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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## TOP ARTISTS TEACH AT BERKELEY REP IN THEATRE SCHOOL'S 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

**Fall session includes classes with Bill Cain, Jonathan Moscone, Tony Taccone, and more**

AUGUST 18, 2011 – The *San Francisco Chronicle* proclaimed that “the rise of Berkeley Repertory Theatre” is the theatre story of the decade – yet the string of hits the nonprofit sends to Broadway and beyond is only part of the picture. Berkeley Rep’s School of Theatre is **celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary** with an incredible line-up of activities that includes access to some of the nation’s top artists.

“As always, the School offers something for everyone – **children, teens, adults, and seniors**,” says Rachel Fink, director of the School of Theatre since 2001. “We’re celebrating this milestone by supplementing our terrific faculty of trained teaching artists with special guests who are sharing their professional experience with local theatre lovers. Whether you’re a beginner or a seasoned performer, you can try out our courses at the **free Sunday Sampler** that starts at 1:00 PM on September 11.”

Classes in the fall session illustrate how the School’s activities intricately connect to the innovative work seen on Berkeley Rep’s stage. For example, even as legendary actress **Rita Moreno** tells her life story in the Roda Theatre, students in grades 7-10 can immerse themselves in her most popular show with a performance class focused on *West Side Story*. Or aspiring authors can work on their scripts in an Advanced Playwriting workshop with award-winning writer **Bill Cain** when he comes to Berkeley Rep for the premiere of his new play.

And, as they collaborate on a new show, the leaders of two prominent local theatres team up to teach classes too. **Jonathan Moscone** of California Shakespeare Theater guides an Acting Workshop for Professional Actors and a seminar in Directing, and his collaborator on *Ghost Light*, Berkeley Rep’s **Tony Taccone**, visits to answer students’ questions and offer feedback. To top it off, other members of the Theatre’s artistic staff share their expertise this fall as well: Casting Director **Amy Potozkin** leads a crash course in Audition Prep and Literary Manager **Madeleine Oldham** teaches Dramaturgy. And that’s just the tip of the iceberg...

The **10-week fall session**, which begins on September 19, features the following fun activities:

- **Classes for kids** (preschool through grade 5) include Acting Up: Make 'em Laugh, Make 'em Cry; The Story Feast: For Brave Knights & Brave Princesses; Superheroes; and a performance workshop focused on *The Little Mermaid*.
- **Classes for middle-schoolers** (grades 6 through 9) include two performance workshops – Glee Club: Halloween Edition and Musical Theatre: *West Side Story* – as well as private voice lessons.
- **Classes for teens** (grades 9-12) include Lighting Design, Physical Comedy/Improvisation, The Play’s the Thing, and two performance ensembles: *Pygmalion* and *West Side Story*. The session also features two certification classes in stage combat entitled Acting Violence: Level 1 Broadsword and Acting Violence: Level 1 Quarterstaff. Teens can arrange private voice lessons or one-on-one audition coaching too.

(MORE)

RECIPIENT OF THE TONY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING REGIONAL THEATRE

TOP ARTISTS TEACH AT BERKELEY REP / 2 OF 2

- **Performance classes for adults** include Acting (beginning through advanced), Acting Shakespeare (intermediate/advanced), Acting Violence: Level 1 Broadsword, Acting Violence: Level 1 Quarterstaff, Acting Workshop for Professional Actors, Audition Prep, Burlesque Theatre, Improvisation (beginning and intermediate), Improvisation Performance Lab, and Physical Comedy: What's So Funny? One-on-one audition coaching is available as well.
- **Other classes for adults** include Alexander Technique, Directing, Dramaturgy, Playwriting, Say What You Mean: Voice in the Professional World, and Scene Study with Emphasis on British Dialects.
- Finally, a special **storytelling class for seniors** called Fact Creates Fiction: Finding the Form is offered with accomplished local actor Robert Ernst.

The **Berkeley Rep School of Theatre** is committed to working with local schools and community members to reinforce arts education as a community value and an integral part of the cultural fabric. By providing access and opportunities for participation in the arts, Berkeley Rep uses theatre as a means to challenge, thrill, and galvanize what is best in the human spirit. Major support for the School of Theatre's education programs is provided by Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, and Target Corporation.

**For more information** about classes at Berkeley Rep – or affordable outreach programs for local schools – call (510) 647-2972, e-mail [school@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:school@berkeleyrep.org), or visit [berkeleyrep.org/school](http://berkeleyrep.org/school). Courses in the fall session are offered at Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre, next door to the Thrust Stage at 2071 Addison Street in downtown Berkeley, or at Berkeley Rep's new campus located at 999 Harrison Street in West Berkeley.

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**ATTENTION, CALENDAR EDITORS:**

WHO: Theatre lovers of all ages – from beginners to professionals  
WHAT: **Free Sunday Sampler** – try out our classes for free!  
WHERE: Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre, 2071 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Berkeley, CA  
WHEN: Sunday, September 11, 2011, 1:00 - 3:00 PM  
HOW MUCH: Free!  
INFO: (510) 647-2972 / [berkeleyrep.org/school](http://berkeleyrep.org/school) / [school@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:school@berkeleyrep.org)

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WHO: Theatre lovers of all ages – from beginners to professionals  
WHAT: **Fall session** featuring 32 different classes for children and adults  
WHERE: Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre, 2071 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Berkeley, CA or Berkeley Rep's West Campus, 999 Harrison St @ 9<sup>th</sup>, Berkeley, CA  
WHEN: Starting September 19, 2011  
HOW MUCH: Varies by class; scholarships available  
INFO: (510) 647-2972 / [berkeleyrep.org/school](http://berkeleyrep.org/school) / [school@berkeleyrep.org](mailto:school@berkeleyrep.org)

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