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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BERKELEY REP WELCOMES 15 INTERNS FOR SEASON OF POWERFUL SHOWS**

**Best and brightest from colleges across the nation enter prestigious training program**

JULY 8, 2008 – Today Berkeley Repertory Theatre announced that 15 young people from across the nation – including three natives of the Bay Area – have been selected for the highly coveted slots in its annual internship program. This program, one of the most prestigious theatre training opportunities in the country, allows college graduates to work alongside renowned artists and experienced professionals. This season's interns will benefit from firsthand exposure to the work of respected directors such as **Delroy Lindo**, **Sharon Ott**, **Tony Taccone**, **Les Waters**, and **Mary Zimmerman**, as well as award-winning playwrights **Martin McDonagh**, **Sarah Ruhl**, and Berkeley's own **Itamar Moses**.

"We look forward to getting to know this season's interns and once again having the opportunity to impart our knowledge to theatre's next generation," said **Susan Medak**, Berkeley Rep's managing director. "Young people who intern with us regularly move on to prominent positions in American theatre, and we've often been privileged to hire them ourselves. We're proud to watch the progress of our past interns – and to present this year's interns with the challenges we have planned for Berkeley Rep's upcoming season."

**Berkeley Rep's internship program** combines hands-on practical experience with educational seminars that provide insight into the operation and inner workings of a professional regional theatre. The program is one of the nation's most prestigious and most extensive, offering training in more than a dozen different disciplines. Interns work closely with an accomplished company of artists, administrators, directors, and designers. They make an 11-month commitment to the Theatre, generally starting work in August and concluding their residencies in June. Interns receive a stipend for their service, as well as housing. The partnership between Berkeley Rep and the intern is designed to fulfill the intern's career-building goals and provides invaluable professional contacts and experience. A generous three-year grant from the Koret Foundation funds the program, as well as an extensive evaluation system used to track its impact.

The **team of interns** for the 2008/09 Season includes the following 15 young people:

- **Joan Anderson**, a Maryland native and graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, will work with Director of Marketing and Communications Robert Sweibel and the marketing team.
- **Jamie Caplan**, a native of Foster City and graduate of Oberlin College, will work with Company Manager Christopher Jenkins in company management.
- **Christopher Chauvet**, a native of Tucson and graduate of the University of Arizona, will work with Technical Director Jim Smith in the scene shop.
- **Octavia Driscoll**, an Ohio native and graduate of Lawrence University, will work with Production Manager Tom Aberger and the production team.
- **Michael Fink**, a Montana native and graduate of the University of North Dakota, will work with Scenic Artist Lisa Lázár.

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## BERKELEY REP SELECTS 14 NEW INTERNS / 2 OF 3

- **Lauren Fischer**, a native of Los Angeles and graduate of Brown University, will work with Costume Director Maggi Yule in the costume shop.
- **Abigail Hanson**, an Ohio native and graduate of Ohio University, will work with Art Director Cheshire Isaacs and the marketing department.
- **Lee Helms**, a Tennessee native and graduate of Southern Methodist University, will work with Production Stage Manager Michael Suenkel and the stage management team.
- **Devon LaBelle**, a native of Seattle and graduate from the University of Puget Sound, will work with Rachel Fink, director of the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre.
- **Lisa Mei Ling Fong**, a native of San Francisco comes to Berkeley Rep after working on off-Broadway shows for the past year. She will work with Properties Manager Ashley Dawn in the props shop.
- **Mina Morita**, a native of Berkeley and a graduate of New York University, will serve as the Bret C. Harte Directing Intern under Artistic Director Tony Taccone.
- **Angele Rodgers**, a native of Charlotte and graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, will work with Director of Development Lynn Eve Komaromi.
- **Alex Rosenthal**, a New York native and graduate of Brown University, will work with Literary Manager Madeleine Oldham in the literary department.
- **Jocelyn Thompson**, a native of Los Angeles and a graduate of Howard University, will work with Sound Engineer Heather Bradley and the sound department.
- **Masha Tsimring**, a Russian native raised in San Diego who graduated from Emerson College, will work with Master Electrician Fred Geffken and the electrics crew.

In addition, **Bethany Rickwald** – a native of Michigan and a junior at the University of Michigan – is volunteering as a summer intern in the marketing department under the guidance of Terence Keane, Berkeley Rep's director of public relations. As part of her service, she penned this release.

**See tomorrow's plays today at Berkeley Rep.** Subscribe now for the 2008/09 Season, which brings brilliant artists back to Berkeley Rep's stage and provides proof of the Theatre's commitment to commission 50 new plays by 2013. The season kicks off when Taccone directs the world premiere of *Yellowjackets*, a provocative new play penned by Berkeley native Itamar Moses. The next five shows present a parade of our audience's favorite artists: Delroy Lindo stages August Wilson's masterpiece *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*; Mary Zimmerman presents an alluring adaptation of *The Arabian Nights*; Associate Artistic Director Les Waters reunites with Sarah Ruhl for the world premiere of *The Vibrator Play*; former Artistic Director Sharon Ott returns to direct Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*; and Waters tackles Martin McDonagh again with *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*. This year of fearless theatre is supported by BART and Wells Fargo, the official sponsors of Berkeley Rep's 41<sup>st</sup> season. Inviting new prices ensure that everyone can join the fun.

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

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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, a permanent home for its long 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, four million people have enjoyed more than 300 shows at Berkeley Rep, including 50 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.

For **more information** about Berkeley Rep's upcoming season, call the box office at 510.647.2949 or toll-free at 888-4-BRT-Tix – or simply click [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org).

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