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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**BERKELEY REP ANNOUNCES RECORD-BREAKING SUBSCRIBERSHIP****Nonprofit closes out 2013 with more subscribers and students, plus federal grant**

December 23, 2013 – Having successfully opened its first three shows of the season to wildly enthusiastic crowds and great acclaim, [Berkeley Repertory Theatre](#) will conclude 2013 with a number of successes. The Theatre is proud to announce that **it reached an all-time record-breaking subscription enrollment for its 2013-14 season**, making it a stellar year of growth for the organization. Other accomplishments include **a surge in student enrollment at the [Berkeley Rep School of Theatre](#) and a \$75,000 grant award from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).**

Season after season, Berkeley Rep continues to present some of the most groundbreaking and top-notch productions in the Bay Area, drawing 200,000 theatregoers to its Roda and Thrust stages. In fact, for the 2013-14 season more than 18,300 individuals – **a 29 percent increase from last season** – have committed to the Theatre’s presentation of provocative, relevant, and adventurous theatre as members of its subscription base.

The Theatre’s upsurge in subscribers can be attributed in part to a string of acclaimed productions from the past two seasons like the hugely popular *Chinglish* and encore presentation of Kneehigh’s *The Wild Bride*. Other shows including August’s sold-out, pre-Broadway run of *No Man’s Land* with legendary actors Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart played a pivotal role as well.

“We’re elated with the growth of our subscriber base. Their commitment to the Theatre is proof that they believe in the compelling work that we continually strive to present,” says **Susan Medak**, Berkeley Rep’s managing director. “We welcome our new subscribers and those who have renewed for another year. We have an electrifying season ahead, and we’re delighted to have the support of Bay Area theatregoers.”

In lockstep with the rise in the Theatre’s subscribership, the nonprofit’s School of Theatre, which offers a rich and vast educational catalog, has also seen the popularity of its classes soar. According to the School’s Director Rachel Fink, **enrollment rose 10 percent**, raising the number of students enrolled at the School to nearly 400.

“Enrollment has steadily been on the rise, reaching an all-time high this fall,” remarks Fink. “We’ve seen a high rate of returning students and new students who are responding to the increase in more diverse classes and a greater interest in active learning. It’s thrilling to see all the new faces and the community responding to our extensive catalog of programming.”

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RECIPIENT OF THE TONY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING REGIONAL THEATRE

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Since the School opened its doors back in 2001, it has served over 220,000 people, collaborated with 425 professional teaching artists, led workshops in 2,583 classrooms in nine counties in the Bay Area, produced nearly 100 original plays created by youth and teen students, and mentored 191 young professionals through its Fellowship program. Its winter session, which offers a wide variety of programming for adults, teens, and youth, starts January 6, 2014.

Even with two acclaimed shows – [*The Pianist of Willesden Lane*](#) and [*Tristan & Yseult*](#) – currently playing extended runs, the Theatre ends the calendar year perfectly poised to stage another stellar production. The NEA recently awarded the Theatre with a prestigious \$75,000 grant designated to support the production of its newest world premiere, [*The House that will not Stand*](#), a gripping historical drama commissioned from award-winning poet-playwright and Oakland native Marcus Gardley. The play was developed through [The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work](#). *The House that will not Stand* unearths a story about free women of color in 1836 New Orleans, where black Creole women entered into common-law marriages with wealthy white men. It begins previews on Berkeley Rep's intimate Thrust Stage on Friday, January 31, opens on Wednesday, February 5, and runs through Sunday, March 16, 2014.

The 2013-14 season continues with a compelling collection of plays. In January the Theatre welcomes back legendary performer Mikhail Baryshnikov to star in [*Man in a Case*](#), a collaboration with the Obie Award-winning Big Dance Theater based on two of Anton Chekhov's short stories. In March Steven Epp and Christopher Bayes reunite for a criminally funny take on Dario Fo's [*Accidental Death of an Anarchist*](#). Then in April Jonathan Moscone directs an emotional production of Nina Raine's [*Tribes*](#). The season concludes in May when Michael Leibert Artistic Director Tony Taccone teams up with longtime collaborator Tony Kushner for the West Coast premiere of an epic play called [*The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*](#). The 2013-14 season is supported by BART and Wells Fargo, who have generously renewed their commitment as Berkeley Rep's official season sponsors. Berkeley Rep is also proud to have the *San Francisco Chronicle/SFGate* as a second-year season sponsor.

ABOUT BERKELEY REP

Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to an international 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. In four decades, four million people have enjoyed more than 300 shows at Berkeley Rep. These shows have gone on to win five Tony Awards, seven Obie Awards, nine Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, and many other honors. In recognition of its place on the national stage, Berkeley Rep received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997. Its bustling facilities – the 600-seat Roda Theatre, the 400-seat Thrust Stage, the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, the Osher Studio, and a spacious new campus in West Berkeley – are helping revitalize a renowned city.

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