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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERKELEY REP PRESENTS SUN'S SUPERB SOLO SHOW *NO CHILD...*

Award-winning off-Broadway hit captures humor and hope inside our school system

MARCH 24, 2008 – This May, Berkeley Repertory Theatre continues its string of superb solo shows by presenting *No Child...*, the uplifting off-Broadway play that became the breakaway hit of the year. Performed by **Nilaja Sun** and directed by **Hal Brooks**, *No Child...* shines a light on the struggles – and miracles – of America's public schools. Hot on the heels of Danny Hoch's *Taking Over* and Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking*, *No Child...* runs from **May 11 through June 1** on Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage. Opening night is Monday, May 12.

"Teachers, students, parents, concerned citizens – anyone who cares about the children of our country and the future of our democracy will be moved by this remarkable show," says **Tony Taccone**, artistic director of Berkeley Rep. "Nilaja gets inside the minds, lives, and emotions of a classroom of characters with great insight and compassion."

No Child... proves one passionate person can make a difference. In a stunning solo show, Nilaja Sun plays an entire classroom of children, their teachers, their parents, the principal, the janitor, and even a security guard with a metal detector at the school's front door. Sun takes on 17 roles in 70 minutes, transforming her nine-year adventure as a teaching artist into a master class on heartbreak, humor, and hope. Critics give the show straight A's, audiences cheer, and Sun has won every award you can name. It's a class act, so don't leave *No Child...* behind.

As the toast of the New York theatre season, *No Child...* graduated with **top honors**:

- 2007 Obie Award for Distinguished Performance
- 2007 Lucille Lortel Award for Best Solo Production
- 2007 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New American Play
- 2007 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Solo Performance
- 2007 U.S. Comedy Arts Festival Award for Best One-Person Show
- 2007 Theater World Award for Best Debut Performance

Wherever the show goes, it garners rave reviews. **Entertainment Weekly** asserts, "Sarah Jones burst onto the off-Broadway scene with *Bridge & Tunnel* and raised the proverbial bar for solo shows. Now, with the sensational *No Child...*, Nilaja Sun has pretty much obliterated it." **Newsday** agrees: "Sun doesn't just shine, she blazes... If you're seeking a follow-up to Sarah Jones' brilliant *Bridge & Tunnel*, this is it. Here's another multicharacter solo show that shines a warm, welcome light on the city's margins." And **Variety** proclaims it "theatrically riveting...It's enough to make the angels weep to watch this caring, committed performance artist recreate her experiences at notoriously bad-news schools... Every kid deserves a teacher like Nilaja Sun."

"Superbly performed and thoroughly gripping," raves the **Chicago Tribune**. "*No Child...* is a must-see – especially for teachers, who will understand and appreciate this show best of all." "Intelligent, clear-eyed, and sometimes painfully funny," declares the **Boston Globe**. "By reminding us of the actual children who are, for all the rhetoric, getting left behind *No Child...* reminds us why we simply must do better for this next generation of our fellow citizens." And the **New York Times** calls it simply "a marvelous performance."

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A native of the Lower East Side, **Nilaja Sun** has been a teaching artist in the New York public school system for nine years while also writing and performing in numerous off-Broadway shows. She received the prestigious Princess Grace Award for theatre in 2003, and has been inundated with prizes for *No Child...* as it's played Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington, DC. In her long-term relationship with Epic Theatre Ensemble, Sun has appeared in *Einstein's Gift*, *No Child...*, *Pieces of the Throne*, and *Time and the Conways*; she was also named the first artistic associate of Epic Theatre. Her other New York credits include *The Adventures of Barrio Grrr!* for the Summer Play Festival, *The Cook* at INTAR Theatre, *Huck and Holden* at Cherry Lane Theatre, and *Law and Order: SVU*. She most recently completed work on Columbia Pictures' upcoming film *The International*, starring Naomi Watts and Clive Owens. As a solo performer, Sun's projects include critically acclaimed shows such as *Black and Blue*, *Blues for a Gray Sun*, *Due to the Tragic Events of...*, *Insufficient Fare*, *La Nubia Latina*, and *Mixtures*. In Yoruba, her first name – appropriately enough – means “peacemaker.”

Hal Brooks is renowned for directing powerful solo shows. After staging *No Child...* at both the Barrow Street Theatre and Epic Theatre in New York, he is directing the show's regional tour. He also staged Will Eno's *Thom Pain (based on nothing)*, a solo show that played the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the Soho Theatre in London, and the DR2 Theatre in New York, where it ran for nearly two years off Broadway and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. His other recent productions include *Life in a Marital Institution* and *Widows* at 59E59 in Manhattan, the premiere of Lee Blessing's *Lonesome Hollow* at the Contemporary American Theater Festival, and *Master Harold...and the Boys* at the Weston Playhouse. Brooks was the artistic director of the Rude Mechanicals Theater Company in New York, where he directed the off-Broadway premieres of Don DeLillo's *Valparaiso* and Will Eno's *The Flu Season*, which won the Oppenheimer Award. He has also worked with the Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival, American Conservatory Theater, Clubbed Thumb, the Don Quixote Project, INTAR, Magic Theater, McCarter Theatre Center, Naked Angels, New York Theatre Workshop, Pennsylvania Centre Stage, Southern Repertory Theatre, Syracuse Stage, and Virginia Stage Company. A proud member of the Directors Lab at Lincoln Center Theater, Brooks was honored to be chosen for a Drama League Fall Directing Fellowship in 2003 and the 2007-2009 Career Development Program for Directors from the National Endowment for the Arts and Theatre Communications Group. His upcoming projects include Craig Wright's *Lady* at Asolo Rep.

The Berkeley production of *No Child...* relies on the show's original design team. **Narelle Sissons** (set designer) created the scenery for Roundabout Theatre Company's Broadway production of *All My Sons*. Her off-Broadway credits include the original production of *How I Learned to Drive*, as well as *Dutch Heart of Man*, *In the Blood*, *Jesus Hopped the A Train*, *Julius Caesar*, *Kit Marlowe*, *Our Lady of 121st Street*, and *Stop Kiss*. **Jessica Gaffney** (costume designer) has worked at numerous New York theatres including 13P, BPAC, Epic Theatre Center, The Flea Theater, and PS122, collaborating with respected artists such as Mark Armstrong, Trista Baldwin, Thomas Bradshaw, Holly Golden, Len Jenkin, Michael Kimmel, Debbie Saivetz, and Ken Russ Schmoll. **Mark Barton** (lighting designer) designed the off-Broadway productions of *All the Wrong Reasons*, *Five Course Love*, *Thom Pain (based on nothing)*, and *Valparaiso*. In addition to countless credits in Manhattan, his work has been seen in Amsterdam, Brussels, Lisbon, Minneapolis, Oslo, Philadelphia, Portland, Seattle, Vienna, and Zurich. **Ron Russell** (sound designer) is a founder, producing artist, teaching artist, and director of company development for off-Broadway's Epic Theatre Ensemble, where his credits include *Beauty on the Vine*, *Einstein's Gift*, *Hannah and Martin*, *Time and the Conways*, and *Widowers' Houses*.

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Tickets to *No Child...* start as low as \$27, thanks to exciting new prices that let more people experience the best theatre in the Bay Area. Additional savings are available for groups, seniors, students, and anyone under 30 years of age – meaning **discounted tickets** can be obtained for as little as \$13.50. Subscribers save \$5 on any ticket purchased before March 23, and subscribers who receive Berkeley Rep's discount for educators and employees of preschools and K-12 schools can save 50% on any performance between May 11 and May 18. Special matinees are also available for school groups: tickets are only \$10 each, and a chaperone is admitted free for every 10 students.

Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage is located at 2025 Addison Street, one block from Berkeley's downtown BART station and close to AC Transit bus lines. The **executive producers** for the Berkeley run of *No Child...* are the Strauch Kulhanjian Family and Felicia Woytak and Steve Rasmussen.

For tickets or information, call 510.647.2949 or toll-free at 888-4-BRT-Tix – or simply click berkeleyrep.org. Teachers will want to check out the special website with ideas for educators at www.berkeleyrep.org/nochild.

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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. In the last two years, four shows seen at Berkeley Rep have gone on to New York: *Bridge & Tunnel*, *Brundibar*, *Eurydice*, and *Passing Strange*. Now a series of gifted guests arrives with amazing stage presents for Berkeley Rep's 40th birthday.

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NO CHILD...
FACT SHEET

WHO: Written and performed by Nilaja Sun
 Directed by Hal Brooks
 Designed by Narelle Sissons (sets), Jessica Gaffney (costumes), Mark Barton (lights), and Ron Russell (sound)

WHAT: *No Child...*
 The award-winning off-Broadway play that shines a light on the struggles – and miracles – of America’s public schools

WHERE: Berkeley Repertory Theatre’s Thrust Stage
 2025 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley

WHEN: May 11 – June 1, 2008

- Sunday 5/11 @ 7 PM (preview)
- Monday 5/12 @ 8 PM (opening night)
- Student matinees Wednesday 5/14 & Thursday 5/15 @ 12 noon
- Wednesdays 5/21 & 5/28 @ 7 PM
- Thursdays 5/22 & 5/29 @ 8 PM
- Fridays 5/16, 5/23 & 5/30 @ 8 PM
- Saturdays 5/17, 5/24 & 5/31 @ 8 PM
- Sundays 5/18, 5/25 & 6/1 @ 2 PM & 7 PM
- Special bonus matinee on Saturday 5/31 @ 2 PM

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
11 7● MAY	12 8★	13	14 ▲	15 ▲	16 8	17 8	● PREVIEWS ★ OPENING NIGHT ▲ STUDENT MATINEE Special performance for middle- and high-school groups—call 510 647-2978
18 2,7	19	20	21 7	22 8	23 8	24 8	
25 2,7	26	27	28 7	29 8	30 8	31 2,8	
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HOW MUCH: \$13.50 - \$69

	Section B	Section A	Premium
Preview (Sun 5/11 @ 7 PM).....	\$27	\$33	\$37
Wed 7 PM / Sat 2 PM.....	\$33	\$45	\$50
Thu 8 PM / Sun 2 PM / Sun 7 PM.....	\$37	\$49	\$55
Friday 8 PM.....	\$43	\$55	\$61
Opening Night / Saturday 8 PM.....	\$49	\$61	\$69

- Discounts:
- Half-price tickets available for anyone under 30 years of age
 - Subscribers save \$5 on tickets purchased before March 23
 - Subscribers who are teachers save 50% on any show May 11-18
 - \$10 discount for students and seniors one hour before curtain
 - Groups of 10 or more, contact 510.647.2918 or groups@berkeleyrep.org

TIX & INFO: 510.647.2949 – toll-free 888-4-BRT-Tix – berkeleyrep.org