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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAYER & HULCE DISCUSS CREATION OF *AMERICAN IDIOT* AT BERKELEY REP

Tony Award-winners are the guests at the Theatre's free Page to Stage talk

WHO: Tony Award-winning director Michael Mayer and producer Tom Hulce

WHAT: Page to Stage, a series of conversations with eminent theatre artists

WHERE: Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre / 2015 Addison St @ Shattuck / Downtown Berkeley

WHEN: **Monday 9/21 @ 7:00 PM**

HOW MUCH: Free!

INFO: (510) 647-2949 or berkeleyrep.org

AUGUST 31, 2009 – Audiences eager for the world premiere of Green Day's *American Idiot* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre can get a peek behind the scenes at Page to Stage on Monday, September 21. During this free event in the Roda Theatre, Berkeley Rep's communications manager, **Chad Jones**, interviews director **Michael Mayer** and producer **Tom Hulce** on the set of *American Idiot*. They will discuss the creation of this groundbreaking show – as well as their previous collaboration on *Spring Awakening*, which won eight Tony Awards in 2007 – before taking questions from the audience.

Theatres are usually dark on Mondays, but Berkeley Rep makes those evenings glow with **Page to Stage**, a series of talks which engage brilliant guests in sparkling conversation. Past programs have featured luminaries such as David Edgar, Will Eno, Danny Hoch, Sarah Jones, Tony Kushner, Delroy Lindo, Terrence McNally, Charles Mee, Rita Moreno, Itamar Moses, Salman Rushdie, and Mary Zimmerman. **No tickets are necessary** for these free events, but seating is limited. Each talk begins at 7:00 PM. The lobby and café open at 6:00 PM, and the Theatre opens at 6:30 PM for general-admission seating. Donors in Berkeley Rep's Friends Circle get an opportunity to meet Mayer and Hulce at an exclusive reception catered by Bistro Liaison.

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 that explosive album to the stage with the director of *Spring Awakening*. *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*. With an onstage band and 19 young performers, *American Idiot* receives its world premiere at Berkeley Rep, the Tony-winning playhouse that launched last year's provocative rock musical *Passing Strange*.

American Idiot will run from **September 4 through October 11**, opening Berkeley Rep's 2009/10 season. The show features the music of Green Day – vocalist/guitarist **Billie Joe Armstrong**, bassist **Mike Dirnt**, and drummer **Tré Cool** – along with Armstrong's lyrics. It is being staged by Mayer, who collaborated with Armstrong on the story. Berkeley Rep presents *American Idiot* in association with Tom Hulce and **Ira Pittelman**.

(MORE)

RECIPIENT OF THE TONY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING REGIONAL THEATRE

Michael Mayer received a 2007 Tony Award, as well as Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards, for the Tony Award-winning musical *Spring Awakening*. His other Broadway credits include *After the Fall*; *An Almost Holy Picture*; *The Lion in Winter*; *'night, Mother*; *Side Man* (Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards); *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Drama Desk Award and Tony nomination); *Triumph of Love*; *Uncle Vanya*; *A View From the Bridge* (Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards and Tony nomination); and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Tony nomination). In addition to *Spring Awakening* at Atlantic Theater Company, his off-Broadway credits include *10 Million Miles*, *America Dreaming*, *Antigone in New York*, *Baby Anger*, *The Credeaux Canvas*, *Everyday Rapture*, *Hundreds of Hats*, *Missing Persons*, *Our House*, *Round About*, *Stupid Kids*, *True History and Real Adventures*, and *View of the Dome*. He also directed the national tours for *Spring Awakening*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and *Angels in America* (Jefferson and Carbonell Awards). On London's West End, Mayer staged the current production of *Spring Awakening*, as well as *Side Man* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. His films include *A Home at the End of the World* and *Flicka*.

As a producer, **Tom Hulce's** projects include *Spring Awakening*, winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical, and Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*, which received an Obie Award, a Drama Desk Award, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play. In 2004, he produced the film of Michael Cunningham's *A Home at the End of the World*, also directed by Michael Mayer. Tom's directing credits include John Irving's *The Cider House Rules* at Seattle Repertory Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum, and Atlantic Theater Company. As an actor, he appeared in *Equus* and *A Few Good Men* on Broadway, *The Normal Heart* on London's West End, *Eastern Standard* at Seattle Rep, and *Hamlet* at The Shakespeare Theater in Washington, DC. His film performances include *Amadeus*, *Animal House*, *Dominick and Eugene*, *Echo Park*, *Fearless*, *Parenthood*, and Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame I and II*. He has been nominated for an Academy Award, a Tony Award, four Golden Globes, and an Emmy Award, which he won for *The Heidi Chronicles*.

American Idiot also features choreography by Olivier Award-winner **Steven Hoggett** with Tony-winning composer **Tom Kitt** providing orchestrations, arrangements, and musical supervision. The design team includes 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 is **Carmel Dean** and the associate choreographer is **Lorin Latarro**.

Tony-winning actor **John Gallagher, Jr.** plays Johnny, leading an ensemble of 19 young performers that includes **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.

This show is supported by several contributors to Berkeley Rep's Annual Fund. **Bill Falik** and **Diana Cohen**, **John and Helen Meyer**, **Sally Smith** and **Don Burns**, the **Strauch Kulhanjian** Family, and **Felicia Woytak** and **Steve Rasmussen** serve as executive producers. The lead sponsor is **Levi's®**. The show is also sponsored by the **Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation**.

Tickets for *American Idiot* start at only \$32 – half that for anyone under 30 years of age. For more information, or to purchase seats, call the box office at (510) 647-2949 or toll-free at (888) 4-BRT-Tix – or just click berkeleyrep.org.

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AMERICAN IDIOT
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), Darrel Maloney (video and projections), Carmel Dean (music director), and Lorin Latarro (associate choreographer)
 Starring Declan Bennett; Andrew Call; Gerard Canonico; Matt Caplan; Miguel Cervantes; Michael Esper; Mary Faber; John Gallagher, Jr; Joshua Henry; Brian Charles Johnson; Rebecca Naomi Jones; Lorin Latarro; Omar Lopez-Cepero; Chase Peacock; Christina Sajous; Theo Stockman; Ben Thompson; Alysha Umphress; Tony Vincent; Morgan Weed; and Libby Winters

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

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

WHEN: **September 4 – October 11, 2009**

- Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays @ 8:00 PM
- Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM
- Saturdays @ 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
- Sundays @ 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
- No matinees on 9/5, 9/6, 9/12, or 9/13

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					4 SEP 8:00 PM	5 8:00 PM
6 7:00 PM	7	8 8:00 PM	9 7:00 PM	10 8:00 PM	11 8:00 PM	12 8:00 PM
13 7:00 PM	14	15 8:00 PM	16 8:00 PM	17 8:00 PM	18 8:00 PM	19 2/8:00 PM
20 2/7:00 PM	21	22 8:00 PM	23 7:00 PM	24 8:00 PM	25 8:00 PM	26 2/8:00 PM
27 2/7:00 PM	28	29 8:00 PM	30 7:00 PM	1 OCT 8:00 PM	2 8:00 PM	3 2/8:00 PM
4 2/7:00 PM	5	6 8:00 PM	7 7:00 PM	8 8:00 PM	9 8:00 PM	10 2/8:00 PM
11 2/7:00 PM						

Special Events:

- Teen night: Friday 9/4 @ 6:30 PM
- Green night: Tuesday 9/15 @ 8:00 PM
- Press night: Wednesday 9/16 @ 8:00 PM
- night/OUT (LGBT event): Thursday 9/17 @ 8:00 PM
- 30 Below (party for those under 30): Friday 9/18 @ 8:00 PM
- Page to Stage (free talk with Mayer & Hulce): Monday 9/21 @ 7:00 PM
- Pre-show docent talks: Tuesdays 9/8, 9/22, 9/29 & 10/6 and Thursdays 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1 & 10/8 @ 7:00 PM
- Post-play discussions: Thursday 9/17, Friday 9/25, and Tuesday 9/29 @ 8:00 PM
- Free tastings: Fridays 9/18 (Ale Industries), 9/25 (Raymond Vineyards) & 10/2 (Berkeley Farmers' Market) @ 7:00 PM; Saturdays 9/19 (Kokomo Wines), 9/26 (Amanda's Restaurant) & 10/3 (Ale Industries) @ 7:00 PM; and Sundays 9/20 (Venus Restaurant), 9/27 (Angeline's Restaurant) & 10/4 (Meridian Restaurant) @ 6:00 PM

- PREVIEW
- TARGET® TEEN NIGHT
- GREEN NIGHT
- PRESS NIGHT
- LGBT NIGHT/OUT
- 30 BELOW
- POST-SHOW DISCUSSION
- TASTING
- DOCENT PRESENTATIONS EVERY TUE & THU 7PM

HOW MUCH: \$16 - \$86

	Section B	Section A	Premium
Previews	\$32	\$44	\$54
Tue 8 PM / Wed 7 PM / Sat 2 PM	\$38	\$55	\$67
Thu 8 PM / Sun 2 PM / Sun 7 PM	\$42	\$61	\$72
Friday @ 8 PM	\$50	\$67	\$78
Saturday @ 8 PM	\$56	\$73	\$86

- Discounts:
- Half-price tickets available for anyone under 30 years of age (some restrictions)
 - Groups of 10 or more, contact 510.647.2918 or groups@berkeleyrep.org

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

TIX & INFO: (510) 647-2949 – [berkeleyrep.org](http://www.berkeleyrep.org) – (888) 4-BRT-Tix (toll-free)