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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERKELEY REP CELEBRATES ITS BIRTHDAY WITH FREE FAMILY PROGRAMS

Target ® Family Series offers monthly theatre classes for kids of all ages

AUGUST 23, 2007 – Like many people who are turning 40, Berkeley Repertory Theatre wants to ensure that there are fun and affordable family activities available in its community. So, on the eve of its birthday, the Tony Award-winning theatre is announcing another season of its popular **Target ® Family Series**. Once every month, local families can enjoy a free, interactive theatre workshop on a Sunday morning from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. These classes are held in the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre at 2071 Addison Street in downtown Berkeley.

“As we celebrate our 40th birthday, we celebrate our friends,” remarks **Susan Medak**, managing director of Berkeley Rep. “Target has generously supported our education and outreach programs for more than two decades! This ongoing commitment has helped us reach countless children through the years – and many of the school kids we worked with 20 years ago are now starting families of their own. I can’t think of a better way to welcome another generation to Berkeley Rep than with this free monthly class that allows people of all ages to play together.”

With a different theme each month, the Target ® Family Series gives families an opportunity to play. **Toddlers, school kids, teens, parents, and grandparents all participate** in these free workshops, forging bonds, learning teamwork, and nourishing a supportive and creative family environment. There is **no cost to attend**; Berkeley Rep suggests instead that each family bring a book as a donation for the library at the nearby John Muir Elementary School. So why don’t you come out and play?

Here are the dates and themes for these upcoming classes:

- **September 9 – Intro to Theatre:** Dive into the world of play. Discover new places, travel through time, and encounter characters from all walks of life by exercising the power of imagination. Awaken the creativity inside to uncover funny walks, silly voices, and curious characters, as well as the tragically serious. Recommended for ages four and up.
- **October 7 – Encountering Fairy Tales:** Rediscover classic fairy tales such as Little Red Riding Hood, the Three Little Pigs, Snow White, and Aladdin. Put a new spin on a familiar story – or create your own. Try theatre tools to portray villains, princesses, ogres, and kings. Climb castle walls, find jewels, and fight dragons – and, in true fairy tale fashion, undergo an important transformation. Recommended for ages three and up.
- **November 4 – Greek Myths:** Explore the realm of Greek myth by joining Jason on his epic quest to find the Golden Fleece. Inspired by Berkeley Rep’s production of *Argonautika*, families will face giants, sea monsters, centaurs, and sirens – and emerge victorious! What lies behind these ancient tales? And what myths can we create for today? Come get your Greek on! Recommended for ages four and up.
- **December 2 – Bringing Dr. Seuss to Life:** Visit the wild and wacky world of Dr Seuss. Master his rhymes, become his characters, and experience the outrageous silliness of his

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universe. Families grow, laugh, connect, and enjoy – sharpening their skills and expanding their imaginations with this unique style of storytelling. Recommended for ages three and up.

- **January 6 – Language, Poetry & Rhythm:** As Danny Hoch brings his new show to Berkeley Rep, families are invited to sample hip hop and its use as a storytelling tool. Create characters that come from this fluid zone of rhymes, beats, and outrageous energy. Learn to play with words, rhythm, and movement to create truth on stage. Recommended for ages seven and up.
- **February 3 – Play Creation:** Feel the love this February and invest in your community. Kids and parents come together to work as one large ensemble. Families use dialogue, physicality, and improvisation to create an original play – as they play with the potential of theatre in their neighborhood. Recommended for ages three and up.
- **March 2 – Art Explosion:** Kids and parents unite to celebrate Art History Month and turn the classroom into one big collage. Families play games with writing, storytelling, music, movement, painting, and sculpture. Uncover all the different ways of telling a story – then put them together. Recommended for ages two and up.
- **April 6 – Ship of Fools:** Make merry this April – dance, mimic, slide, fall, wander, chase, hop, strut, somersault, and jump along the whimsical path of the clown. Families play games that spark the imagination, tickle the funny bone, and provoke the jokester throughout history. Recommended for ages three and up.
- **May 4 – Character Creation:** Place your imagination center stage! Families work together to develop detailed characters and tell dynamic stories. Play with the limits of voice, body, soul, and imagination while learning to pursue objectives and play actions. Recommended for ages five and up.
- **June 1 – Summer Fun:** Learn how to turn a day at home into a day of laughter with family games, puppet making, and more. Tell stories, develop acting skills, and make new friends. Slip into vacation mode with off-the-cuff fun that kids and parents can replay all summer long. Recommended for ages three and up.

Target has been an ongoing supporter of Berkeley Rep's educational programs since 1986. "We are pleased to continue our partnership with Berkeley Rep to bring free and discounted programs to families in the Bay Area," says **Bernard Boudreaux**, senior manager of community relations. "Through our sponsorship of community programs such as this, Target can make a difference every day by making the arts more accessible to families, youth and teens."

The **Berkeley Rep School of Theatre** provides a wide array of programming for individuals of all ages. In addition to the Target ® Family Series, the School offers theatre classes for youth and adults; Target ® Story Builders, a drama workshop for elementary-school classrooms; the Student Matinee Series for middle- and high-school students; the Playmaking Project for high-school students and incarcerated youth; in-school residencies; teacher training; and a variety of outreach activities that encourage lifelong learning. The School also hosts the Teen Council, which allows youth to participate in all aspects of the dramatic process: on stage, backstage, and in front of the stage. Housed in the Nevo Education Center, the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre is supported by the Mosse Foundation for Arts and Education. For more information, call 510.647.2973, e-mail school@berkeleyrep.org, or click berkeleyrep.org.

ATTENTION, CALENDAR EDITORS:

- WHO: Toddlers, school kids, teens, parents, and grandparents
WHAT: Target ® Family Series, monthly theatre workshops for the entire family
WHERE: Berkeley Rep School of Theatre
The Nevo Education Center, 2071 Addison St @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley
WHEN: 11 AM – 12:30 PM on Sundays 9/9 10/7, 11/4, 12/2, 1/6, 2/3, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4 & 6/1
HOW MUCH: Free! (Suggested donation: bring a book for the library at John Muir Elementary)
INFO: 510.647.2973, school@berkeleyrep.org, or berkeleyrep.org

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