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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BERKELEY REP EXTENDS *THE ARABIAN NIGHTS* AGAIN – MUST CLOSE 1/18!  
8 performances added due to popular demand – on sale now to donors and subscribers**

DECEMBER 11, 2008 – This year, the hottest holiday gift has been hard to come by: tickets to see *The Arabian Nights* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre have disappeared faster than snowballs in the Sahara, so today the company announced a second – and final – extension for this popular production. Another eight performances have been added to the run, but this hit show must close on Sunday, January 18 to begin a tour that will take it to Kansas City and Chicago.

“Every time Mary Zimmerman has worked her magic on our stage, audiences have responded enthusiastically,” remarked **Tony Taccone**, artistic director of Berkeley Rep. “But at this particular moment in time, when the world can seem so dark, people really appreciate the humor and humanity in her work. I am extremely pleased that this play has touched so many people, and glad that we can reach a larger audience.”

Here’s how to get tickets for *The Arabian Nights*:

- **Current subscribers can purchase seats immediately.** Want to see the show again? Want to share it with a friend? Need the perfect gift for a relative who loves theatre? Subscribers always get first dibs on the best seats when Berkeley Rep announces a new show or extends a hit – and they get a \$5 discount when buying these tickets as well!
- **Donors to Berkeley Rep may also buy tickets now.** Anyone who contributed \$75 or more to the Theatre in the last 16 months – or anyone who would like to become a donor at this level – may purchase seats before they become available to the general public. Access to backstage tours, an exclusive donor lounge, and special offers like this are only a few of the benefits of contributing to Berkeley Rep.
- **Get great seats for this show by becoming a subscriber today!** You can order tickets for *The Arabian Nights* immediately if you also reserve seats for two or more upcoming shows. In 2009, Berkeley Rep will serve up three hot new comedies and one compelling classic: *Crime and Punishment*, *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, and *You, Nero*. Subscription packages begin as low as \$84.
- **The remaining seats go on sale to the public on Tuesday, December 16 at noon.**
- **Don’t want to wait until January to see the show?** Buy tickets now for Berkeley Rep’s special holiday shows: excellent seats are still available for the matinee on Christmas Eve and evening performances on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day. And remember – tickets at Berkeley Rep are always half-price for children, teens, and anyone under 30 years of age.

Since opening in November, *The Arabian Nights* has earned rave reviews, standing ovations, and sold-out houses. Tony Award-winner Mary Zimmerman made her career by reanimating ancient myths like *Argonautika* and *Metamorphoses*... now she breathes new life into the legend of the 1,001 nights. To save her life, a beautiful bride must spin hypnotic tales of genies, jesters,

(MORE)

FINAL EXTENSION FOR *THE ARABIAN NIGHTS* / 2 OF 2

thieves, and kings – winning her freedom by eventually winning her husband’s heart. He falls under Scheherazade’s spell, and Zimmerman enchants the audience as well with her signature style that transforms simplicity into the sublime. Amidst a thousand tales of honor, revenge, and humor, only love emerges victorious. A co-production with Kansas City Repertory Theatre, *The Arabian Nights* will travel to Missouri and to Chicago’s Lookingglass Theatre Company in 2009.

This announcement caps a terrific year for Berkeley Rep, which ends the way it started: by **delighting audiences and impressing critics with simultaneous hits on both coasts**. In February, the Theatre extended its world premiere of Danny Hoch's *Taking Over* and set box office records with Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking*, even as it helped produce the Broadway run of *Passing Strange*. In the intervening months, Berkeley Rep presented the American premiere of Will Eno's *TRAGEDY: a tragedy* and the world premiere of Itamar Moses' *Yellowjackets* here in Berkeley, while *Taking Over* and *Wishful Drinking* toured the nation. Now, *Taking Over* is enjoying an extended off-Broadway engagement at The Public Theater as local audiences embrace acclaimed productions of *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* and *The Arabian Nights*.

The **new schedule** for *The Arabian Nights* is as follows:

- Thursday 12/11 @ 2 PM – *sold out!*
- Thursday 12/11 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Friday 12/12 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Saturday 12/13 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Sunday 12/14 @ 2 PM – *sold out!*
- Sunday 12/14 @ 7 PM – *sold out!*
- Tuesday 12/16 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Wednesday 12/17 @ 7 PM – *sold out!*
- Thursday 12/18 @ 2 PM
- Thursday 12/18 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Friday 12/19 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Saturday 12/20 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Sunday 12/21 @ 2PM – *sold out!*
- Sunday 12/21 @ 7 PM – *sold out!*
- Tuesday 12/23 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Wednesday 12/24 @ 2 PM
- Friday 12/26 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Saturday 12/27 @ 2 PM – *sold out!*
- Saturday 12/27 @ 8 PM
- Sunday 12/28 @ 2 PM – *sold out!*
- Sunday 12/28 @ 7 PM – *sold out!*
- Tuesday 12/30 @ 8 PM – *sold out!*
- Wednesday 12/31 @ 7 PM
- Thursday 1/1 @ 8 PM
- Friday 1/2 @ 8 PM
- Saturday 1/3 @ 2 PM – *sold out!*
- Saturday 1/3 @ 8 PM
- Sunday 1/4 @ 2 PM (This performance offers open captioning for the hearing impaired.)
- Sunday 1/4 @ 7 PM
- Tuesday 1/6 @ 8 PM
- Wednesday 1/7 @ 7 PM
- Thursday 1/8 @ 8 PM
- Friday 1/9 @ 8 PM
- Saturday 1/10 @ 2 PM & 8 PM
- Sunday 1/11 @ 2 PM & 7 PM
- Tuesday 1/13 @ 8 PM – *just added!*
- Wednesday 1/14 @ 7 PM – *just added!*
- Thursday 1/15 @ 8 PM – *just added!*
- Friday 1/16 @ 8 PM – *just added!*
- Saturday 1/17 @ 2 PM & 8 PM – *just added!*
- Sunday 1/18 @ 2 PM & 7 PM – *just added!*

**Tickets** start at \$33 – or only \$16.50 for anyone under 30 years of age. Berkeley Rep is located at 2025 Addison Street, near bus lines, bike routes, and parking lots, and only half a block from BART. To purchase seats, call 510.647.2949 or 888-4-BRT-Tix (toll-free) – or just click [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org).

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THE ARABIAN NIGHTS
FACT SHEET

WHO: Written and directed by Mary Zimmerman
Adapted from The Book of the Thousand Nights and One Night
Designed by Daniel Ostling (sets), Mara Blumenfeld (costumes), TJ Gerckens (lights), and Andre Pluess and Ben Sussman (sound)
Starring Alana Arenas, Barzin Akhavan, Ryan Artzberger, Ari Brand, Noshir Dalal, Allen Gilmore, Sofia Jean Gomez, Melina Kalomas, Ramiz Monsef, Jesse J. Perez, Nicole Shalhoub, Louis Tucci, Pranidhi Varshney, Stacey Yen, and Evan Zes
WHAT: The Arabian Nights – an alluring adaptation of the classic tale from the Tony Award-winning director of Argonautika and Metamorphoses
WHERE: Berkeley Repertory Theatre’s Thrust Stage
2025 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley
WHEN: Extended again – Must close January 18, 2009!
▪ 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 matinees on 12/13, 12/20, or 1/1
▪ Special 2:00 PM matinee on 12/24 (Christmas Eve) – no performance that night
▪ No performance on 12/25 (Christmas Day)

Calendar grid showing performance dates from Dec 1 to Jan 18, 2009, with days of the week and specific dates.

Special Events:

Docent talks: Tuesdays 12/9, 12/16, 12/23 & 12/30 and Thursdays 12/11, 12/18 & 1/1 @ 7:00 PM
Post-play discussions: Thursday 12/11, Tuesday 12/16 & Friday 12/19 @ 8:00 PM
Student matinee: Wednesday 12/17 @ noon
Free tastings: Friday 12/12 (Triple Rock Brewery) @ 7:00 PM; Saturdays 12/13 (Craft Distillers and St. Helena Road Winery) & 12/20 (Teance) @ 7:00 PM; and Sunday 12/14 (Bravante Vineyards and Domaine Carneros) @ 6:00 PM
Open-captioning for the hearing impaired: Sunday 1/4 @ 2:00 PM

HOW MUCH: \$13.50 - \$71

Table with 4 columns: Ticket Description, Section B, Section A, Premium. Rows include Tue 8 PM / Wed 7 PM / Thu 2 PM / Sat 2 PM, Thu 8 PM / Sun 2 PM / Sun 7 PM, Friday @ 8 PM, and Saturday @ 8 PM.

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

PHOTOS: http://www.berkeleyrep.org/press/photos-08an.asp

TIX & INFO: 510.647.2949 – berkeleyrep.org – 888-4-BRT-Tix (toll-free)