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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LES WATERS BRINGS A NEW PLAY BY A BERKELEY NATIVE TO NEW YORK

**Berkeley Rep's associate artistic director stages the premiere of Anne Washburn's *The Small***

**At Clubbed Thumb, Obie Award-winning director reunites with Tony-nominee Maria Dizzia**

JUNE 20, 2010 – Today **Les Waters**, the associate artistic director of Berkeley Repertory Theatre, launches another new play in New York. As part of Clubbed Thumb's 2010 Summerworks Festival, the Obie Award-winning director is staging the world premiere of a comedy written by a Berkeley native: *The Small* by **Anne Washburn** plays for only six performances at the Ohio Theatre in Soho. Waters previously directed the off-Broadway production of Washburn's *Apparition*.

For this show, Waters reunites with one of his favorite performers: **Maria Dizzia** played the title role in his acclaimed staging of *Eurydice* and was nominated for a Tony Award for her performance in his Broadway production of *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*. Both of those shows were penned by Sarah Ruhl and played at Berkeley Rep before making their way to Manhattan.

*The Small* also features three other artists familiar to Bay Area audiences. **Matthew Maher** portrayed Michal in Waters' popular production of *The Pillowman* at Berkeley Rep, and **Bray Poor** designed sound at the Theatre for *Eurydice*, *In the Next Room*, and the world premiere of *Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West*. **Dave Malloy**, who created the score for *Beowulf* from Banana Bag & Bodice, contributes original music to this new show as well and performs as part of the cast.

"Clubbed Thumb is a hip company, and I'm pleased to work with them – particularly because I find this script and its quirky sense of humor absolutely delightful," **Waters remarked**. "It is a pleasure to collaborate with so many new artists and to draw on my relationships with Anne, Maria, Matt, and Bray. I hope that audiences have half as much fun with this show as we have."

In *The Small*, a man struggles to assemble a reality from his dreams, the dog very much wants to be taken for a walk, and the natural food store isn't very natural at all. The show features designs by **Louisa Thompson** (scenic designer), **Chris Morris** (associate set designer), **Jane Cox** (lighting designer), and **Kirche Leigh Zeile** (costume designer). The ensemble also includes **Gideon Banner** and **Susie Pourfar**.

Summerworks 2010, Clubbed Thumb's 15<sup>th</sup> annual festival of new plays, dished up *Dot* by Kate E. Ryan and *Five Genocides* by Samuel D. Hunter. *The Small* plays at 8:00 PM on June 20, June 21, June 22, June 24, June 25, and June 26. All performances take place in the Ohio Theatre at 66 Wooster Street in Manhattan.

**Tickets** are priced at \$18 each, with a \$3 discount for students. They may be purchased by phone at (212) 352-3101 or online at [clubbedthumb.org](http://clubbedthumb.org).

(MORE)

### **ABOUT LES WATERS**

Obie Award-winner Les Waters has served as associate artistic director of Berkeley Repertory Theatre since 2003. In the last five years, his shows have ranked among the year's best in *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *Time Out New York*, *Time Magazine*, and *USA Today*. Waters has a history of collaborating with prominent playwrights like Caryl Churchill, Charles Mee, and Wallace Shawn, and champions important new voices such as Will Eno, Jordan Harrison, Sarah Ruhl, and Anne Washburn. Last fall, he made his Broadway debut with *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*, which began in Berkeley. His other productions at Berkeley Rep include the world premieres of *Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West*, *Fêtes de la Nuit*, *Finn in the Underworld*, *Girlfriend*, and *To the Lighthouse*; the American premiere of *TRAGEDY: a tragedy*; the West Coast premiere of *Eurydice*; and extended runs of *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The Pillowman*, and *Yellowman*. Waters has numerous credits in New York, his native England, and at theatres across America. He led the MFA directing program at UC San Diego and is an associate artist of The Civilians, a theatre group based in New York.

### **ABOUT ANNE WASHBURN**

Anne Washburn's work includes *Apparition*, *The Communist Dracula Pageant*, *I Have Loved Strangers*, *The Ladies*, *The Internationalist*, *Little Bunny Foo Foo*, *A Devil at Noon*, and a transadaptation of Euripides' *Orestes*. Her scripts have been produced in London at the Gate Theatre; in New York by 13P, Cherry Lane Theatre, Clubbed Thumb, The Civilians, Dixon Place, Soho Rep, and Vineyard Theater; and regionally at American Repertory Theatre in Boston, Two River Theater Company in New Jersey, and Folger Theatre and The Studio Theater in Washington, DC. Washburn is an associate artist with 13P, The Civilians, New Dramatists, and New Georges. Her work has been supported by Guggenheim, MacDowell, Yaddo, and Time Warner Storytelling Fellowships and a Bug 'n Bub Award.

### **ABOUT CLUBBED THUMB**

Clubbed Thumb commissions, develops, and produces funny, strange, and provocative new plays by living American writers. Since its founding in 1996, the company has earned four Obie Awards and presented plays in every form of development, including more than 75 full productions. Clubbed Thumb is an incubator for artists and their work, staging plays to critical acclaim while supporting an ever-growing creative community. *Funny, Strange, Provocative*, an anthology of plays produced by Clubbed Thumb, is available through Playscripts.

### **ABOUT BERKELEY REP**

Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to a national leader in innovative theatre. Known for its core values of imagination and excellence, as well as its educated and adventurous audience, the nonprofit has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. The Theatre welcomes an annual audience of 180,000, serves 20,000 students, and hosts dozens of community groups, thanks to 1,000 volunteers and more than 400 artists, artisans, and administrators. With two stages, a school, and a Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, Berkeley Rep is proud to premiere exhilarating new plays. In the last five years alone, the company has helped send five shows to Broadway: *American Idiot*, *Bridge & Tunnel*, *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*, *Passing Strange*, and *Wishful Drinking*. Come see tomorrow's plays today at Berkeley Rep.

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***THE SMALL***  
FACT SHEET

WHO:           Written by Anne Washburn  
                  Directed by Les Waters  
                  Designed by Louisa Thompson (scenic designer), Chris Morris (associate set  
                  designer), Jane Cox (lighting designer), Kirche Leigh Zeile (costume designer),  
                  and Dave Malloy (original music)  
                  Starring Gideon Banner, Maria Dizzia, Matthew Maher, Dave Malloy, and  
                  Susie Pourfar

WHAT:         *The Small*, a new comedy written by a Berkeley native presented as part of  
                  Clubbed Thumb's Summerworks Festival

WHERE:        The Ohio Theatre / 66 Wooster St / New York, NY 10012

WHEN:         June 20 - 26, 2010 @ 8:00 PM (no performance on Wednesday, June 23)

HOW MUCH:    \$18 / \$15 for students

TIX & INFO:   (212) 352-3101 / [clubbedthumb.org](http://clubbedthumb.org)

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