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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **WARM UP THE WINTER WITH HOT NEW THEATRE CLASSES AT BERKELEY REP**

### **New classes for kids, teens, and adults include a wild workshop on hip-hop performance**

DECEMBER 12, 2007 – Today Berkeley Repertory Theatre announced that its School of Theatre will introduce nine new classes in its winter session, which begins on January 14. In addition to new courses in acting, auditioning, and dialects, the schedule features a new workshop for teens on Performing Hip-Hop Techniques, which is inspired by the upcoming world premiere of *Taking Over* starring Obie Award-winner **Danny Hoch**.

“We like to integrate what’s happening in our classrooms with what’s taking place on stage,” said **Rachel Fink**, director of the School of Theatre. “So this new hip-hop class is the perfect choice. It celebrates Danny’s show while welcoming our newest staff member, **Gendell Hernández**, who teaches the class by drawing on his extensive experience with this form. Hip-hop has such a rich creative tradition and is so accessible to young people. I can’t wait to see what the teens create.”

The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre offers an interactive environment where students immerse themselves in all aspects of the craft and artistry of theatre, learning the commitment and technique necessary for artistic excellence. All classes meet weekly for two to three hours with instructors who are nationally recognized teaching artists and theatre professionals. The winter session offers something for students of **all ages and all levels**, from beginners to professionals:

- **Classes for kids** (grades 2 through 8) include Acting Up, Musical Theatre (beginning through advanced), and Stories from Around the World. Also, a new class for middle school students entitled Action in Acting will be taught by **Nancy Gold**.
- **Classes for teens** include Acting Violence (a certification program in broadsword and unarmed stage combat), Performing Hip-Hop Techniques, and a Teen Performance Lab called A Midwinter’s Tale.
- **Classes for adults** include Acting (beginning through advanced), Acting Shakespeare, Acting Violence, Combat for Couples, Improv (beginning and intermediate), Playwriting, Revenge of the Shape-Shifter, and Voice for Emerging Actors. New courses include an Audition Preparation Intensive for the Theatre Bay Area Generals, Beginning British Dialects, Persuasive Communication Skills for Business Professionals, Techniques and Perspectives of Theatrical Staging, and three master classes taught by accomplished local actor **Roni Dengel**: the Actor’s Workout, the Art of Improvisation, and Creating the Character.

**Audition coaches** for adults and **private voice teachers** for youth are also available. All classes take place next door to the Theatre in the Nevo Education Center at 2071 Addison Street in downtown Berkeley.

(MORE)

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The **Berkeley Rep School of Theatre** provides a wide array of programming for individuals of all ages. In addition to classes for youth and adults, the School offers 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 complete details – including schedules, faculty bios, course descriptions, and registration information – call **510.647.2972** or visit **[berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org)**.

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**ATTENTION, CALENDAR EDITORS:**

WHO: Theatre lovers of all ages and all levels  
WHAT: Winter classes at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre  
WHEN: Starting January 14, 2008  
WHERE: 2071 Addison St @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley, CA 94704  
HOW MUCH: Varies by class; scholarships available for youth  
INFO: 510.647.2972, [school@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:school@berkeleyrep.org), or [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org)

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