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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TONY AWARD-WINNER MARY ZIMMERMAN GIVES FREE TALK IN BERKELEY
Berkeley Rep welcomes creator of *Argonautika* and *Metamorphoses* for Page to Stage

WHO: Tony Award-winning director Mary Zimmerman
WHAT: Berkeley Rep's Page to Stage, a series of talks with eminent theatre artists
WHERE: Berkeley City College Auditorium / 2050 Center St / Downtown Berkeley
WHEN: Monday 11/3 @ 7:00 PM (free Peet's coffee tasting starts at 6:00 PM)
HOW MUCH: Free!
INFO: 510.647.2949 or berkeleyrep.org

OCTOBER 22, 2008 – Just ten days before **Mary Zimmerman** unveils *The Arabian Nights* at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre**, fans of her work will have an opportunity to peek inside the process of creating a play with this Tony Award-winning director. Zimmerman will be interviewed by **Robert Hurwitt**, theatre critic for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, on November 3 during Page to Stage – the second installment in Berkeley Rep's annual trio of talks with eminent theatre artists. This event will be held in the auditorium of the new Berkeley City College at 2050 Center Street, just one block from the Theatre.

"This is Mary's sixth visit to Berkeley Rep, and each time she takes us on a remarkable journey," asserts **Tony Taccone**, artistic director of Berkeley Rep. "As we approach an election in which oil prices and the Iraq war are such important issues, it truly seems timely to look at the Middle East through the lens of its own ancient tales. I look forward to hearing what Mary has to say about *The Arabian Nights* – and about her long, successful career."

Every year, hundreds of people enjoy **Page to Stage**, a series of discussions sponsored by Peet's Coffee and Tea. Past programs have featured luminaries such as David Edgar, Will Eno, Danny Hoch, Sarah Jones, Tony Kushner, Delroy Lindo, Terrence McNally, Rita Moreno, Itamar Moses, and Salman Rushdie. **No tickets are necessary** for these free events, but seating is limited. Each talk begins at 7:00 PM, and doors open at 6:45 PM for general-admission seating. Peet's offers a free coffee tasting to all guests starting at 6:00 PM, and donors to Berkeley Rep at the Supporter level or above also enjoy an exclusive post-talk reception with Zimmerman, catered by Bistro Liaison.

Mary Zimmerman is the recipient of a 1998 MacArthur Fellowship and the 2002 Tony Award for Best Director. She has worked at noted theatres across America, and Berkeley Rep audiences have embraced her acclaimed productions of *Argonautika*, *Journey to the West*, *Metamorphoses*, *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci*, and *The Secret in the Wings*. 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, 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.

The Arabian Nights runs November 13 to January 4 on Berkeley Rep's intimate Thrust Stage. **For more information** about Page to Stage or tickets to the show, call 510.647.2949 or 888-4-BRT-tix (toll-free) – or simply click 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 director of Argonautika

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

WHEN: November 13, 2008 – January 4, 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 performances on 11/27 (Thanksgiving) or 12/25 (Christmas Day)
No matinees on 11/13, 11/15, 11/16, 11/20, 12/4, 12/13, 12/20 or 1/1
Special 2:00 PM matinee on 12/24 (Christmas Eve) – no performance that night

Calendar grid showing dates from 16 to 4 with performance indicators for various days.

Special Events:

- Page to Stage (free talk w/ Zimmerman): Monday 11/3 @ 7:00 PM
Low-cost previews: Thursday 11/13, Friday 11/14 & Saturday 11/15 @ 8:00 PM & Sunday 11/16 @ 7:00 PM
Target @ Teen Night: Friday 11/14 @ 6:30 PM
VIP night: Tuesday 11/18 @ 8:00 PM
Press night: Wednesday 11/19 @ 8:00 PM
night/OUT (LGBT event): Thursday 11/20 @ 8:00 PM
30 Below (party for the under-30 crowd): Friday 11/21 @ 8:00 PM
Docent talks: Tuesdays 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23 & 12/30 and Thursdays 11/20, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 & 1/1 @ 7:00 PM
Student matinees: Wednesdays 12/3 & 12/17 @ noon
Post-play discussions: Thursday 12/11, Tuesday 12/16 & Friday 12/19 @ 8:00 PM
Free tastings: Fridays 11/14 (Berkeley Farmers' Market), 11/21 (Triple Rock Brewery and Fra' Mani Salumi), 12/5 (Kokomo Wines) & 12/12 (Triple Rock Brewery) @ 7:00 PM; Saturdays 11/15 (Fra' Mani Salumi), 11/22 (Domaine Carneros and Teance), 11/29 (Domaine Carneros), 12/6 (Kokomo Wines and Peterson Winery), 12/13 (Craft Distillers and St. Helena Road Winery) & 12/20 (Teance) @ 7:00 PM; and Sundays 11/16 (Raymond Vineyards), 11/23 (Bravante and Raymond Vineyards), 12/7 (Kokomo Wines and Peet's Coffee & Tea) & 12/14 (Bravante Vineyards and Domaine Carneros) @ 6:00 PM

- PREVIEW
TARGET® TEEN NIGHT
OPENING NIGHT
VIP NIGHT
LGBT NIGHT/OUT
30 BELOW
POST-SHOW DISCUSSION
TASTING
DOCENT PRESENTATIONS EVERY TUE & THU 7PM

HOW MUCH: \$13.50 - \$71

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