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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**

**July 31, 2015** – Today [Berkeley Repertory Theatre](#) announces that 15 young professionals – including **seven California natives** – have been awarded fellowships for the 2015-16 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 are very pleased with the fellows we've selected this season. They come to us from excellent colleges and universities from all regions of the country," says **Susan Medak**, the Theatre's managing director. "It is now our task to take these young people and make them job ready so that they can go on and lend their talents to the American theatre."

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 2015-16 season have been awarded to the following:

- **Harrison Burke**, a native of Iowa City, IA and graduate of Boston University, will serve as the lighting/electrics fellow under the mentorship of Master Electrician Fred Geffken.
- **Katie Craddock**, a native of Ras Tanura, Saudia Arabia and graduate of Barnard College, will hold the Peter F. Sloss Literary/Dramaturgy Fellowship under the mentorship of Director of The Ground Floor / Resident Dramaturg Madeleine Oldham.
- **Katherine DeVolt**, a native of Dallas, TX and graduate of the Trinity University, will serve as the production management fellow under the mentorship of Production Manager Peter Dean.
- **Samuel Fisher**, a native of Athens, GA and graduate of Oberlin College, will hold the Harry Weininger Sound Fellowship under the mentorship of Sound Supervisor James Ballen.
- **Lorenz Angelo Gonzales**, a native of Richmond, CA and graduate of UC Berkeley, will serve as the marketing fellow under the mentorship of Director of Marketing, Communications, and Patron Engagement, Polly Winogard Ikonen.

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- **Loren Hiser**, a native of Castleton-on-Hudson, NY and graduate of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, will serve as the development fellow under the mentorship of Director of Development Lynn Eve Komaromi.
- **Molly Houlahan**, a native of Philadelphia, PA and graduate of Yale University, will hold the Bret C. Harte Directing Fellowship under the mentorship of Michael Leibert Artistic Director Tony Taccone.
- **James McGregor**, a native of Campbell, CA and graduate of UC Berkeley, will serve as the stage management fellow under the mentorship of Production Stage Manager Michael Suenkel.
- **Itzel Ortuno**, a native of San Diego, CA and graduate of San Diego State University, will serve as the graphic design fellow under the mentorship of Art Director Nora Merezicky.
- **Emilie Pass**, a native of Los Angeles, CA and graduate of Wesleyan University, will serve as the company/theatre management fellow under the mentorship of Company Manager Jean-Paul Gressieux.
- **Shannon Perry**, a native of Houston, TX and graduate of Trinity University, will serve as the scenic construction fellow under the mentorship of Technical Director Jim Smith.
- **Anna Slotterback**, a native of San Francisco, CA and graduate of DePaul University, will serve as a costume fellow under the mentorship of Costume Director Maggi Yule.
- **Melanie Treuhaft**, a native of Los Angeles, CA and a MFA graduate of University of Wisconsin-Madison, will serve as the scenic art fellow under the mentorship of Charge Scenic Artist Lisa Lázár.
- **Samantha Visbal**, a native of Tuscon, AZ and graduate of University of Arizona, will serve as the properties fellow under the mentorship of Properties Supervisor Jill Green.
- **Jamie Yuen-Shore**, a native of San Francisco, CA and graduate of Stanford University, will serve as the education fellow under the mentorship of Director of the School of Theatre Rachel Fink.

In addition to being mentored by the experienced staff of a Tony Award-winning theatre, this new class of fellows will have the opportunity of a lifetime to be a part of a compelling new season, which begins in August with the world premiere of **Amélie, A New Musical**. Directed by Tony Award-winning director **Pam MacKinnon**, **Amélie** is based on the two-time Academy Award-nominated film of the same name. This new musical is penned by **Craig Lucas** and features music by **Daniel Messé**, and lyrics by **Nathan Tyson**. Then in October, the Theatre teams up with **The Hypocrites** to bring their award-winning **Pirates of Penzance**, a spirited and eccentric interpretation of Gilbert and Sullivan's topsy-turvy world, to the **Osher Studio**. In November, **Ayad Akhtar** brings a gripping tale of identity, race, and religion in his Tony Award-winning drama **Disgraced**, directed by **Kimberly Senior**. The New Year welcomes **Aubergine**, a world premiere by **Julia Cho** and commissioned by **The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work**. Obie Award-winning director **Liesl Tommy** returns to direct this moving and lyrical family drama in February.

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Then Academy Award winner **Frances McDormand** makes her Berkeley Rep debut in Daniel Sullivan's new thrilling production of *Macbeth*. In April, **Mary Zimmerman** returns to stage a visually tantalizing production of *Treasure Island*, starring **Steven Epp** as Long John Silver. To close out the season, **Kathleen Chalfant** stars in the West Coast premiere of **Sarah Ruhl's *For Peter Pan on her 70th birthday***, a fanciful and moving look at growing up versus growing old within a family directed by **Les Waters**.

The 2015-16 season is supported by BART, Wells Fargo, KPIX-TV (Channel 5) who have generously renewed their commitment as Berkeley Rep's official season sponsors. Berkeley Rep is also proud to have Peet's Coffee 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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