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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERKELEY REP COMMEMORATES LOMA PRIETA WITH *after the quake*
Tony Award-winning theatre opens poignant play on anniversary of the earthquake

WHAT: *after the quake*
A poignant new play about life and love in the wake of a devastating earthquake

WHERE: **Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage**
2025 Addison St @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley

WHEN: **Wednesday, October 17**
7:30 PM – audience starts to arrive
8:00 PM – the play begins
9:30 PM – post-show festivities

HOW MUCH: Opening night is sold out / press passes are available for journalists
Tickets for other performances start as low as \$27

INFO & TIX: 510.647.2949 or berkeleyrep.org

OCTOBER 10, 2007 – On October 17, Berkeley Repertory Theatre commemorates the anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake by opening its highly anticipated production of *after the quake*. This poignant new play about life and love in the wake of a devastating disaster is based on the book of the same name by celebrated author **Haruki Murakami**, which was written following the 1995 earthquake in Kobe, Japan. The show is adapted and directed by two-time Tony Award-winner **Frank Galati**.

"No one who was here at the time will ever forget the Loma Prieta earthquake," says **Tony Taccone**, artistic director of Berkeley Rep. "Dozens of lives were lost, businesses and homes were destroyed, and the whole world watched as we struggled to recover. That's what this play is about: ordinary people coping with fear and rediscovering simple truths in the aftermath of a terrible earthquake.

"Frank is a brilliant director," Taccone continues, "and I've wanted him to work on our stage for quite some time. We built the schedule for this show around his availability, and it was only after we'd announced *after the quake* that we realized the eerie coincidence of the date. We hope the show's quiet beauty and gentle message will be a suitable tribute to the occasion."

Haruki Murakami is the world-renowned author of books such as *Kafka on the Shore* and *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*. A native of Kobe, he was living in the United States when the earthquake struck his hometown – a catastrophe that was quickly followed by the poison gas attack in the Tokyo subway. Murakami responded to these events by ending his self-imposed exile, returning to Japan, and writing about the tragedies. He published a nonfiction book known in English as *Underground* and a tender collection of short stories called *after the quake*. In these works, Murakami perfectly depicts how life is both precious and precarious when even the ground beneath your feet can't be trusted.

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Now Frank Galati – a Tony Award-winning director known for transforming literary works into transcendent theatre – brings two of these stories to the stage. In ***after the quake***, a timid man woos an old flame, while he enchants her anxious daughter with whimsical tales of a six-foot frog’s fight to save Tokyo. In this inventive new play, we see that a storyteller can’t dispel the world’s woes, but he can teach a child – and himself – how to face fear.

TimeOut Chicago proclaims, "*after the quake* is rare: a comfortable play to watch but a haunting one to remember." The ***New York Times*** calls it "an elegant, economic, gently hypnotic piece of theatre." And the ***Chicago Tribune*** declares, "Murakami’s small gems caught the imagination of adapter-director Frank Galati, who has gracefully intertwined them into a mesmerizing 100-minute theatre piece filled with plenty of humor and whimsy... a treatise on how we can travel with our imaginations to new, vibrant territory."

But perhaps the show’s delicate beauty is best described in the words of one of Murakami’s characters: "I want to write about people who dream and wait for the night to end, who long for the light so they can hold the ones they love. But right now I have to stay here and keep watch over this woman and this girl."

after the quake is performed by an accomplished ensemble that includes **Paul H. Juhn, Keong Sim, Jennifer Shin, and Hanson Tse**, as well as two local school children – six-year-old **Gemma Megumi Fa-Kaji** of Berkeley and nine-year-old **Madison Logan V. Phan** of Richmond – alternating in the role of Sala. The show features exquisite designs by **James Schuette** (sets), **Mara Blumenfeld** (costumes), **James F. Ingalls** (lights), and **Andre Pluess** and **Ben Sussman** (sound). The score is performed live by two talented musicians who work alongside the actors: **Jason McDermott** on cello and **Jeff Wichmann** on koto, a traditional Japanese string instrument.

***after the quake* runs through November 25 on Berkeley Rep’s intimate Thrust Stage.** The theatre is located at 2025 Addison Street, one block from Berkeley’s downtown BART station and close to AC Transit bus lines. The show is based on the stories "Honey Pie" and "Superfrog Saves Tokyo" from Murakami’s novel *after the quake*. It comes to Berkeley from Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and is produced in association with La Jolla Playhouse. The executive producers of *after the quake* are Bill Falik and Diana Cohen, Wayne Jordan and Quinn Delaney, Marjorie Randolph, Richard A. Rubin and H. Marcia Smolens, and the Strauch Kulhanjian Family. The official sponsors for Berkeley Rep’s 40th season are BART and Wells Fargo.

In honor of a happier occasion – its 40th birthday – Berkeley Rep has introduced **new prices** that invite everyone to celebrate. Tickets to *quake* start as low as \$27 – with discounts available for students, seniors, and anyone under 30 years of age. Seats are even more affordable as part of a multi-play subscription package.

For tickets or information, call 510.647.2949 or 888-4-BRT-Tix – or simply click berkeleyrep.org.

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BIOS

When **Frank Galati** brought *The Grapes of Wrath* to Broadway, he won a Drama Desk Award, an Outer Critics Circle Award, and two Tony Awards – as adapter and director. He also received a Tony nomination for staging the Broadway hit *Ragtime*, which turned E.L. Doctorow’s novel into a magical musical. Over the years, Galati has earned nine Joseph Jefferson Awards for his work on

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Chicago stages: five as a director, three as a writer, and one as an actor. In addition, he and his collaborator Lawrence Kasdan were nominated for an Academy Award for the screenplay to Anne Tyler's *Accidental Tourist*. Galati is a member of the Steppenwolf ensemble, an associate director at The Goodman Theatre, and an emeritus professor in the department of performance studies at Northwestern University. Outside of Chicago, his shows have been seen at many eminent institutions, including the Brooklyn Academy of Music, La Jolla Playhouse, Long Wharf Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum, and the Metropolitan Opera. In 2002, he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Haruki Murakami's first book, *Hear the Wind Sing* (1979), won the Gunzou Literature Prize. He followed this success with *Pinball 1973* (1980) and *A Wild Sheep Chase* (1982), earning the Noma Literary Prize for New Writers. These first works are now known as *The Trilogy of the Rat*. His subsequent books include *Hard-Boiled Wonderland and The End Of The World* (1985); *Norwegian Wood* (1987); *Dance, Dance, Dance* (1988); *South of the Border, West of the Sun* (1992); and *The Elephant Vanishes* (1993). In the early nineties, Murakami spent four years in the United States; he taught at Princeton and wrote *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* (1994), which won the Yomiuri Literary Prize. His recent work includes *Sputnik Sweetheart* (1999), *Underground* (2000), *after the quake* (2002), *Kafka on the Shore* (2005), and *After Dark* (2007). Murakami's books have been published in more than 30 languages – and he often translates American authors into Japanese, including titles by Raymond Carver, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and John Irving. The two stories presented on Berkeley Rep's stage also appeared in *GQ* and *The New Yorker*.

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 40th birthday.

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after the quake
FACT SHEET

WHO: Written by Haruki Murakami
Adapted for the stage and directed by Frank Galati
Designed by James Schuette (sets), Mara Blumenfeld (costumes), James F. Ingalls (lights), and Andre Pluess and Ben Sussman (sound)
Starring Gemma Megumi Fa-Kaji, Paul H. Juhn, Madison Logan V. Phan, Keong Sim, Jennifer Shin, and Hanson Tse
Featuring live accompaniment by Jason McDermott and Jeff Wichmann

WHAT: *after the quake*
Tony Award-winner Frank Galati offers up a tender and inventive adaptation of the poignant work of Japanese author Haruki Murakami. The show is based on the stories "Honey Pie" and "Superfrog Saves Tokyo" from Murakami's novel *after the quake*.

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

WHEN: Previews on 10/12 - 10/16 – Performances on 10/17 - 11/25/2007

- 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 Thanksgiving, Thursday 11/22
- No matinees during previews or on 10/18, 10/27, 11/1, 11/10 & 11/15

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

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

Special Events –
Target® Teen Night: Friday 10/12 @ 6:30 PM
Opening night: Wednesday 10/17 @ 8:00 PM
Sushi tasting: 10/19 @ 7:00 PM
Book club: Friday 10/26 @ 6:00 PM
Post-play discussions: Thursday 11/1, Tuesday 11/13 & Friday 11/16 @ 8:00 PM
Docent presentations: Tuesdays 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13 & 11/20 @ 7:00 PM; Thursdays 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8 & 11/15 @ 7:00 PM; and Friday 11/23 @ 7:00 PM

HOW MUCH:

	Section B	Section A	Premium
Previews.....	\$27	\$33	\$37
Tue 8 PM / Wed 7 PM / Thu 2 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: • ½ 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