

PRESS CONTACT

Billy McEntee, Marketing and Communications Fellow
(510) 647-2912, wmcentee@berkeleyrep.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**13TH ANNUAL TEEN ONE-ACTS FESTIVAL COMES TO BERKELEY REP****School of Theatre will produce two original plays written by local teenagers**

February 2, 2015 – Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre is proud to announce its selection of two original works for its **13th Annual Teen One-Acts Festival**. This year's two chosen plays are ***A Little Bit Less Than Infinity*** by **David Kaus**, a senior at Berkeley High School, and ***Blast Razor: Viral Hero*** by **Eli Gaal**, a junior at Berkeley High School. ***A Little Bit Less Than Infinity*** will be directed by **Anna Talajkowski**, a senior at Castro Valley High School, and ***Blast Razor: Viral Hero*** will be directed by **Chloe Xtina**, a sophomore at Oakland School of the Arts.

The two shows' descriptions have been announced, giving a preview of the young playwrights' works:

- David Kaus' *A Little Bit Less Than Infinity* tells the story of Sam, a high school dancer who sustains a spinal cord injury after an accident. While his teenage life keeps moving, his family worries that he's not processing this life change. In Kaus' quietly poignant and clever play, Sam must discover how to move forward on his own terms.
- 3...2...1...blast off! Blast Razor is determined to defeat an evil supervillain controlling the Internet Superhighway and become a household name alongside his heroes. Paired with a spunky political rebel, he strives to bring peace to the galaxy and reach levels of fame the likes of which he'd only dreamed. *Blast Razor: Viral Hero*, Eli Gaal's zany, tongue-in-cheek play, humorously pays homage to comic book adventures while exploring our modern-day quest to go viral.

The Teen One-Acts Festival gives local teenagers a chance to experience a professional theatrical process, from writing and editing a script to rehearsing the show through its production. Alongside Berkeley Rep staff, the teens are mentored through each step of the process, giving them the tools to collectively transform their ideas into a finished product. The two plays will receive their world premieres **March 27-29, 2015 in Berkeley Rep's Osher Studio at Berkeley Central**.

Thirteen local teens from various high schools in the East Bay will act in this year's Teen One-Act's Festival.

- The cast of *A Little Bit Less Than Infinity* includes Envision Academy's **Michael Letang** as Sam, Oakland School for the Arts' **Ella Zalon** as Lea, Realm Charter High School's **Shauntel Hayes** as Mom, Oakland School for the Arts' **Abram Blitz** as Hayden/Doctor, and Berkeley High School's **Maddy Pauker** as Nurse.
- The ensemble cast of *Blast Razor: Viral Hero* includes Berkeley High School's **Jet Harper**, **Genevieve Saldanha**, and **Alexander Paganos**; Miramonte High School's **Dylan McCombs**; Albany High School's **Lucy Curran** and **Kamila Kaminska** and Oakland School for the Arts' **Maya Simon**.

(MORE)

RECIPIENT OF THE TONY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING REGIONAL THEATRE

In addition to the cast, twelve local students will make up the Festival's creative team. These students will work behind the scenes to design and stage the shows led by Oakland School for the Arts' **Eleanor Maples** who will be this festival's producer.

- The creative team for *A Little Bit Less Than Infinity* includes Oakland School for the Arts' **Evan Streshinsky** (scenic designer) and Berkeley High School's **Sebastian Gallegos** (costume designer), **Asé Bakari** (lighting designer), **Eli Miller-Leonard** (sound designer), and **Devin Elias** (stage manager).
- The creative team for *Blast Razor: Viral Hero* includes Saint Mary's **Richard Fong** (scenic designer); **Emma T. Capps** (costume designer) who is homeschooled; Berkeley High School's **Samuel Rao** (lighting designer), **Rocko Bauman** (sound designer), and **Bridey Bethards** (stage manager), and French American International School's **Julien Sat-Vollhardt** (paints).

Under the direction of the School of Theatre, teens are paired with mentors from Berkeley Rep's esteemed fellowship program. Fellows work closely with teens in the areas of production, design, and administration to help them realize a fully staged play.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and go on sale on February 16. They may be purchased by calling 510-647-2912 or at berkeleyrep.org/teenoneacts.

The School of Theatre was founded in 2001 and has produced these original works since 2003. In that time 26 original works have been staged, including one short film. Some notable alumni include **Lauren Yee** (*Ching Chong Chinaman*, *Samsara*, and *The Tiger Among Us*), **Katie Henry** (winner of Young Playwrights Inc.'s National Playwriting Contest), and **Roxie Perkins** (recipient of Dr. Floyd Gaffney National Playwriting Award).

The **Berkeley Rep Teen Council** is a theatre youth group organized by teens for teens. Its goal is to foster the next generation of theatre audiences and theatre professionals through a variety of interactive programs. Currently, the Council has more than 300 members, including youth from numerous local high schools. For more information, call (510) 647-2984, visit berkeleyrep.org/teencouncil, or e-mail teencouncil@berkeleyrep.org.

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. 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 and the Woodlawn Foundation.

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 nearly 400 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 – which include the 400-seat Thrust Stage, the 600-seat Roda Theatre, the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, the Osher Studio, and a spacious new campus in West Berkeley – are helping revitalize a renowned city. Learn more at berkeleyrep.org.

###

FACT SHEET

13th Annual Teen One-Acts Festival

WHO: General public

WHAT: 13th Annual Teen One-Acts Festival – world premiere performances of two original plays written, performed, directed, and staged by Bay Area teens

WHERE: Osher Studio at Berkeley Central, 2055 Center Street @ Shattuck, Berkeley, CA 94704

WHEN: March 27 @ 8pm, March 28 @ 8pm, and March 29 @ 2pm

HOW MUCH: \$10 for students (18 and under with ID); \$15 for adults. Tickets go on sale on February 16. Call 510-647-2912 or visit berkeleyrep.org/teenoneacts to preorder tickets, or they may be purchased on the day of the event.

INFO: (510) 647-2984, teencouncil@berkeleyrep.org or berkeleyrep.org/teenoneacts

###