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**BERKELEY REP SCHOOL OF THEATRE
PROVIDES FREE ARTS EDUCATION TO LOCAL SCHOOLS**

Outreach to the nine-county Bay Area helps schools meet state education standards

September 10, 2013—Berkeley Repertory Theatre is committed to providing access and opportunities for participation in the arts to educate, inspire, and empower. Through its extensive Outreach program, the [Berkeley Rep School of Theatre](#) offers a wide range of free and low-cost theatre-based workshops to Bay Area schools from September 2013 through May 2014. With the help of highly qualified teaching artists — many of whom work as actors and theatre artists — students learn acting, storytelling, playwriting, improv, and stage combat and valuable life skills such as communication, problem solving, collaboration, and creative expression. The workshops cover multiple California content standards and are aligned with the Common Core. The first hour is free for any public school in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties (pending staff availability) with additional sessions ranging from \$55 to \$75 an hour for up to 30 students.

“Now more than ever the School of Theatre’s Outreach program is critical to providing arts education to schools in need throughout the Bay Area,” says Rachel Fink, director of the School of Theatre. “We’ve seen a tremendous response to the program since its inception, particularly from our local school partners who witness firsthand the cumulative impact of deep arts engagement on their students. We’re looking forward to deepening those relationships and building new partnerships while providing youth with the tools to succeed through the arts.”

The workshops are offered in one-, three- or 10-hour increments. While the first hour for public schools is free, additional one-hour workshops can be arranged for \$75 (\$60 if paid by the teacher out of pocket). Additional three-hour workshops cost \$60 per hour (\$55 per hour if paid by the teacher out of pocket). Ten-hour sessions cost \$55 per hour. Title I schools only pay \$55 per hour for any workshop; the rate for private schools is \$75 per hour.

A wide range of Outreach programs is now available:

- **Story Builders (Grades K-5)** Bring a story to life! Using sound, movement, dialogue, and improvisation, students turn the classroom into a living theatre, becoming characters in a story chosen from our reading list. This workshop introduces students to theatre and helps develop literacy and communication skills in an artistic environment. Story Builders is available as a one-, three- or 10-hour workshop, with the option of a bilingual program for Spanish-speaking ELL students.
- **Acting (Grades 6-12)** In this engaging workshop students learn to express themselves while venturing into the dynamic world of acting. Using improvisation exercises and scene work, students are introduced to the elements of dramatic action, text analysis, and character development.

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- **Creating Character (Grades 6-12)** How does an actor bring someone to life on stage? In individual and group character-development exercises, participants delve into the mind and body of a fully dimensional being -- either imaginary or a real contemporary or historical figure -- and learn to move, think, and speak like the character.
- **Improvisation (Grades 6-12)** Discover spontaneity through Improvisation. Using a series of theatre games, listening exercises, improvisations, and narrative scenes, students learn to communicate effectively and trust their impulses.
- **Performance Lab (Grades 6-12)** Performance Lab is a program in which middle and high school students create plays that are rooted in a particular topic or theme as identified by the classroom teacher, such as a required novel, a historical period, or a theme inspired by one of Berkeley Rep's productions. Through interactive exercises, students are taught practical theatre skills such as acting, script analysis, and character development. Berkeley Rep's Teaching Artists will modify curriculum based on students' grade, level of experience, and teacher feedback.
- **Playwriting (Grades 6-12)** In Playwriting, students create short texts inspired by a particular classroom topic or theme, such as ancient civilizations or contemporary literature, as identified by the classroom teacher. Through individual writing and interactive theatre exercises, students will explore main events, given circumstances, over-arching themes, character development, obstacles, and motivations as they work toward developing a basic script.
- **Shakespeare (Grades 6-12)** Engage your students with the classic works of Shakespeare through interactive exercises. This workshop introduces students to the playwright's world, language, and plays. Examine the connection between the stories of Shakespeare's plays, the world in which he lived, and present day.
- **Stage Combat (Grades 6-12)** Stage Combat is an engaging and physical workshop in which students discover the art of creating the illusion of violence. Stressing safety and teamwork, students explore techniques including falls, ear pulls, tripping, and slaps, as well as how to use stage combat as a storytelling technique. Students learn a choreographed fight and create a scene that puts the fight in context, using partner exercises to create the illusion of violence.
- **Backstage Tour (Grades 4-12)** Go behind the scenes at a Tony Award-winning theatre. Students get up close and personal with the working life of a professional theatre and experience the real-world context of class curriculum. Get a taste for how shows are created, from rehearsal to costume shop, backstage to balcony. Learn about career opportunities in the performing arts and meet theatre professionals.

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 Target. **For more information** or to schedule a workshop, please call (510) 647-2972, e-mail outreach@berkeleyrep.org, or visit berkeleyrep.org/outreach.

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