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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BERKELEY REP PRESENTS AMERICAN PREMIERE OF ENO'S *TRAGEDY: a tragedy***  
**Apocalyptic comedy combines the talents of playwright Will Eno and director Les Waters**

FEBRUARY 5, 2008 – This March, be among the first people in America to see **Will Eno's** *TRAGEDY: a tragedy* at the Tony Award-winning Berkeley Repertory Theatre. An apocalyptic comedy by an intriguing new playwright, *TRAGEDY* makes its American premiere as part of Berkeley Rep's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party, directed by Obie Award-winner **Les Waters**. Presented on the intimate Thrust Stage, *TRAGEDY* begins previews on **March 14**, opens **March 19**, and closes **April 13**, 2008. The executive producer is the Strauch Kulhanjian Family, and the official sponsors of Berkeley Rep's 40<sup>th</sup> season are BART and Wells Fargo.

"Will has rapidly been recognized as a major force in theatre because he has such a unique and unusual voice," **remarks Waters**, the Theatre's associate artistic director. "He blends a bleak comic sense with deep compassion for the human condition. I'm delighted to work with him, and to introduce this play and this playwright to local audiences."

"I look forward to working with Les, and I'm pleased that the play is now having its American premiere," **Eno adds**. "I was waiting for the right situation, in the best location, which I judge to be this production in Berkeley. I like going to rehearsals. I also like stopping going to rehearsals. I think I can be helpful to the process with a good mix of presence and absence."

***TRAGEDY: a tragedy***. A comedy... The sun – despite its shining record – has finally set. Reporters descend in a flurry of questions and commentary, while the governor urges calm. It's a mournful and comic tale of everyday apocalypse, a savage look at all of us in the dark. "**Will Eno is a Samuel Beckett for the Jon Stewart generation**," proclaims the *New York Times*, calling his off-Broadway hit *Thom Pain (based on nothing)*, an "acidly funny meditation on the indelible sorrows of life." As with his sold-out runs of *The Pillowman* and *The Glass Menagerie*, director Les Waters mines the humor and heartache of *TRAGEDY*.

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**Will Eno** penned the smash hit *Thom Pain (based on nothing)*, which won many awards at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival before transferring to London and New York. It played for nearly two years off Broadway, was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize, and went on to be produced in many languages and throughout the U.S. His play *Intermission* premiered at the Ensemble Studio Theatre's One-Act Marathon in June 2006 and was published by the *Antioch Review*. His most recent production was the extended off-Broadway presentation of *Oh the Humanity! and other good intentions*, a collection of short plays starring Marisa Tomei, which played at the Flea Theater in Manhattan. An earlier work, *The Flu Season*, premiered at The Gate Theatre in London and then opened in New York, where it won the 2004 Oppenheimer Award for best debut by an American playwright. An excerpt of *TRAGEDY: a tragedy* appeared in the June 2006 issue of *Harper's* magazine. "The Brooklyn-based Mr. Eno has won scads of major fellowships," the *New York Times* asserts. He is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Helen Merrill Playwriting Fellow, and a Fellow of the Edward F. Albee Foundation. He also won the first Marian Seldes/Garson Kanin Playwriting Fellowship, for which he was nominated by Edward Albee. In 2006, Eno was at Princeton University as a playwriting teacher and a Hodder Fellow; in the past year, he was a Fellow of the Cullman Center of the New York Public Library. His plays are published by Oberon Books in London, and by Theatre Communication Group and Playscripts in the United States.

**Les Waters** is in his fifth year as associate artistic director of Berkeley Rep, where he has staged *Eurydice*, *Fêtes de la Nuit*, *Finn in the Underworld*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Heartbreak House*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *The Pillowman*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *To the Lighthouse*, and *Yellowman*. His shows have ranked among the Top 10 Plays of 2007 in *Time Magazine*, 2006 in the *New York Times*, and 2005 in *Time Out New York*. Waters won an Obie Award for *Big Love*, directing its premiere at the Humana Festival and subsequent runs at Berkeley Rep, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Goodman Theatre, and Long Wharf Theater. His other New York credits include the Connelly Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Playwrights Horizons, The Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival, Second Stage Theatre, and Signature Theatre Company. Elsewhere in America, he has directed for American Conservatory Theater, Guthrie Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and Yale Repertory Theatre – and this May he will stage the world premiere of *Cardenio* for American Repertory Theatre. In his native England, Waters has worked with the Bristol Old Vic, Hampstead Theatre Club, Joint Stock Theatre Group, National Theatre, Royal Court Theatre, and Traverse Theatre Club. He has a long history of collaborating with prominent playwrights like Caryl Churchill and Charles Mee, and champions important new voices, such as Jordan Harrison, Sarah Ruhl, and Anne Washburn.

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Waters is an associate artist of The Civilians, a New York-based theatre group, and former head of the MFA directing program at UC San Diego.

Berkeley Rep has assembled a delightful cast to do justice to this *TRAGEDY*. **David Cromwell** (Frank in the Studio) has performed on Broadway in Tom Stoppard's trilogy *The Coast of Utopia* and Denzel Washington's *Julius Caesar*, as well as *A History of the American Film*, *Me and My Girl*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. In addition to eight seasons with the Folger Theatre in Washington, DC, he has been seen at CenterStage, Geva Theatre Center, Huntington Theatre Company, McCarter Theatre Center, The Old Globe, Pasadena Playhouse, San Jose Repertory Theatre, and Seattle Repertory Theatre. **Max Gordon Moore** (Michael, Legal Advisor) has numerous local credits with the Aurora Theatre Company, California Shakespeare Theatre, Magic Theatre, and Traveling Jewish Theatre – and recently traveled to Des Moines with San Francisco's Campo Santo. His regional experience includes shows at A Contemporary Theatre (ACT) in Seattle, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Cleveland Play House, Geva, and Seattle Rep. **Thomas Jay Ryan** (John in the Field) played the title character in Hal Hartley's film *Henry Fool* and reprised the role in last year's *Fay Grim*. His other screen credits include *The Book of Life*, *Dreamboy*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, *South of Heaven*, *Strange Culture*, and *Teknolust*. His countless stage credits include off-Broadway shows with Atlantic Theatre Company, Keen Company, The New Group, New York Theatre Workshop, The Public, and Roundabout Theatre Company. **Marguerite Stimpson** (Constance at the Home) recently made her Broadway debut in *Butley* opposite Nathan Lane. She appeared in the off-Broadway production of *Transfigures* at Women's Project, and Mary Zimmerman's *Pericles* at the Goodman and the Shakespeare Theatre. She has also worked with A.R.T., Hippodrome State Theatre, and Todd Mountain Theater Project. **Danny Wolohan** (The Witness) has appeared in ten world premieres at Intersection for the Arts, where he is a member of both resident companies: Campo Santo and the ESP Project. He was featured in the *SF Weekly* as the best ensemble actor of 2006, in the *Bay Area Reporter* as the best drag performer of 2005, and in *American Theatre* as one of seven actors in the nation you should travel to see.

The show also features four **talented designers** familiar to local audiences. **Antje Ellermann** (scenic design) created the sets for Berkeley Rep's productions of *9 Parts of Desire* and *The Pillowman*. Her designs for theatre, television, and opera have been seen nationwide. **Meg Neville** (costume design) designed the costumes for the Berkeley, New Haven, and New

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York productions of *Eurydice*. Her other Berkeley Rep credits include *Dinner with Friends*, *Galileo*, and *Suddenly Last Summer*. **Matt Frey** (lighting design) collaborated with Waters on three previous shows in Berkeley: *Finn in the Underworld*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *To the Lighthouse*. His work has also been seen in London, Paris, New York, and other cultural centers. **Cliff Caruthers** (sound design) is an artistic associate at the Cutting Ball Theater, a company member of Crowded Fire, and resident sound designer for TheatreWorks. He has created sound and music for more than 100 shows in the Bay Area. The stage manager for this production is **Michael Suenkel**, Berkeley Rep's resident production stage manager.

For those who like to wallow in *TRAGEDY*, Berkeley Rep offers **15 special events** during the run to enhance the theatregoing experience:

- *Page to Stage* takes place on Friday, March 7 at 7:00 PM. Respected theatre reporter Chad Jones interviews Eno and Waters for this free event. Donors at the Supporter level and above also enjoy an exclusive reception with the artists catered by the new Maritime East restaurant.
- *Target @ Teen Night* begins at 6:30 PM on Friday, March 14, and includes dinner, a behind-the-scenes discussion with a member of the artistic team, and a performance of *TRAGEDY*. Tickets are \$8 for members of Berkeley Rep's Teen Council, \$12 for all other teens. For details, call 510.647.2978 or e-mail [school@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:school@berkeleyrep.org).
- *Opening night* festivities for *TRAGEDY: a tragedy* are held on Wednesday, March 19, including a pre-show dinner for donors at Downtown Restaurant and a post-show party for the audience featuring food from Bistro Liaison and wines from Raymond Vineyards.
- Berkeley Rep's *book club* meets at 6:30 PM on Friday, April 4. Please read Eno's plays *Thom Pain (based on nothing)* and *The Flu Season* before attending. RSVP at 510.647.2916 or [bookclub@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:bookclub@berkeleyrep.org).
- Free 30-minute *docent presentations* about the show take place at 7:00 PM before every Tuesday and Thursday performance: March 18, March 20, March 25, March 27, April 1, April 3, April 8, and April 10.
- *Post-play discussions* moderated by theatre professionals follow the 8:00 PM shows on Thursday, March 20; Friday, March 28; and Tuesday, April 1.

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**Tickets** to *TRAGEDY: a tragedy* 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. This change makes Berkeley Rep more affordable to people in the community who are just starting school, starting careers, and starting families – because lower prices are now available for every performance.

**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. For tickets or information, call 510.647.2949 or toll-free at 888-4-BRT-Tix – or simply click [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org).

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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, the permanent home for a 22-year 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, nearly four million people have enjoyed 300 shows at Berkeley Rep, including more than 40 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 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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**TRAGEDY: a tragedy**  
FACT SHEET

**WHO:** Written by Will Eno  
Directed by Les Waters  
Designed by Antje Ellermann (sets), Meg Neville (costumes), Matt Frey (lights), and Cliff Caruthers (sound)  
Starring David Cromwell (Frank in the Studio), Max Gordon Moore (Michael, Legal Advisor), Thomas Jay Ryan (John in the Field), Marguerite Stimpson (Constance at the Home), and Danny Wolohan (The Witness)

**WHAT:** *TRAGEDY: a tragedy*  
The American premiere of an apocalyptic comedy by an intriguing new playwright

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

**WHEN:** Previews on 3/14 - 3/18 – Performances on 3/19 - 4/13/2008

- Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays @ 8:00 PM
- Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM
- Saturdays @ 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
- Sundays @ 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- No matinees during previews

| SUN    | MON | TUE ♦        | WED    | THU ♦  | FRI                     | SAT    |
|--------|-----|--------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| 16 7 ● | 17  | 18 8 ●       | 19 8 ★ | 20 8 ■ | 14 8 ● T<br>MAR<br>21 8 | 15 8 ● |
| 23 2,7 | 24  | 25 8         | 26 7   | 27 8   | 28 8 ■                  | 29 2,8 |
| 30 2,7 | 31  | 1 8 ■<br>APR | 2 7    | 3 8    | 4 8 ■                   | 5 2,8  |
| 6 2,7  | 7   | 8 8          | 9 7    | 10 8   | 11 8                    | 12 2,8 |
| 13 2,7 |     |              |        |        |                         |        |

♦ 7PM DOCENT TALKS (EVERY TUE & THU)  
 ● PREVIEWS  
 T TARGET® TEEN NIGHT  
 ★ OPENING NIGHT  
 ■ BOOK CLUB  
 ■ POST-SHOW DISCUSSION

Special Events –  
*Target @ Teen Night:* Friday 3/14 @ 6:30 PM  
*Opening night:* Wednesday 3/19 @ 8:00 PM  
*Book club:* Friday 4/4 @ 6:30 PM  
*Docent presentations:* Tuesdays 3/18, 3/25, 4/1 & 4/8 @ 7:00 PM and  
 Thursdays 3/20, 3/27, 4/3 & 4/10 @ 7:00 PM  
*Post-play discussions:* Thursday 3/20, Friday 3/28 & Tuesday 4/1 @ 8:00 PM

**HOW MUCH:** \$13.50 - \$69

|                                      | Section B | Section A | Premium |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Previews .....                       | \$27      | \$33      | \$37    |
| Tue 8 PM / 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    |
| Saturday @ 8 PM .....                | \$49      | \$61      | \$69    |

Discounts: • Half-price tickets available for anyone under 30 years of age  
 • \$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](http://berkeleyrep.org)