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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERKELEY REP DELIVERS FAMILY FUN WITH FREE MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

WHO: Toddlers, school kids, teens, parents, and grandparents
WHAT: Berkeley Rep's Family Series, a monthly theatre workshop for the entire family
WHERE: Berkeley Rep School of Theatre
Nevo Education Center / 2071 Addison St @ Shattuck / Downtown Berkeley
WHEN: 11 AM – 12:30 PM on Sundays 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

DECEMBER 13, 2007 – Don't put away that party hat! Berkeley Repertory Theatre's 40th birthday party continues in the New Year with new dates for its ongoing Family Series. On the first Sunday of every month, local families can enjoy a free, interactive theatre workshop from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. The Family Series takes place in the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre at 2071 Addison Street in downtown Berkeley.

"Berkeley Rep strongly believes that families should have access to fun and affordable activities," says **Rachel Fink**, director of the School of Theatre. "So we're proud to offer the monthly Family Series for free. With this free workshop, **the whole family can play together**. Why don't you come out and play?"

Toddlers, school kids, teens, parents, and grandparents all participate in the Family Series, 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. The Family Series features a different theme every month:

- **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.

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- **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.

The **Berkeley Rep School of Theatre** provides a wide array of programming for individuals of all ages. In addition to the 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.

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