

For photos, interviews, etc. contact:
Terence Keane, Director of Public Relations
510.647.2917, tkeane@berkeleyrep.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DANNY HOCH TAKES OVER BERKELEY REP FOR TWO-WEEK EXTENSION

World premiere of solo show about gentrification extends through February 24

JANUARY 24, 2008 – At Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Danny Hoch really is *Taking Over*. After two weeks of rave reviews, standing ovations, sold-out houses, and wild word of mouth, the Obie Award-winner will not give up the stage. His solo show about gentrification in Williamsburg, Brooklyn rings all too true for residents of San Francisco and the high-priced Bay Area – so this exuberant response has resulted in a two-week extension for his world premiere.

Taking Over, originally scheduled to close on February 10, will now play through February 24 on Berkeley Rep's intimate Thrust Stage. It's the third show in a row to earn an extension during the Theatre's brilliant 40th birthday season.

"Danny is in top form, and this show is it hitting people regardless of where they live," remarks **Tony Taccone**, artistic director of Berkeley Rep and director of this production. "By taking on gentrification he is grappling with issues that affect every person in every urban center in the country. And by doing it with such urgency, humor, and intelligence, he's created a wildly entertaining, engaging evening."

"Hoch's latest solo tour de force is **hard-hitting, riveting, gritty, and irresistible**," the *San Francisco Chronicle* exclaims. *Variety* declares, "Hoch is in such sharp form it's startling to realize this is his first solo stage show in a decade." And the *Mercury News* proclaims, "*Taking Over* taps into a vein of truth and lets loose a gusher... **Hoch blows away the audience** with his hustle and flow."

In *Taking Over*, Danny Hoch captures the indelible characters of his New York neighborhood, where the melting pot is boiling over with ethnic and economic tensions. He transforms effortlessly across the boundaries of race, age, and gender, masterfully depicting a city in transition with comical and compassionate results. A pioneer of hip-hop theatre, Danny took Berkeley Rep by storm with the world premiere of *Jails, Hospitals & Hip-Hop* in 1997. He went on to win an Obie Award for that show and to start the Hip-Hop Theater Festival, which wows audiences across America every year. Now he's back, and he's *Taking Over*.

Tickets to *Taking Over* start at \$33 – or only \$16.50 for anyone under 30 years of age. Berkeley Rep is located at 2025 Addison Street, one block from Berkeley's downtown BART station and close to AC Transit bus lines. To purchase seats, call 510.647.2949 or 888-4-BRT-Tix (toll-free) – or just click berkeleyrep.org. The new performance schedule is as follows:

- Fri 1/25 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Sat 1/26 @ 2 PM – *sold out!*
- Sat 1/26 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Sun 1/27 @ 7 PM – *sold out!*
- Tues 1/29 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Wed 1/30 @ 7 PM – *sold out!*
- Thurs 1/31 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Fri 2/1 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Sat 2/2 @ 2 PM
- Sun 2/3 @ 2 PM – *sold out!*
- Sun 2/3 @ 7 PM – *sold out!*
- Wed 2/6 @ 7 PM – *sold out!*
- Thurs 2/7 @ 8 PM
- Fri 2/8 @ 8 PM
- Sat 2/9 @ 2 PM & 8 PM
- Sun 2/10 @ 2 PM & 7 PM
- Wed 2/13 @ 7 PM
- Thurs 2/14 @ 8 PM
- Fri 2/15 @ 8 PM
- Sat 2/16 @ 8 PM
- Sun 2/17 @ 2 PM & 7 PM
- Wed 2/20 @ 7 PM
- Thurs 2/21 @ 8 PM
- Fri 2/22 @ 8 PM
- Sat 2/23 @ 8 PM
- Sun 2/24 @ 2 PM & 7 PM

###



TAKING OVER

FACT SHEET

WHO: Written and performed by Danny Hoch
 Directed by Tony Taccone
 Designed by Annie Smart (scenic and costume design), Alexander V. Nichols (lighting design), and Asa Taccone and Drew Campbell (composers)

WHAT: *Taking Over*
 The world premiere of a powerful new solo show about gentrification from the Obie Award-winning creator of *Jails, Hospitals & Hip-Hop*

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

WHEN: **Now playing through Sunday, February 24!**

- Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM
- Thursdays & Fridays @ 8:00 PM
- Saturdays @ 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
- Sundays @ 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- Special Tuesday performance on 1/29
- No 8:00 PM performance on 2/2; no matinees on 1/27, 2/16, or 2/23

SUN	MON	TUE ♦	WED	THU ♦	FRI	SAT
13 7 ●	14	15 8 ●	16 8 ★	17 8 ■	11 8 ● T JAN 18 8	12 8 ●
20 2,7	21	22 8	23	24	25 8 ■	26 2,8
27 7	28	29 8 ■	30 7	31 8	1 8 ■ FEB	2 2
3 2,7	4	5	6 7	7 8	8 8	9 2,8
10 2,7	11	12	13 7	14 8	15 8	16 8
17 2,7	18	19	20 7	21 8	22 8	23 8
24 2,7						

- ♦ DOCENT TALKS
- PREVIEW
- T TARGET®
- ★ TEEN NIGHT
- ★ OPENING NIGHT
- BOOK CLUB
- DISCUSSION

Special Events –
Book club: Friday 2/1 @ 6:30 PM
Post-play discussions: Friday 1/25 & Tuesday 1/29 @ 8:00 PM
Docent presentations: 1/29, 1/31, 2/7 & 2/14 @ 7:00 PM

HOW MUCH: \$16.50 - \$69

	Section B	Section A	Premium
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

PHOTOS: <http://www.berkeleyrep.org/press/photos-08dh.asp>