

APRIL 21, 2010

BERKELEY REP'S *AMERICAN IDIOT* BURSTS ONTO BROADWAY

Hi, everyone-

I'm thrilled to report that *American Idiot* nearly blew the lid off the St. James Theatre when it opened on Broadway last night.

The **reviews** today look great. Here are just a few selections:

- "Invigorating, moving, and thrilling! Performed with galvanizing intensity by a terrific cast, the emotional charge is as memorable as the music. A true rock opera!" – Charles Isherwood, *New York Times*
- "A groundbreaking musical event! Told with a soaring theatricality that stretches the boundaries of what's possible on Broadway, *American Idiot* is a global knockout!" – Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*
- "It will electrify and overwhelm your senses! This adrenalized gut-punch of a musical holds you in its white-knuckle grasp." – David Cote, *Time Out New York*
- "The first great musical of the 21st century!" – Richard Ouzounian, *Toronto Times-Star*

The **cast album** came out yesterday as well. Green Day plays on it, and Billie Joe Armstrong sings alongside the actors you saw in Berkeley. It totally rocks!

The show, and the wild after-party at Roseland, attracted a **host of celebrities**. As Playbill reported, "Rosie O'Donnell and Donald Trump wound up under the same roof on opening night — without incident. Also: Whoopi Goldberg, Paul Rudd, Tony Kushner and Mark Harris, Edie Falco, T. R. Knight, Michael Urie, Jerry Dixon and Mario Cantone, Zachary Quinto, Camryn Manheim, Tamara Tunie, John Cameron Mitchell, Steven Pasquale, Steve Van Zandt, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Ana Gasteyer, Marian Seldes, and Elizabeth Gilles." Not to mention Todd Almond, the creator of Berkeley Rep's latest rock musical, *Girlfriend*, which is having its world premiere right now on our Thrust Stage.

To top it all off, *American Idiot* received **three nominations for the Drama League Awards** yesterday. The show was nominated for Distinguished Production of a Musical, while John Gallagher, Jr. and Tony Vincent were both nominated for Distinguished Performance as well.

Phew! What a day! Thanks to everyone for helping Berkeley Rep send its fifth show to Broadway in five years. We couldn't do it without you!

Rock on,
TK

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

For a press release:

http://www.berkeleyrep.org/press/pr/0910/Berkeley_Rep_American_Idiot_Broadway_previews.pdf