

PRESS CONTACT:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**FALL IN LOVE WITH BERKELEY REP SCHOOL OF THEATRE'S COURSE OFFERINGS****Classes available for beginners and professionals of all ages**

September 10, 2015 – As Berkeley Repertory Theatre prepares to open its 2015–16 season with the world premiere of *Amélie, A New Musical*, its School of Theatre announces a new slate of classes for its popular fall session. **Starting September 21**, the school will offer 40 classes for **youth, teens, and adults** to explore theatre and gain valuable training. Classes include acting, improvisation, voice, movement, playwriting/devising, auditioning, and more. Prospective students can learn about the wide variety of programming offered at the School of Theatre at the free **Sunday Sampler on September 20 from 1:00-3:00pm** at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, 2071 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA.

The fall session includes a variety of classes for every age and experience level from beginners to professionals. New additions for adults include **The Art of Adaptation: The Hypocrites' Pirates of Penzance**, inspired by The Hypocrites' upcoming production of *Pirates of Penzance* at Berkeley Rep, and **The Art of Auditioning**, taught by Berkeley Rep's Artistic Associate & Casting Director, **Amy Potozkin**. Youth and teens can expand their craft with musical theatre, improv, and performance-based classes. Through these diverse fall courses, youth, teens, and adults will discover their inner artists while collaborating with peers or studying one-on-one with professional coaches.

"This is will be our 15th season offering classes to the community, and we're proud to continue the work across diverse theatrical disciplines," says **Rachel Fink**, director of the School of Theatre. "It's an incredible season for new and returning students at Berkeley Rep to experience theatre on stage and in the classroom."

The 10-week fall session, which begins September 21, features the following classes:

- **Classes for youth (grades K-5)** include Superheroes, which is designed to introduce the youngest child to making costumes and masks by unleashing their inner superhero, and Spy Adventure: Espionage 101, where students will create their very own spy mission and learn to decode puzzles and invent gadgets and other cool spy tricks. In Performance Workshops, students will bring their favorite fantasy books to life through movement, dialogue, music, improvisation, and character work.
- **Classes for middle school and high school students (grades 6 through 12)** include two musical courses. In Musical Theatre Scene Study: *Mary Poppins*, students focus on a 16-bar selection and will have a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious time as they run around the streets of old London with Mary Poppins and a host of colorful characters. In Musical Theatre Performance Ensemble: *Grease (abridged)*, an intensive two-semester process, students explore songs and scenes from this fun rock 'n' roll musical. In Performance Lab: Genre and Style, students immerse themselves in a variety of theatrical genres. Other course offerings include Improvisation, Stage Combat Certification, One-on-One Audition Coaching, and Private Voice.

(MORE)

BERKELEY REP'S SCHOOL OF THEATRE FALL SESSION OFFERS 40 CLASSES / 2 OF 2

- **Classes for adults** include training in different styles and levels of acting, from beginning to advanced, from on-camera to voice-over, from Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed to Shakespeare. Students can choose from a wide range of improv classes created for beginners, professional improvisers, mental-health practitioners, and business professionals. Students interested in developing their own work can explore ideas in Playwriting, The Art of Adaptation: The Hypocrites' *Pirates of Penzance*, Script Analysis, and Creating Story. Or they can focus on voice and movement skills in Alexander Technique, Feldenkrais Method, Voice for Performance, Voice in the Professional World, and Stage Combat.

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 and Woodlawn Foundation. **For more information** about classes at Berkeley Rep – or affordable outreach programs for local schools – call (510) 647-2972, e-mail school@berkeleyrep.org, or visit berkeleyrep.org/classes.

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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, September 20, 2015, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
HOW MUCH: Free!
INFO: (510) 647-2972 / www.berkeleyrep.org/sundaysampler

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WHO: Theatre lovers of all ages – from beginners to professionals
WHAT: **Fall session – featuring 40 different classes for children and adults**
WHERE: Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre, 2071 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Berkeley, CA
Berkeley Rep's Rehearsal Studios, 999 Harrison Street @ Ninth, Berkeley, CA
WHEN: Starting September 21, 2015
HOW MUCH: Varies by class; financial aid available
INFO: (510) 647-2972 / www.berkeleyrep.org/classes