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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**BERKELEY REP WELCOMES 14 FELLOWS FOR THE 2017-18 SEASON**
Nonprofit's prestigious program trains the next generation of theatre leaders

July 26, 2017— Berkeley Repertory Theatre announced today that 14 fellows — including five California natives—have been awarded fellowships for the 2017-18 season. Recent graduates and young arts professionals across the country apply for positions in this prestigious program—a year-long in-depth, hands-on experience in the professional theatre industry. The fellows receive specialized training within their chosen discipline, as well as a broader perspective on how a nonprofit theatre functions, gaining the tools necessary to launch a successful career in the arts. In addition, fellows participate in career development seminars, create a network of professional contacts, and even serve as mentors themselves for Berkeley Rep's annual Teen One-Acts Festival.

"Our fellowship program is one of the many ways Berkeley Rep invests in the future of our field," says Managing Director **Susan Medak**. "We are so proud of how many of our alumni work in companies throughout the country."

Sponsored by American Express and BayTree Fund, fellows work alongside a team of accomplished artists, administrators, and designers to perform the day-to-day tasks at the Theatre that bring the shows to fruition. Starting in July 2017 and concluding in June 2018, the fellowship provides invaluable experience to these young professionals and allows increased access into employment in the arts industry. Many alumni of this program continue to work as theatre artists and practitioners, employed full-time by organizations across the country, including Berkeley Rep.

Fellowships for the 2017-18 season have been awarded to the following individuals:

- **Ky'Lend Adams**, a native of Washington, D.C. and graduate of George Mason University, will serve as the education fellow under the mentorship of Director of the School of Theatre Rachel Hull and Program Manager, Training and Community Programs, Anthony Jackson.
- **Tait Adams**, a native of Philadelphia, PA and graduate of UC Berkeley, will serve as the stage management fellow under the mentorship of Production Stage Manager Michael Suenkel.
- **Chrissy Curl**, a native of San Diego, CA and graduate of UC Berkeley, will serve as the scenic art fellow under the mentorship of Charge Scenic Artist Lisa Lázár.
- **James Dinneen**, a native of Denver, CO and graduate of Colorado College, will serve as the Peter F. Sloss Literary/Dramaturgy Fellow under the mentorship of Literary Manager Sarah Rose Leonard and Director of The Ground Floor/Resident Dramaturg Madeleine Oldham.
- **William Ebeler**, a native of Davis, CA and graduate of UC Davis, will serve as the scenic construction fellow under the mentorship of Technical Director Jim Smith.
- **Ariana Johnson**, a native of Lafayette, CA and graduate of Stanford University, will serve as the development fellow under the mentorship of Director of Special Events Julie Cervetto.

- **Dawn Marie Kelley**, a native of Baltimore, MD and graduate of Towson University, will work as the production management fellow under the mentorship of Production Manager Peter Dean and Associate Production Manager Amanda Williams O'Steen.
- **Nicholas Kowerko**, a native of Buffalo, NY and graduate of the Actors Studio, will serve as the Bret C. Harte Directing Fellow under the mentorship of Michael Leibert Artistic Director Tony Taccone.
- **Kendall Markley**, a native of Sunbury, OH and graduate of Ohio University, will serve as the graphics fellow under the mentorship of Art Director Nora Merezicky.
- **Kiara Montgomery**, a native of Lawton, OK and graduate of Alabama A&M University and Auburn University, will serve as the costumes fellow under the mentorship of Costume Director Maggi Yule.
- **Cecilia Pappalardo**, a native of San Jose, CA and graduate of Northwestern University, will serve as the Harry Weininger Sound Fellow under the mentorship of Sound Supervisor James Ballen.
- **Arielle Rubin**, a native of Sebastopol, CA and graduate of Ithaca College, will serve as the marketing/digital communications fellow under the mentorship of Marketing Director Peter Yonka and Director of Marketing, Communications and Patron Engagement Polly Winograd Ikonen.
- **Alice Stites**, a native of Louisville, KY and graduate of Kenyon College, will serve as the company management fellow under the mentorship of Company Manager Jean-Paul Gressieux.
- **Mara Ishihara Zinky**, a native of Cambridge, MA and graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University, will serve as the props fellow under the mentorship of Properties Supervisor Jill Green.

Fellows will play integral roles in this season's productions:

- The 2017-18 season begins in late August with the world premiere of ***AIN'T TOO PROUD—THE TEMPTATIONS MUSICAL***, an electrifying new musical about the life and times of The Temptations, the greatest R&B group of all time (*Billboard Magazine* 2017). Kennedy Prize-winning playwright Dominique Morisseau, Olivier Award-winning choreographer Sergio Trujillo, and two-time Tony Award-winning director Des McAnuff bring us this thrilling story of brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal.
- In October, Daniel Handler, the genius behind Lemony Snicket, delivers ***Imaginary Comforts, or The Story of the Ghost of the Dead Rabbit***. Sarah's father is dead, her mother is in hysterics, and the new rabbi totally bungled the funeral. To further the absurdity, the ghost of a rabbit hops into her life, pushing her to confront her deepest issues. Handler's mischievous new play celebrates ordinary people trying to make sense out of life in the midst of endless, comedic chaos.
- ***Watch on the Rhine*** comes to Berkeley in November, a co-production with the Guthrie Theatre. Written in 1941 by activist playwright Lillian Hellman, this play is a timely examination of moral obligation, sacrifice, and what it means to be American.
- After enthraling audiences with *Aubergine*, Julia Cho returns to Berkeley Rep in February with ***Office Hour***, a searing and touching play that tunes into the plight of "the other" in a country steeped in mistrust and intolerance. Hiding in the back of the classroom, Dennis' sullen presence has his fellow students and professors on edge, but his writing instructor seeks to break through Dennis' silence and earn his trust—with shocking results. This co-production with Long Wharf Theatre explores otherness and paranoia while revealing our essential human need for connection.
- In April, Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning masterpiece ***Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*** finally arrives at Berkeley Rep in its entirety—directed by artistic director Tony Taccone in his 20th anniversary season. This fierce and astounding two-part drama is at once an epic exploration of American politics, gay identity, and mythology, and a personal story of love and loyalty.
- To round out the season, virtuoso performer Nilaja Sun brings us her new critically acclaimed solo show ***Pike St.*** in May. In an astonishing 90 minutes, Sun portrays three generations of a Puerto Rican family and the vibrant characters of New York's Lower East Side in a story of tribulation, perseverance, and redemption that also "glows with humor" (*New York Times*).

ABOUT BERKELEY REP

Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to a national 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. With two stages, a school, and a Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, Berkeley Rep is proud to premiere exhilarating new plays. Nine shows seen at Berkeley Rep have ended up on Broadway. More than 12 arrived off Broadway, two moved to London, two turned into films, and others have toured the nation. Come see tomorrow's plays today at Berkeley Rep.

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