

DECEMBER 3, 2009

**GREEN DAY RELEASES NEW VERSION OF “21 GUNS”
FEATURING THE CAST OF BERKELEY REP’S AMERICAN IDIOT**

Hi, everyone-

I'm writing with even more good news from Berkeley Rep. Already this year, we saw one of our shows become a *New York Times* bestseller (Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking*), one become a cult film (Spike Lee's *Passing Strange*), and two land on Broadway (*Wishful Drinking* and *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*). Now a song from our latest show is about to become a hit on the radio!

That's right: mere days after our blockbuster production of *American Idiot* closed its extended run in the Roda Theatre, our extraordinary cast joined Green Day in the band's Jingletown Studio. Together, they recorded **a new version of the hit song “21 Guns.”** The new track, produced by Billie Joe Armstrong, features the band performing with the cast on an arrangement of “21 Guns” created by Tony Award-winning composer Tom Kitt for our show!

You'll start hearing the single on the radio tomorrow, and it will be available for purchase on December 22 at all digital download outlets. But for those of us who can't wait, you can **hear it right now** – streaming on Green Day's website: <http://www.greenday.com/mp3player/player.php> .

According to **Billie Joe Armstrong**, the band's lead singer, "We wanted to record '21 Guns' because it represents a pivotal moment in the show when the lead character, sung by John Gallagher, Jr., realizes he needs to get his stuff together. After the show wrapped, we headed straight to Oakland with the cast to record, and they sung the hell out of it. I couldn't be happier. It's great to have something out there for people to hear who didn't get to see the show."

We are simply thrilled. It's been a big week for Green Day and “21 Guns.” The song received two **Grammy nominations** yesterday: Best Rock Song and Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals. Their latest CD, *21st Century Breakdown*, was also nominated for Best Rock Album! The 52nd annual Grammy Awards will be broadcast on CBS January 31, 2010.

Thank you for celebrating this moment with us – and for your ongoing support.

The stage version of *American Idiot* featured the music of Green Day – vocalist/guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong, bassist Mike Dirnt, and drummer Tré Cool – along with Armstrong's lyrics. It was directed by Tony Award-winner Michael Mayer, who collaborated with Armstrong on the story. Berkeley Rep presented *American Idiot* in association with Tom Hulse and Ira Pittelman, the lead producers of *Spring Awakening*. The production featured choreography by Olivier Award-winner Steven Hoggett with Tony-winning composer Tom Kitt providing orchestrations, arrangements, and musical supervision. The design team included Tony-nominee Christine Jones (sets), two-time Tony-winner Kevin Adams (lights), Baryshnikov fellow Andrea Lauer (costumes), and Obie Award-winner Brian Ronan (sound), as well as video designer Darrel Maloney. The music director was Carmel Dean and the associate choreographer was Lorin Latarro. Tony-winning actor John Gallagher, Jr. played Johnny, leading an ensemble of 19 young performers that also included Matt Caplan as Tunny, Michael Esper as Will, and Tony Vincent as St. Jimmy with Mary Faber as Heather, Rebecca Naomi Jones as Whatsername, and Christina Sajous as the Extraordinary Girl.

For **photos** of the show, visit <http://www.berkeleyrep.org/press/photos-09ai.asp> .

All the best,
TK