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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE PLAY'S THE THING FOR SPRING AT BERKELEY REP'S SCHOOL OF THEATRE

### Nonprofit's education arm provides platform for sparring, speech, and courtship

FEBRUARY 15, 2013 – At Berkeley Repertory Theatre, acclaimed director Mark Wing-Davey presents his new take on Shakespeare's *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* to audiences this spring. Just next door, the nonprofit's School of Theatre gives local drama enthusiasts the chance to take on the Bard too – along with Pinter, new performance techniques, and even romance. Under the guidance of Bay Area arts professionals, the School has **40 exciting classes** for people of all ages, from beginners to seasoned performers – and everyone is invited to preview the spring fare at a **free Sunday Sampler** at 1:00 PM on March 17.

"The excellent dramatic writing for which Berkeley Rep is known is appearing both onstage and in the classroom this spring," says **Rachel Fink**, director of the School of Theatre. "Young students will enjoy exploring Middle Eastern mythology, while teens tackle Medusa and musical theatre. Our production of *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* aligns with two exciting new courses on Shakespeare – a teen scene study course, and a workshop for singles that tackles the best of his love scenes. Add an audition prep class from Berkeley Rep's Casting Director **Amy Potozkin**, and it's set to be another thrilling season at the School of Theatre."

The **10-week spring session**, which begins on April 1, features the following activities:

- **Classes for kids** (preschool through grade 6) include Circus Skills, Fairy Tales & Adventures, Middle Eastern Mythology, and Time Machine. Students can also choose between two performance workshops based on either Potter Plays or *The Wizard of Oz*.
- **Classes for middle-schoolers** (grades 6 through 9) include Improvisation and a choice of performance workshops – based on either selections from *High School Musical* or an original adaptation of *Medusa* by local playwright **Krista Knight** – as well as private voice lessons.
- **Classes for teens** (grades 9-12) include Acting Violence (Single Rapier Certification), Improvisation, On-Camera Acting, and two performance workshops, based on Shakespeare and selections from *The Sound of Music*, respectively. Teens can also arrange private voice lessons or one-on-one audition coaching.
- **Performance classes for adults** include Acting (beginning and intermediate), Acting Shakespeare, On-Camera and Voice-over Acting, as well as Playing Comedy. A focused performance course covers the plays of Harold Pinter, while the new daytime Spring Training class provides professional-level intensive exposure to a wide variety of training methods. The session also includes Improvisation (beginning and intermediate), Improv for Business Professionals, Improv for Mental Health Professionals, Improvisation Performance Lab, and Your Brain on Improv.
- **Movement and physical theatre classes for adults** include Acting Violence (Single Rapier Certification), Alexander Technique, Contact Improv (Fundamentals and Flight School), and Feldenkrais Method.

(MORE)

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- **Other classes for adults** include Adaptation, Audition Prep, British Dialects, Performance Workshop: Rodgers & Hart, Playwriting, Say What You Mean: Voice in the Professional World, Shakespeare for Singles, and Voice. One-on-one audition coaching and private voice lessons are available as well.

In addition to theatre training for individuals, 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 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). The School is also on social media: visit [twitter.com/berkrepschool](http://twitter.com/berkrepschool) or follow @BerkRepSchool. Courses in the spring session are offered in two downtown Berkeley locations: Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre, next door to the Thrust Stage at 2071 Addison Street and at Berkeley Rep's Osher Studio at 2055 Center Street in downtown Berkeley. Financial aid is available for youth and teens.

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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, March 17, 2013, 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: **Spring session** featuring 40 classes for children, teens, adults, and seniors  
WHERE: Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre, 2071 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Berkeley, CA, or Berkeley Rep's Osher Studio, 2055 Center Street @ Shattuck, Berkeley, CA  
WHEN: Starting April 1, 2013  
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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