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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **VIBRATOR & DRINKING: TWO BERKELEY REP SHOWS BEGIN BROADWAY RUNS**

**Taccone directs Fisher for the Roundabout – Waters directs Ruhl for Lincoln Center**

SEPTEMBER 25, 2009 – Even as the world premiere of Green Day's *American Idiot* takes the Roda Theatre by storm, Berkeley Repertory Theatre celebrates bringing two shows to Broadway that were developed on the same stage. Earlier this week, at Studio 54, Artistic Director **Tony Taccone** began previews for **Carrie Fisher's** *Wishful Drinking*, which officially opens on October 4. And, next month at the Lyceum, Associate Artistic Director **Les Waters** stages **Sarah Ruhl's** *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)* with his original design team and a cast led by Tony Award-winner **Laura Benanti** and Broadway veteran **Michael Cerveris**.

"This is certainly a busy and exciting time for us," **Taccone** remarks. "We are proud that the adventurous work we do at Berkeley Rep continues to attract national attention and pleased to share these shows with a wider audience. We're grateful that our community shares our commitment to develop new work and to permit artists to take creative risks. And we appreciate the trust placed in us by the many partners who made it possible to bring these shows to Broadway. I look forward to opening *Wishful Drinking* here at Studio 54, and wish Les and Sarah the best for their collaboration with Lincoln Center Theater."

During its extended run at Berkeley Rep last year, Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking* won critical acclaim, set box office records, and delighted theatregoers night after night. Then it became a *New York Times* bestseller and played for sold-out crowds on a six-city national tour. Tony Taccone made his Broadway debut in 2006 with Sarah Jones' Tony Award-winning *Bridge & Tunnel*; now he returns with another outrageous solo show. *Wishful Drinking* is playing a limited run at Studio 54, produced by **Roundabout Theatre Company** in association with **Jonathan Reinis, Jamie Cesa, Eva Price**, and Berkeley Rep. The production continues to feature scenery, lighting, and projections by local designer **Alexander V. Nichols**. It started previews on September 22, opens October 4, and is scheduled to close on January 3, 2010.

In 2007, Sarah Ruhl and Les Waters brought *Eurydice* from Berkeley Rep to an extended off-Broadway run. Then the Theatre commissioned a fresh script from the young writer, a comedy about marriage, intimacy, and electricity called *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*. The Obie Award-winning director staged its world premiere in the Roda earlier this year; now both artists enjoy their Broadway debuts when **Lincoln Center Theater** presents the show at the Lyceum. The creative team remains intact for the Broadway production with sets by **Annie Smart**, costumes by **David Zinn**, lights by **Russell H. Champa**, sound by **Bray Poor**, and original music by **Jonathan Bell**. *In the Next Room* features Laura Benanti (*Gypsy, Into the Woods, Swing!*) as Mrs. Givings and Michael Cerveris (*Assassins, Sweeney Todd, The Who's Tommy*) as Dr. Givings. **Maria Dizzia**, who portrayed the title character in *Eurydice*, reprises her role as Mrs. Daldry alongside **Thomas Jay Ryan**, who performed at Berkeley Rep last year when Waters staged the American premiere of Will Eno's *TRAGEDY: a tragedy*. The cast also showcases **Quincy Tyler Bernstine** as Elizabeth, **Wendy Rich Stetson** as Annie, and **Chandler Williams** as Leo Irving. *In the Next Room* begins previews on October 22 and opens November 19.

(MORE)

## TWO BERKELEY REP SHOWS BEGIN BROADWAY RUNS / 2 OF 2

**In the last four years, four shows have moved from Berkeley Rep to Broadway** – including *Bridge & Tunnel* (2006) and *Passing Strange* (2008) – and the Theatre has helped send **12 shows to New York in the last 12 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 Yachiyo* (1997). In fact, Berkeley Rep's devotion to creating new work has delivered 18 shows to Manhattan in the last 22 years – and the Theatre has upped the ante by promising to commission dozens of new plays by 2013.

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, 38 West Coast premieres, and four American premieres** in its history. In the last five years alone, Berkeley Rep has invested more than \$1 million in new play development. 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 – and daring initiatives such as this one – Berkeley Rep will continue to introduce inventive, intelligent, and relevant new material into the repertoire of American theatre

**Tickets for *Wishful Drinking*** range from \$31.50 to \$111.50 and are available now from the Roundabout box office at (212) 719-1300 or [roundabouttheatre.org](http://roundabouttheatre.org). Studio 54 is located at 254 West 54<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan, between Broadway and Eighth Avenue. Fisher performs Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM with Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday matinees at 2:00 PM.

**Tickets for *In the Next Room***, priced from \$46.50 to \$96.50, go on sale on October 4 at (212) 239-6200 or [telecharge.com](http://telecharge.com). The Lyceum Theater is located at 149 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan, between Broadway and Sixth Avenue. The show will be performed Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM, Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 PM, and Sundays at 3:00 PM.

**See tomorrow's plays today at Berkeley Rep.** Subscribe now for the 2009/10 Season, which features seven daring new shows: the world premiere of *American Idiot* from **Green Day** and **Michael Mayer**, the world premiere of *Girlfriend* from **Todd Almond** and **Matthew Sweet**, the world premiere of *Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West* from **Naomi Iizuka** and Les Waters, the world premiere of *The Wake* from **Lisa Kron** and **Leigh Silverman**, the West Coast premiere of *Tiny Kushner* from **Tony Kushner** and Tony Taccone, 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](http://berkeleyrep.org).

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## **WISHFUL DRINKING**

**WHO:**

Created and performed by Carrie Fisher

Directed by Tony Taccone

Designed by Alexander V. Nichols (sets/lights/projections)

Produced by Roundabout Theatre Company in association with Jonathan Reinis, Jamie Cesa, Eva Price, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre

**WHAT:** *Wishful Drinking*, the hilarious solo show from Carrie Fisher comes to Broadway

**WHERE:** Studio 54, 254 West 54<sup>th</sup> Street @ Broadway, New York, NY 10019

**WHEN:** September 22, 2009 – January 3, 2010 (opens October 4, 2009)

- Tuesday through Saturday evenings @ 8:00 PM
- Matinees on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays @ 2:00 PM

**HOW MUCH:** \$31.50 - \$111.50

**TIX & INFO:** (212) 719-1300 / [roundabouttheatre.org](http://roundabouttheatre.org)

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## ***IN THE NEXT ROOM (OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY)***

**WHO:**

Written by Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Les Waters

Designed by Annie Smart (sets), David Zinn (costumes), Russell H. Champa (lights), Bray Poor (sound), and Jonathan Bell (music)

Starring Laura Benanti, Quincy Tyler Bernstine, Michael Cerveris, Maria Dizzia, Thomas Jay Ryan, Wendy Rich Stetson, and Chandler Williams

Produced by Lincoln Center Theater

**WHAT:** *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*, the Broadway run of a comedy born in Berkeley

**WHERE:** Lyceum Theater, 149 West 45<sup>th</sup> Street @ Broadway, New York, NY 10036

**WHEN:** Begins previews on October 22, 2009 / Opens on November 19, 2009

- Tuesdays @ 7:00 PM
- Wednesdays and Saturdays @ 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM
- Thursdays and Fridays @ 8:00 PM
- Sundays @ 3:00 PM

**HOW MUCH:** \$46.50 - \$96.50

**TIX & INFO:** (212) 239-6200 / [telecharge.com](http://telecharge.com)

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