set the scene as a cast of accomplished singers surrender to intrigue and seduction. In *Figaro*, juicy love triangles bed down with ruthless satire of a class-conscious culture. It's a revolutionary experience that's the perfect birthday gift for Berkeley Rep.

*Figaro* runs through June 8 in Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre, which is located at 2015 Addison Street, one block from Berkeley's downtown BART station and close to AC Transit bus lines. **Tickets** start as low as \$27, with additional discounts for groups, seniors, students, and anyone under 30 years of age. For more information, call 510.647.2949 or toll-free at 888-4-BRT-Tix – or simply click [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org).

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**ATTENTION, CALENDAR EDITORS:**

WHO: Literary and theatre aficionados of all ages  
WHAT: The **Berkeley Rep Book Club** discusses Christopher Hibbert's *The Life and Times of the French Revolution*.  
WHERE: Mendel Room / Roda Theatre / 2015 Addison St @ Shattuck / Downtown Berkeley  
WHEN: Friday 5/8 @ 6:30 PM  
HOW MUCH: Free!  
INFO & TIX: 510.647.2916 or email [bookclub@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:bookclub@berkeleyrep.org)

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WHO: David Gockley interviews Steven Epp and Dominique Serrand  
WHAT: **Page to Stage**, the latest in a series of free talks with theatrical luminaries  
WHERE: Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage / 2025 Addison St @ Shattuck / Downtown Berkeley  
WHEN: Monday 5/19 @ 7:00 PM  
HOW MUCH: Free!  
INFO: 510.647.2949 or [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org)

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