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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CARRIE FISHER CELEBRATES BERKELEY REP'S 40<sup>TH</sup> WITH *WISHFUL DRINKING***

**Tony Taccone stages hilarious show by best-selling author and Hollywood star**

JANUARY 14, 2007 – **Carrie Fisher** is the life of the party on Berkeley Repertory Theatre's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with *Wishful Drinking*, an uproarious and sobering look at her Hollywood hangover that opens in February. After staging two completely different solo shows – the world premiere of Danny Hoch's *Taking Over* and Sarah Jones' Tony Award-winning *Bridge & Tunnel* – Artistic Director **Tony Taccone** takes us on another wild ride. *Wishful Drinking* runs only seven weeks in Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre – from **February 8** through **March 30** – and tickets are selling fast. Press night is **February 19**.

Berkeley Rep presents *Wishful Drinking* in association with **Jonathan Reinis Productions**. The show's executive producers are Bill Falik and Diana Cohen, John and Helen Meyer, Richard A. Rubin and H. Marcia Smolens, and the Strauch Kulhanjian Family. BART and Wells Fargo toast Berkeley Rep as the official sponsors of the Theatre's 40<sup>th</sup> season.

"I'm really looking forward to doing multiple shows at Berkeley Rep," **Fisher remarks**. "I was essentially raised in my mother's nightclub act, so it's very natural for me to do what most people find unnatural – which in this case would be getting on stage and telling stories. I've often said many of my relatives – including me – were designed more for public than private. And I always say, 'If my life weren't funny, it would just be true – and that's unacceptable.' So please come to see my show at Berkeley Rep, otherwise I'll end up talking about myself alone in the dark. Again!"

"Carrie is an incisive writer," **Taccone comments**, "and she has a razor sharp wit. Having lived in the public eye for so long – and having survived so many unusual experiences – she's developed a unique capacity to make sense out of life's challenges through storytelling. With this show, she combines these talents with an ability to be completely authentic and truthful onstage. It's a pleasure to welcome her to Berkeley Rep."

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In ***Wishful Drinking***, Fisher tells a true and intoxicating story with the strong, wry wit that she poured into bestsellers like *Postcards from the Edge*. Born to celebrity parents, she was picked to play a princess in the original *Star Wars* when only 19 years old. Alas, aside from a demanding career and her role as a single mother, Carrie spends her free time battling addiction, weathering the wild ride of manic depression, and lounging around various mental institutions. It's an incredible tale – from having Elizabeth Taylor as a stepmother, to marrying (and divorcing) Paul Simon, from having the father of her daughter leave her for a man to ultimately waking up one morning and finding a friend dead beside her in bed. *Entertainment Weekly* declares *Drinking* “drolly hysterical,” and the *Los Angeles Times* dubs it a “**Beverly Hills yard sale of juicy anecdotes.**” Don't miss this outrageous chance to get Carried away.

**Carrie Fisher** has been a compelling force in the film industry since her feature film debut opposite Warren Beatty in the 1975 hit *Shampoo*. The daughter of Eddie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds, she became a cultural icon when she played Princess Leia in the original *Star Wars* trilogy. Her star-studded career includes roles in countless films such as *The Blues Brothers*, *The Burbs*, *Garbo Talks*, *Hannah and her Sisters*, *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, *The Man with One Red Shoe*, *This is My Life*, *When Harry Met Sally*, *Austin Powers*, *Scream 3*, *Charlie's Angels*, and *Wonderland*. Her next films – *White Lightnin'*, *Fanboys*, and the remake of *The Women* – will be released this year. In 1987, Fisher's book, *Postcards from the Edge*, leapt onto the *New York Times*' bestseller list and netted her the Los Angeles Pen Award for Best First Novel. Three more bestsellers followed: *Delusions of Grandma*, *Surrender the Pink*, and *The Best Awful*. Fisher turned *Postcards* into a screenplay for the hit film starring Shirley MacLaine and Meryl Streep, and is currently adapting *The Best Awful* for HBO with producers Bruce Cohen and Dan Jinks. Her writing has also appeared in *Details*, *Harper's Bazaar*, the *New York Times*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Vogue*, and many other major publications. Fisher hosted her own show on the Oxygen network, *Conversations from the Edge*. Her television credits range all the way from *Laverne and Shirley* to *Sex in the City*, with recent appearances on popular programs such as *30 Rock* and *Weeds*. Her experiences with addiction and bipolar disorder – and her willingness to speak honestly about them – have made her a sought after speaker and respected advocate for these communities.

**Tony Taccone** is in his 11<sup>th</sup> year as artistic director of Berkeley Rep, where he has staged more than 35 shows, including the world premieres of *The Convict's Return*, *Culture Clash in AmeriCCa*, *The First 100 Years*, *Geni(us)*, *Ravenshead*, *Taking Over*, *Virgin Molly*, and *Zorro in*

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*Hell*. He commissioned Tony Kushner's renowned *Angels in America*, co-directed its world premiere at the Mark Taper Forum, and has collaborated with Kushner on six projects. Their latest piece, *Brundibar*, featured designs by beloved children's author Maurice Sendak. It debuted at Berkeley Rep and then traveled to Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven and the New Victory Theatre in New York City, where it sold out its run and was nominated for two Drama Desk Awards. Taccone recently made his Broadway debut with *Bridge & Tunnel*, which was universally lauded by the critics and won a Tony Award for its star, Sarah Jones. He also staged the show's record-breaking off-Broadway run, workshopped it for Broadway at Berkeley Rep, and directed Jones' previous hit, *Surface Transit*. In 2004, his production of David Edgar's *Continental Divide* transferred to the Barbican in London after playing the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, and England's Birmingham Rep. His other regional credits include Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arizona Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and San Francisco's Eureka Theatre, where he served six years as artistic director before coming to Berkeley Rep.

Two talented designers are also on the wagon for *Wishful Drinking*. **Alexander V. Nichols** (scenic design / lighting design / projections) has created scenery, costumes, lights, and projections for dance and theatre companies across America, including 15 previous shows at Berkeley Rep: *Civil Sex*, *Continental Divide*, *Culture Clash in AmeriCCa*, *Culture Clash's Zorro in Hell*, *Fêtes de la Nuit*, *The Guys*, *Heartbreak House*, *Honour*, *The Life of Galileo*, *Menocchio*, *Mother Courage*, *Ravenshead*, *Rhinoceros*, *Surface Transit*, and *Taking Over*. **Christina Wright** (costume design) designed costumes for the world premiere of Philip Glass and Robert Wilson's *Monsters of Grace*, Bill Viola's *Memoria* and *Quintet of the Astonished*, Culture Clash's *The Birds* at the Getty Villa, and James Joyce's *The Dead* at Open Fist Theatre. Other productions include Jodi Long's *Surfing DNA* at East West Players, David Schweizer's *Transformations*, and *The Mystery of Irma Vep* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at the Tiffany Theater. The stage manager for this show is **Nicole Dickerson**.

This year, Berkeley Rep is rolling out the red carpet for everyone – with exciting new prices that make theatre a luxury anyone can afford. **Tickets to *Wishful Drinking* start as low as \$27**, and discounts are available for groups, seniors, students, and anyone under 30 years of age. This change makes Berkeley Rep more accessible to people in the community who are just starting school, starting careers, and starting families – because lower prices are available for every performance.

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Save even more by joining the party at Berkeley Rep. Pick up tickets for the last three shows in the Theatre's 40<sup>th</sup> season – Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking*, Will Eno's *TRAGEDY: a tragedy*, and Theatre de la Jeune Lune's *Figaro* – and get the best seats at the lowest prices. **Subscriptions are still on sale** and start as low as \$84, a discount of up to 33% on every seat!

At Berkeley Rep, a gourmet theatre experience is more than wishful thinking – thanks to a delicious concessions menu and a **new series of tastings**. At 7:00 PM on the following dates, theatre lovers can whet their palates with free samples from local culinary leaders:

- Friday, February 15: spirits from Craft Distillers
- Saturday, February 16: champagne from Domaine Carneros
- Friday, February 29: confections from Charles Chocolates
- Saturday, March 1: Hefeweizen from Pyramid Breweries
- Friday, March 28: wines from Raymond Vineyards
- Saturday, March 29: salami from Fra' Mani Handcrafted Salumi

Fisher fans can live on the edge with **20 special events** during the run of *Wishful Drinking*:

- *Target @ Teen Night* begins at 6:30 PM on Friday, February 8, and includes dinner, a behind-the-scenes discussion with a member of the artistic team, and a performance of *Wishful Drinking*. 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).
- *night/OUT*, an event for the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community, takes place on Valentine's Day – Thursday, February 14 – with a special appearance by the queer burlesque troupe, Twilight Vixen Revue. The post-play party also features gourmet sweets, music and dancing, bouquets from Darling Flower Shop, and complimentary drinks from Raymond Vineyards and Triple Rock Brewery.
- Berkeley Rep's newest event, *30 Below* returns on Friday, February 15. It's the coolest night of theatre for the under-30 crowd with a performance starting at 8:00 PM and a wild post-show party with free drinks, live music, munchies, and more. Tickets start at only \$21.50 for anyone under 30 years old.
- *Press night* for *Wishful Drinking* is held on Tuesday, February 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.

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- Berkeley Rep's new *book club*, led by Mary Ann Peoples, meets at 6:30 PM on Friday, February 22. Please read *Postcards from the Edge* before attending, and RSVP at 510.647.2916 or [bookclub@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:bookclub@berkeleyrep.org).
- Free 30-minute *docent presentations* about the show take place before every Tuesday and Thursday performance. Join in at 7:00 PM on February 12, February 14, February 21, February 26, February 28, March 4, March 6, March 11, March 13, March 18, March 20, and March 25.
- *Post-play discussions* moderated by theatre professionals follow the 8:00 PM shows on Thursday, February 28; Tuesday, March 11; and Friday, March 14.

So join in the *Wishful Drinking!* Berkeley Rep's **Roda Theatre** is located at 2015 Addison Street, one block from Berkeley's downtown BART station and close to AC Transit bus lines. The box office is next door at 2025 Addison Street. 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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**berkeley rep**

**WISFUL DRINKING**  
FACT SHEET

**WHO:** Created and performed by Carrie Fisher  
Directed by Tony Taccone  
Designed by Alexander V. Nichols (sets/lights/projections) and Christina Wright (costumes)

**WHAT:** *Wishful Drinking*, a hilarious new solo show from Hollywood legend Carrie Fisher

**WHERE:** Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Roda Theatre  
2015 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley

**WHEN:** February 8 – March 30, 2008

- Tuesdays & Fridays @ 8:00 PM
- Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM
- Thursdays & Saturdays @ 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
- Sundays @ 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- No performances on 2/13, 2/27, 3/7, 3/21, or 3/27
- No matinees on 2/9, 2/10, 2/14, 2/16, 2/23, 2/28, 3/8, or 3/13
- No evening performance on Saturday 3/22

SUN	MON	TUE ♦	WED	THU ♦	FRI	SAT
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30 2,7						

♦ 7PM DOCENT TALKS (EVERY TUE & THU)  
● PREVIEWS  
T TARGET® TEEN NIGHT  
★ PRESS NIGHT  
▲ NIGHT/OUT  
■ BOOK CLUB  
■ POST-SHOW DISCUSSION  
:: TASTING

Special Events –

- Target @ Teen Night*: Friday 2/8 @ 6:30 PM
- night/OUT* (LGBT event): Thursday 2/14 @ 8:00 PM
- 30 Below* (party for the under-30 crowd): Friday 2/15 @ 8:00 PM
- Press night*: Tuesday 2/19 @ 8:00 PM
- Book club*: Friday 2/22 @ 6:30 PM (please read *Postcards from the Edge*)
- Free tastings*: Friday 2/15 (Craft Distillers), Saturday 2/16 (Domaine Carneros), Friday 2/29 (Charles Chocolates), Saturday 3/1 (Pyramid Breweries), Friday 3/28 (Raymond Vineyards), and Saturday 3/29 (Fra' Mani Salumi) @ 7:00 PM
- Pre-show presentations*: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2/12, 2/14, 2/21, 2/26, 2/28, 3/4, 3/6, 3/11, 3/13, 3/18, 3/20, and 3/25 @ 7:00 PM
- Post-play discussions*: Thursday 2/28, Tuesday 3/11, and Friday 3/14 @ 8:00 PM

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

	Section B	Section A	Premium
Previews (2/8 – 2/12)	\$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)