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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DELROY LINDO CASTS FOUR LOCAL KIDS IN *JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE*
Youngsters perform with the pros in August Wilson's powerful play at Berkeley Rep

OCTOBER 14, 2008 – At Berkeley Repertory Theatre, acclaimed actor **Delroy Lindo** is returning to the powerful play that earned him a Tony nomination – *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* by **August Wilson** – and, as the show's director, he has chosen four local children to perform with a cast of accomplished professionals.

"The children in this show represent the future," **Delroy remarks**. "They are the next generation in the evolution of people of African descent on this continent. They have critical scenes in this story, and I look forward to exploring them with these talented young actors."

Each of these four lucky kids already has some experience as a performer:

- An eighth-grader at Oakland School for the Arts, **12-year-old Keanu Beausier of Oakland** appeared in a film for Cinema Sports and has performed with the Akat Dance Troupe for several seasons.
- A sixth-grader at Pleasanton Middle School, **10-year-old Inghis Amore Hills of Pleasanton** won third place in both the singing and hip-hop competitions at last summer's Alameda County Fair.
- An eighth-grader at Berkley Maynard Academy, **11-year-old Victor McElhaney of Oakland** is a percussionist who performs with African Roots of Jazz and Sdouae. He has been the solo opening act at venues such as Oakland's Art & Soul Festival and Yoshi's Jazz Club.
- A fifth-grader at Montclair Elementary School, **10-year-old Nia René Warren of Oakland** recently played the lead in *High School Musical 2* with Moonlight Productions. She is also the lead singer for the band One Hour Parking.

Inghis and Nia share the role of Zonia Loomis, the daughter of the protagonist, while Keanu and Victor alternate as Zonia's friend, Reuben Mercer. They are acting alongside – and learning from – experienced actors including **Teagle F. Bougere, Kenya Brome, Don Guillory, Dan Hiatt, Barry Shabaka Henley, Brent Jennings, Erica Peeples, and Kim Staunton**.

"*Joe Turner's Come and Gone* is an intoxicatingly hopeful blend of history, mystery, myth, ribald humor, music, dance, and enduring faith," raves the *Chicago Reader*. Haunted by seven years on a chain gang, Herald Loomis appears in Pittsburgh to reunite his family. Surrounded by the vibrant tenants of a black boarding house, he fights for his soul and his song in the dawning days of a century without slavery. "Wilson gives haunting voice to the souls of the American dispossessed," declares the *New York Times*. "The clash between the American and the African shakes white and black theatergoers as violently as it has shaken the history we've all shared."

See *Joe Turner* before it's gone. **Tickets start at only \$27**, thanks to exciting new prices that let more people experience the best theatre in the Bay Area. Additional savings are available for groups, seniors, students, and anyone under 30 years of age – meaning discounted seats can be obtained for as little as \$13.50. Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre is located at 2015 Addison Street, near bus lines, bike routes, and parking lots – and only half a block from BART. For tickets or information, call 510.647.2949 or toll-free at 888-4-BRT-Tix – or simply click berkeleyrep.org.

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JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE
FACT SHEET

WHO: Written by August Wilson
Directed by Delroy Lindo
Designed by Scott Bradley (sets), Reggie Ray (costumes), William H. Grant III (lights), Cliff Caruthers (sound), and Dwight Andrews (music director)
Starring Keanu Beausier, Teagle F. Bougere, Kenya Brome, Don Guillory, Dan Hiatt, Inglish Amore Hills, Barry Shabaka Henley, Brent Jennings, Victor McElhaney, Erica Peebles, Tiffany Michelle Thompson, Kim Staunton, and Nia Renee Warren

WHAT: Joe Turner's Come and Gone, a powerful look at African-American life in the early 20th century

WHERE: Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Berkeley, CA 94704

WHEN: Previews on 10/31 - 11/4 - Performances on 11/5 - 12/14/08
- 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 11/27
- No matinees during previews or on 11/8, 11/13, 11/22 & 12/11

Calendar grid showing dates from Oct 31 to Dec 14 with performance indicators for various days.

- PREVIEW
TARGET® TEEN NIGHT
OPENING NIGHT
POST-SHOW DISCUSSION
TASTING
DOCENT PRESENTATIONS EVERY TUE & THU 7PM

Special Events -

Opening night: Wednesday 11/5 @ 8:00 PM
Target @ Teen Night: Friday 11/7 @ 6:30 PM
Student matinees: Wednesdays 11/12 and 12/10 @ noon
Docent talks: Tuesdays 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25, 12/2 & 12/9 @ 7:00 PM and Thursdays 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4 & 12/11 @ 7:00 PM
Post-play discussions: Thursday 11/20, Tuesday 12/2 & Friday 12/5 @ 8:00 PM
Free tastings: Fridays 11/7 (Winterhawk Winery), 11/14 (Berkeley Farmers' Market), & 11/21 (Triple Rock Brewery) @ 7:00 PM; Saturdays 11/15 (Fra' Mani Salumi), 11/22 (Domaine Carneros), 11/29 (Domaine Carneros), 12/6 (Kokomo Wines) & 12/13 (Craft Distillers) @ 7:00 PM; and Sundays 11/9 (Peet's Coffee & Tea), 11/16 (Raymond Vineyards), 11/23 (Bravante Vineyards), 12/7 (Kokomo Wines) & 12/14 (Domaine Carneros) @ 6:00 PM

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-08jt.asp

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