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GREEN DAY'S *AMERICAN IDIOT* GOES TO BROADWAY

Fifth show in five years to move from Berkeley Rep to Broadway

JANUARY 5, 2010 – Today, with two of its shows already playing on Broadway, the Tony Award-winning Berkeley Repertory Theatre announced that *St. Jimmy* is going to the St. James! After its world premiere broke box-office records in Berkeley and extended for five weeks, Green Day's *American Idiot* will transfer to the St. James Theater in Manhattan. Produced by **Tom Hulce** and **Ira Pittelman** in association with Berkeley Rep, the Broadway engagement of *American Idiot* begins previews on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 prior to opening on Tuesday, April 20, 2010. It's the fifth show in five years to move from Berkeley Rep to Broadway!

"Experiencing *American Idiot* on stage in Berkeley was incredible," says Green Day's guitarist and lead singer **Billie Joe Armstrong**. "We have really enjoyed working with Michael, Steven, Tom, and the cast. The energy and chemistry of the group is contagious. Michael Mayer was able to bring life to the characters of *American Idiot*, and Tom Kitt's musical arrangements are breathtaking. We're so proud that the show is coming to Broadway!"

Director **Michael Mayer** comments, "Green Day's iconic album is one of the most brutally honest, eloquent, and poetically theatrical responses to the post-9/11 world that I have encountered. I hear in these amazing songs the frustration and anger and dreams of a lost generation of Americans. Collaborating with Billie Joe and the band has been a mind-blowing thrill from day one."

In the last five years, five shows have moved from Berkeley Rep to Broadway: Sarah Jones' *Bridge & Tunnel* (2006), Stew's *Passing Strange* (2008), Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking* (2009), Sarah Ruhl's *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)* (2009), and now *American Idiot* (2010). In fact, the Theatre has helped send **13 shows to New York in the last 13 years**. This list of hits also includes Danny Hoch's *Taking Over* (2008), Ruhl's *Eurydice* (2007), Tony Kushner and Maurice Sendak's *Brundibar* (2006), Naomi Iizuka's *36 Views* (2002), Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses* (2001), Hoch's *Jails, Hospitals & Hip-Hop* (1998), Anne Galjour's *Alligator Tales* (1997), and Philip Kan Gotanda's *Ballad of Yachiyō* (1997).

Known for its core values of innovation and excellence, as well as its educated and adventurous audience, Berkeley Rep provides a safe haven for emerging and established artists to explore new ideas. In 1968, during its inaugural season, the Theatre staged its first premiere – and it has presented **52 world premieres, 39 West Coast premieres, and four American premieres** in its history.

Writers currently under commission include **David Adjmi, Glen Berger, Marcus Gardley, Rinne Groff, Jordan Harrison, Naomi Iizuka, Dan LeFranc, Tarell McCraney, Dominic Orlando, and Stew and Heidi Rodewald**. Through important new voices such as these, Berkeley Rep will continue to introduce inventive, intelligent, and relevant new material into the repertoire of American theatre.

Based on Reprise Records' Grammy Award-winning album of the same name, ***American Idiot*** features the music of **Green Day** and the lyrics of its lead singer **Billie Joe Armstrong**. The show is directed by Tony Award-winning director **Michael Mayer** (*Spring Awakening*), who also

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collaborated with Armstrong on the book, and choreographed by Olivier Award-winner **Steven Hoggett** (*Blackwatch*). The Tony-winning composer **Tom Kitt** (*Next to Normal*) is the music supervisor, orchestrator, and music arranger for the show. In addition, Kitt also provided string arrangements for Green Day's latest album, *21st Century Breakdown*. The Broadway cast will be announced shortly.

American Idiot follows working-class characters from the suburbs to the city to the Middle East, as they seek redemption in a world filled with frustration – an exhilarating journey borne along by Green Day's electrifying songs. This high-octane show includes every song from the album, as well as several new songs from *21st Century Breakdown*. Green Day won two Grammys – Best Rock Album and Record of the Year – for its multi-platinum *American Idiot*, which sold more than 12 million copies worldwide. Now the band brings this explosive album to the stage with the director of *Spring Awakening*, which won eight Tony Awards in 2007.

The cast of *American Idiot* collaborated with Green Day to record a new version of the hit single “**21 Guns**.” Produced by the band's singer and guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong, the track was released by Reprise Records on December 22, 2009 for purchase through all digital retailers. “21 Guns” is the second single from Green Day's gold album *21st Century Breakdown*. The digital version of the track has gone platinum, selling more than one million downloads, earned 2010 Grammy Nominations for Best Rock Song and Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group With Vocals, while the video won three 2009 MTV Video Music Awards in September, including Best Rock Video.

The limited engagement of *American Idiot* at Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre began previews on September 4, 2009, opened on September 16, 2009, extended twice, and played its final performance on November 15, 2009. *American Idiot's record-breaking run* brought in the biggest advance sale in the Theatre's 41-year history, the biggest day at the box office, 17 of the top 20 days ever, and due to ticket demand had to announce the first extension before it played its first performance.

The show features scenic design by Tony-nominee **Christine Jones** (*Spring Awakening*), costume design by Baryshnikov fellow **Andrea Lauer** (*The Butcher of Baraboo*), lighting design by two-time Tony-winner **Kevin Adams** (*Hair*), sound design by Obie Award-winner **Brian Ronan** (*Cabaret*), as well as video design by **Darrel Maloney**.

The **St. James Theater** is located in Manhattan at 246 West 44th Street between Broadway and Eighth Avenue – only two blocks from where Berkeley Rep's *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)* is playing right now. For more information on *American Idiot*, visit AmericanIdiotOnBroadway.com.

See tomorrow's plays today at Berkeley Rep. The 2009/10 Season continues with even more daring new shows: the world premiere of *Girlfriend* from **Todd Almond** and **Matthew Sweet**, the world premiere of *The Wake* from **Lisa Kron** and **Leigh Silverman**, the world premiere of *Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West* from **Naomi Iizuka** and **Les Waters**, and local debuts for **Athol Fugard's** *Coming Home* and *Aurélia's Oratorio*. For details, call (510) 647-2949 or toll-free at (888) 4-BRT-tix – or simply click berkeleyrep.org.

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AMERICAN IDIOT ON BROADWAY
FACT SHEET

WHO: Music by Green Day
Lyrics by Billie Joe Armstrong
Book by Billie Joe Armstrong and Michael Mayer
Directed by Michael Mayer
Featuring the work of Steven Hoggett (choreographer), Tom Kitt (orchestrations, arrangements, and musical supervision), Christine Jones (sets), Kevin Adams (lights), Andrea Lauer (costumes), Brian Ronan (sound), and Darrel Maloney (video and projections)

WHAT: *American Idiot*, a rocking new show that unites the searing songs of Green Day with the director of *Spring Awakening*

WHERE: St. James Theater, 246 West 44th St @ 8th Ave, New York, NY 10019

WHEN: Begins previews on March 24, 2010 / Opens on April 20, 2010

PHOTOS: <http://www.berkeleyrep.org/press/photos-09ai.asp>

INFO: AmericanIdiotOnBroadway.com

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