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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LES WATERS BIDS BERKELEY REP ADIEU WITH FEVERISH PRODUCTION OF *RED*

**Obie-winning director and two exceptional actors
take on sizzling script that won the Tony Award for Best Play**

FEBRUARY 6, 2012 – Paint it *Red*! The passionate play that swept Broadway comes to Berkeley Repertory Theatre in March, staged as a valedictory by Obie Award-winner **Les Waters** as he departs the Bay Area to take the reins at Actors Theatre of Louisville. **John Logan**, the Oscar-nominated author of *Aviator* and *Gladiator*, won Tony and Drama Desk Awards for this feverish 90-minute drama. Now Waters and two exceptional actors bring this powerful play to local audiences. *Red* begins previews on the intimate Thrust Stage on **March 16**, opens **March 22**, and runs through **April 29**.

“John’s script for *Red* is expressive, taut, intense,” **Waters remarks**, “and the stage is set simply – for a tour de force by only two actors. *Red* immerses us in art, color, and questions. It’s a play about work, about mentoring, about the intersection of art and commerce. It’s a play about the ecstasy of creation and the inevitability of death. It’s a play about craft. I’m looking forward to collaborating with this superb team of performers and designers, and can’t wait to share the results with everyone in the Bay Area who provided me with a perfect artistic home over the last eight years.”

At the height of his fame, Mark Rothko struggles in his studio to finish a major series of murals. The brilliant master wrestles with his new apprentice in a battle of wits over a bucket of paint. Logan’s sizzling script spans the spectrum of human emotion. From grief and fury to joy and hope, it’s all covered in *Red*.

“Logan sends American abstract impressionist painter Mark Rothko into battle with his demons in this electrifying play of ideas, and the artist’s howls are pure music,” **Variety** raves. “Logan’s intense and exciting two-character bio-drama [is] a master class of questions and answers,” adds the **New York Times**. “What we see, above all, is an artist seeing, and it’s impossible not to feel thrilled by the privilege.”

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RECIPIENT OF THE TONY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING REGIONAL THEATRE

The executive producer of *Red* is the Strauch Kulhanjian Family, and the show's co-sponsor is Genstar Capital. For the seventh straight year, BART and Wells Fargo are official sponsors of Berkeley Rep's season. The season producers are Wayne Jordan and Quinn Delaney, Marjorie Randolph, and Jack and Betty Schafer.

John Logan received the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Drama League Awards for *Red*. It premiered at the Donmar Warehouse in London and played at the Golden Theatre on Broadway, where it won five other Tony Awards as well. Logan is the author of more than a dozen plays, including *Hauptmann* and *Never the Sinner*. His adaptation of Ibsen's *The Master Builder* premiered on the West End in 2003. As a screenwriter, Logan had three movies released in 2011: *Coriolanus*, *Hugo*, and *Rango*. His previous film work includes *Any Given Sunday*, *The Aviator* (Oscar, Golden Globe, British Academy of Film and Television Arts, and Writers Guild of America nominations), *Gladiator* (Oscar, Golden Globe, BAFTA, and WGA nominations), *The Last Samurai*, *RKO 281* (WGA award and Emmy nomination), and *Sweeney Todd* (Golden Globe Award).

Les Waters served as associate artistic director of Berkeley Rep for eight years. During that time, his shows ranked among the year's best in *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *Time Out New York*, *Time Magazine*, and *USA Today*. Now he has taken over as artistic director of the renowned Actors Theatre of Louisville. 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. In 2009, Waters made his Broadway debut with *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*, which began in Berkeley. His other productions at Berkeley Rep included 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 premieres of Ruhl's *Eurydice* and *Three Sisters*; and extended runs of *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The Pillowman*, and *Yellowman*. Waters also has numerous credits in New York, his native England, and at theatres across America.

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Two extraordinary actors paint each other into a corner at every performance of *Red*. **David Chandler** (Mark Rothko) previously performed at Berkeley Rep in Waters' production of *Heartbreak House*. His Broadway credits include *American Clock*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Lost in Yonkers*, and he was seen in *A Question of Mercy* at London's Bush Theatre. He also appears frequently on film and television, at regional theatres, and at prestigious off-Broadway venues such as La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, MCC Theater, New York Shakespeare Festival, New York Theatre Workshop, Playwrights Horizons, and Second Stage Theatre. **John Brummer** (Ken) is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina's MFA program. He was a company member at PlayMakers Repertory Company where he played Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and George in *All My Sons*, among many other roles.

Four talented designers have pulled out their palates to work on *Red*: **Louisa Thompson** (scenic design), **Anna Oliver** (costume design), **Alexander V. Nichols** (lighting design), and **Bray Poor** (sound design). The stage manager for this show is **Michael Suenkel**, Berkeley Rep's resident production stage manager.

During the run of *Red*, audiences can color their experience with **32 special events**:

- *Low-cost previews* take place on Friday, March 16; Saturday, March 17; Sunday, March 18; and Tuesday, March 20.
- *Teen Night* begins at 6:30 PM on Friday, March 16 and includes a presentation by a member of the artistic team, dinner provided by Phil's Sliders, and a performance of the show. Tickets are only \$10 for high-school students. For details, call (510) 647-2973 or e-mail teencouncil@berkeleyrep.org.
- *Opening-night festivities* are held on Thursday, March 22 with the generous support of Bistro Liaison, the Hotel Shattuck Plaza, Raymond Vineyards, and TCHO.
- Free 30-minute *docent presentations* about the show take place at 7:00 PM on the following Tuesday and Thursday evenings: March 20, March 27, March 29, April 3, April 5, April 10, April 12, April 17, April 19, April 24, and April 26. Docent talks are also held in three local communities: at the Orinda Library on Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 PM, at the Moraga Library on Wednesday, March 29 at 2:00 PM, and at the Lafayette Library on Wednesday, April 4 at 7:00 PM.

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- *Post-play discussions* moderated by theatre professionals follow the 8:00 PM shows on Thursday, April 5; Tuesday, April 10; and Friday, April 20.
- A *student matinee* for high-school groups is held at noon on Thursday, April 19. Tickets are \$10 each, and a chaperone is admitted free for every 10 students. For details, call (510) 647-2918 or e-mail groups@berkeleyrep.org.
- And, on select evenings, patrons can whet their palates for the play with *free tastings* from these culinary artisans one hour before curtain: the Berkeley Ecology Center on Sunday, March 25; the Bread Workshop on Saturday, March 31; Dr. Kracker on Friday, April 6; Ladera Winery on Saturday, April 28; Peterson Winery on Friday, March 30; Raymond Vineyards on Friday, March 23; Semifreddi's on Sunday, April 1; and Urbano Cellars on Friday, April 13.

In the last six years, six shows developed at Berkeley Rep have ended up on Broadway. Seven more landed off Broadway, two turned into films, and others have toured the nation. So don't miss the **latest season of exhilarating plays** at the Theatre. There's still time to see the world-premiere production of *Ghost Light*, written by Tony Taccone and directed by Jonathan Moscone. Then Steven Epp – the star of *Figaro* and *The Miser* – returns to unleash another Molière masterpiece with *A Doctor in Spite of Himself*, and Dael Orlandersmith delivers a fierce and unforgettable performance in the world premiere of *Black n Blue Boys / Broken Men*. To top it off, Berkeley Rep is offering a special presentation of *In Paris*, a beautiful romance starring Mikhail Baryshnikov, and the world premiere of Eve Ensler's *Emotional Creature*.

Get the best seats for all these shows at the lowest prices by subscribing to Berkeley Rep.

Choose three or more plays and guarantee your seats for events that are sure to sell out. Ticket packages begin as low as \$81, meaning subscribers can save as much as 26% on every ticket. Berkeley Rep also offers generous discounts for senior citizens, theatregoers under 30, and employees of nursery, elementary, and secondary schools. Subscriptions are selling fast because of last season's string of hits – so order now for the best seats.

Individual tickets to *Red* and other shows in the season **start at only \$29**. Additional savings are available for groups, seniors, students, and anyone under 30 years of age – meaning **discounted tickets** can be obtained for as little as \$14.50.

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Red means go – to the Theatre! The Thrust Stage is located at 2025 Addison Street, only half a block from BART and near bus lines, bike routes, and parking lots. **For tickets or information,** call (510) 647-2949 or simply click berkeleyrep.org.

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. 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 six years, the company has helped send six shows to Broadway. Seven more landed off Broadway, one moved to London, two turned into films, and others have toured the nation. Come see tomorrow's plays today at Berkeley Rep.

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RED – Fact Sheet

- WHO:** Written by John Logan
 Directed by Les Waters
 Designed by Louisa Thompson (sets), Anna Oliver (costumes), Alexander V. Nichols (lights), and Bray Poor (sound)
 Starring David Chandler (Mark Rothko) and John Brummer (Ken)
- WHAT:** *Red* – Obie Award-winning director Les Waters and two exceptional actors take on the feverish script that won the Tony Award for Best Play
- WHERE:** Berkeley Repertory Theatre
 Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Berkeley, CA 94704
- WHEN:** **March 16 – April 29, 2012**
- Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays @ 8:00 PM
 - Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM
 - Saturdays @ 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM
 - Sundays @ 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

 - Special 2:00 PM matinees on Thursdays 3/29 and 4/26
 - No matinees on 3/17, 3/18, or 3/31
 - No performance on 4/27

SUN	MON	TUE ■	WED	THU ■	FRI	SAT
					16 MAR 8 P ■ TN	17 8 P ■
18 7 P ■	19	20 8 P ■	21 8	22 8 P ■	23 8 P ■	24 2/8 P ■
25 2/7 P ■	26	27 8	28 7	29 2/8	30 8 P ■	31 8 P ■
1 APR 2/7 P ■	2	3 8	4 7	5 8 P ■	6 8 P ■	7 2/8 P ■
8 2/7 P ■	9	10 8 P ■	11 7	12 8	13 8 P ■	14 2/8 P ■
15 2/7 P ■	16	17 8	18 7	19 8	20 8 P ■	21 2/8 P ■
22 2/7 P ■	23	24 8	25 7	26 2/8	27	28 2/8 P ■
29 2/7 P ■						

- P PREVIEW
- TN TEEN NIGHT
- OPENING NIGHT
- POST-SHOW DISCUSSION
- T TASTING
- DOCENT PRESENTATIONS EVERY TUE & THU 7PM

Special Events:

Low-cost previews: Friday 3/16, Saturday 3/17 & Tuesday 3/20 @ 8:00 PM and Sunday 3/18 @ 7:00 PM

Teen night: Friday 3/16 @ 6:30 PM

Opening night: Thursday 3/22 @ 8:00 PM

Pre-show docent talks: Tuesdays 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17 & 4/24 and Thursdays 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19 & 4/26 @ 7:00 PM

Post-play discussions: Thursday 4/5, Tuesday 4/10, and Friday 4/20 @ 8:00 PM

Student matinee: Thursday 4/19 @ noon

Tastings: Fridays 3/23 (Raymond Vineyards), 3/30 (Peterson Winery), 4/6 (Dr. Kracker) & 4/13 (Urbano Cellars) @ 7:00 PM; Saturday 3/31 (The Bread Workshop) & 4/28 (Ladera Winery) @ 7:00 PM; and Sundays 3/25 (Berkeley Ecology Center) & 4/1 (Semifreddi's) @ 6:00 PM

HOW MUCH: \$14.50 - \$83 (subject to change)

- Discounts:
- Half-price tickets available for anyone under 30 years of age
 - \$10 discount for students and seniors one hour before curtain
 - Groups of 10 or more, contact (510) 647-2918 or groups@berkeleyrep.org

PHOTOS: <http://www.berkeleyrep.org/press/photos-12re.asp>

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