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TWO SHOWS BORN AT BERKELEY REP NOMINATED FOR TOP AWARDS
***Passing Strange* and *Eurydice* honored for excellence – *Strange* cast records album**

APRIL 23, 2008 – Even as Berkeley Repertory Theatre breaks box office records at home, two shows that started on its stage are earning nominations for prestigious prizes in New York. This week the Drama League and the Outer Critics Circle announced candidates for their upcoming awards, and *Passing Strange* and *Eurydice* netted five nominations. These honors are just the latest praise for a pair of popular plays that began at Berkeley Rep.

“Naturally we are quite proud that these shows continue to receive such acclaim,” comments **Tony Taccone**, artistic director of Berkeley Rep. “I’m pleased that a wider audience can enjoy the daring and diverse work that local theatre lovers have come to expect from Berkeley Rep.”

Passing Strange is competing for top theatrical awards across the board:

- The outrageous rock musical already won four **Audelco Awards** – including the coveted prize for Musical Production of the Year. In addition, **Annie Dorsen** was honored as Outstanding Director of a Musical, **Heidi Rodewald** was named Outstanding Musical Director, and **Daniel Breaker** received the prize for Outstanding Performance in a Musical by a Male Actor.
- The show is nominated for three **Lucille Lortel Awards**, which will be announced on May 5: Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Director, and Outstanding Lighting Design by **Kevin Adams**.
- It’s also up for three **Drama League Awards** – Distinguished Production of a Musical and Distinguished Performance prizes for **Daniel Breaker** and **Stew** – with winners to be announced on May 16.
- Shortly after recording a live cast album on April 14, the company was invited to perform at the ceremony for this year’s **Obie Awards** on May 19. (Although there are no nominations for the Obies, winners will be announced on that date.)
- The **Outer Critics Circle**, which announces awards on May 12, nominated the musical for Best New Score.
- And, since it’s still rocking on Broadway, *Strange* is eligible for this year’s **Tony Awards**, nominations for which will be announced on May 13.

Meanwhile, *Eurydice* is the only off-Broadway offering named as a contender for Distinguished Production of a Play at this year’s Drama League Awards. The show’s scenic designer, **Scott Bradley**, and lighting designer, **Russell H. Champa**, are also competing for Lortel Awards.

This makes **15 shows in the last 20 years** – and four in the last two years – that Berkeley Rep has helped develop and send to New York. Beginning with *Hard Times* in 1987, this string of successes includes Philip Kan Gotanda’s *Yankee Dawg You Die* (1989); José Rivera’s *Each Day Dies with Sleep* (1990); Craig Lucas’ *Prelude to a Kiss* (1990); Laurence Yep’s *Dragonwings* (1992); Heather MacDonald’s *Dream of a Common Language* (1992); Gotanda’s *Ballad of Yachiyo* (1997); Anne Galjour’s *Alligator Tales* (1997); Danny Hoch’s *Jails, Hospitals & Hip-Hop*

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(1998); Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses* (1999); Naomi Iizuka's *36 Views* (2002); Tony Kushner and Maurice Sendak's *Brundibar* (2006); and Sarah Jones' Tony Award-winning *Bridge & Tunnel* (2006).

Co-commissioned by Berkeley Rep and The Public Theater, ***Passing Strange*** is the critically acclaimed rock musical that follows a young musician's journey – from '70s Los Angeles through free-loving Amsterdam to the anarchy of '80s Berlin – in his search to feel something Real. The show has some of the most soulful songs and witty, thought-provoking lyrics in recent memory. *Passing Strange* made its world premiere at Berkeley Rep in 2006 and enjoyed an extended off-Broadway engagement at The Public in 2007. It began a Broadway run in February at the Belasco Theatre, produced by The Shubert Organization and Elizabeth Ireland McCann in association with Berkeley Rep and The Public.

Eurydice was a hit at Berkeley Rep in 2004, when Associate Artistic Director **Les Waters** introduced local audiences to playwright **Sarah Ruhl**. Waters revisited the play at Yale Repertory Theatre in 2006 before bringing it to Manhattan for an extended off-Broadway stay at Second Stage Theatre last summer. *Eurydice* was so memorable that the *New York Times* named it one of the Top 10 Plays of 2006 and *Time Magazine* ranked it among the Top 10 Plays of 2007. With contemporary characters, ingenious plot twists, and breathtaking visual effects, this is truly a fresh look at a timeless love story.

See tomorrow's plays today at Berkeley Rep. Subscribe now for the 2008/09 Season, which includes the world premiere of Itamar Moses' *Yellowjackets* and another collaboration from Ruhl and Waters: the world premiere of *The Vibrator Play*. If you can't wait until fall, see the West Coast premiere of *Figaro* by Theatre de la Jeune Lune, which begins its run in Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre this Friday. Berkeley Rep has inviting **new prices** so that everyone can join the fun. For details, call 510.647.2949 or toll-free at 888-4-BRT-Tix – or simply click berkeleyrep.org.

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ABOUT BERKELEY REP

Born in a storefront on College Avenue, Berkeley Rep has moved to the forefront of American theatre – and is still telling unforgettable stories. Founded in 1968 by Michael Leibert, the Theatre quickly earned respect for presenting the finest plays with top-flight actors. In 1980, with the support of the local community, Berkeley Rep built the 400-seat Thrust Stage where its reputation steadily grew over the next two decades. It gained renown for an adventurous combination of work, presenting important new dramatic voices alongside refreshing adaptations of seldom-seen classics. In recognition of its place on the national stage, Berkeley Rep was honored with the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997. The company celebrated by unveiling a new 600-seat proscenium stage in 2001, the state-of-the-art Roda Theatre. It also opened the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, a permanent home for its long tradition of outreach and education programs. The addition of these two buildings transformed a single stage into a vital and versatile performing arts complex, the linchpin of a bustling Downtown Arts District which has helped revitalize Berkeley. In four decades, four million people have enjoyed more than 300 shows at Berkeley Rep, including 50 world premieres. The Theatre now welcomes an annual audience of 180,000, serves 20,000 students, and hosts dozens of community groups, thanks to 1,000 volunteers and more than 400 artists, artisans, and administrators.

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