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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BERKELEY REP AWARDS FELLOWSHIPS TO 15 YOUNG  
ADMINISTRATORS AND ARTISANS**

**Nonprofit's prestigious program trains next generation of theatre professionals**

**September 4, 2014** – Today [Berkeley Repertory Theatre](#) announces that 15 young professionals – including **four California natives** – have been awarded fellowships for the 2014-15 season. Each year, the brightest and best young minds from across the country are selected through a rigorous application process to take part in [Berkeley Rep's Fellowship](#) program. This prestigious training program provides hands-on practical experience with educational seminars that offer insight into the operation and inner workings of an award-winning theatre.

"We have a fantastic season ahead and we're thrilled to have this group of very talented young people here to participate and collaborate in making great theatre," says **Susan Medak**, the Theatre's managing director. "Berkeley Rep's fellows represent the future of our vibrant industry. We take our commitment to providing them the best learning environment very seriously and we can't wait to see how they flourish as the year progresses."

The program, sponsored by American Express, is one of the nation's most esteemed and extensive, offering training in more than a dozen different disciplines. Fellows make an 11 ½ - month commitment to the Theatre, starting in July and concluding in June. The partnership between Berkeley Rep and the fellowship recipient offers invaluable experience and professional contacts, easing the pathway to employment. Many of Berkeley Rep's employees are former fellows, and a full two-thirds of past fellows continue to work professionally in the industry. Fellowships for the 2014-15 season have been awarded to the following:

- **Haley Bierman**, a native of Staten Island, NY and graduate of Brandeis University, will serve as the development fellow under the mentorship of Director of Development Lynn Eve Komaromi.
- **Amelia Burke-Holt**, a native of Corvallis, OR and graduate of Southern Oregon University, will serve as the properties fellow under the mentorship of Properties Supervisor Jill Green.
- **Margaret Clement**, a native of Portland, OR and graduate of the University of Puget Sound, will serve as the production management fellow under the mentorship of Production Manager Peter Dean.
- **Lexi Diamond**, a native of Los Angeles, CA and graduate of Vassar College, will hold the Peter F. Sloss Literary/Dramaturgy Fellowship under the mentorship of Director of The Ground Floor / Resident Dramaturg Madeleine Oldham.
- **Rachel Eisner**, a native of Simi Valley, CA and graduate of UC Berkeley, will serve as the education fellow under the mentorship of Director of the School of Theatre Rachel Fink.
- **William Gering**, a native of Indianapolis, IN and graduate of UC Berkeley, will serve as the scenic construction fellow under the mentorship of Technical Director Jim Smith.

(MORE)

RECIPIENT OF THE TONY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING REGIONAL THEATRE

- **Brad Hopper**, a native of Harrison, OH and graduate of Wabash College, will serve as the stage management fellow under the mentorship of Production Stage Manager Michael Suenkel.
- **Sarah Jacczak**, a native of Davis, CA and graduate of San Francisco State University, will serve as the graphic design fellow under the mentorship of Art Director Nora Merecicky.
- **Anna McGahey**, a native of Philadelphia, PA and a graduate of Temple University, will serve as the scenic art fellow under the mentorship of Charge Scenic Artist Lisa Lázár.
- **Billy McEntee**, a native of Allendale, NJ and graduate of Boston College, will serve as the marketing fellow under the mentorship of Director of Marketing and Communications Robert Sweibel.
- **Faith Nelson**, a native of Rockville, MD and graduate of James Madison University, will serve as the company/theatre management fellow under the mentorship of Company Manager Jean-Paul Gressieux.
- **Andrea Phillips**, a native of Astoria, OR and graduate of Cornish College of the Arts, will serve as a costume fellow under the mentorship of Costume Director Maggi Yule.
- **Sarina Renteria**, a native of Pinole, CA and graduate of UC Berkeley, will serve as the lighting/electrics fellow under the mentorship of Master Electrician Fred Geffken.
- **Annemarie Scerra**, a native of Centreville, CA and graduate of James Madison University, will hold the Harry Weininger Sound Fellowship under the mentorship of Sound Supervisor James Ballen.
- **Adam L. Sussman**, a native of Newton, MA and graduate of Bennington College, will hold the Bret C. Harte Director Fellowship under the mentorship of Artistic Director Tony Taccone.

In addition to being mentored by the experienced staff of a Tony Award-winning theatre, this new class of fellows will be a part of an electrifying new season. In September the esteemed Emma Rice (*Tristan & Yseult* and *The Wild Bride*) is back with the world premiere of ***An Audience with Meow Meow***, a new musical play starring international singing sensation and über-award-winning comedienne **Meow Meow**. Then in October, Berkeley Rep's Associate Director **Liesl Tommy** partners with theatre ensemble **UNIVERSES** to direct ***Party People***, a high-wattage fusion of story and song that unlocks the legacy of the Black Panthers and Young Lords. In November, two-time Tony and Academy Award nominee **Kathleen Turner** makes her Berkeley Rep debut in the acclaimed ***Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins***, directed by renowned director **David Esbjornson**. The New Year ushers in ***X's and O's (A Gridiron Love Story)*** written by **KJ Sanchez** and commissioned by The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work. Memory, myth, and football meet head on in this hard-hitting world premiere directed by Michael Leibert Artistic Director **Tony Taccone**. In March, audience favorite **Steven Epp** and celebrated director **Dominique Serrand** reunite for Molière's satire on religious hypocrisy, ***Tartuffe***. MacArthur "Genius" Award winner **Tarell Alvin McCraney** and preeminent director **Tina Landau** team up in April for the West Coast premiere of ***Head of Passes***, a poignant and poetic new play about the journey of family and faith, trial and tribulation. The season concludes in May with **Richard Bean's** smash hit ***One Man, Two Guvnors***, directed by **David Ivers** — artistic director of the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

(MORE)

The 2014-15 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 KPIX-TV (Channel 5) as a first-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 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 – 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. For details, call (510) 647-2949 – or simply click [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org).

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