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BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES THEATRE EXPLORERS SERIES

New subscription series add-on offers engaging and age-appropriate workshops for students in grades K-5 concurrent with select Saturday matinees so parents can enjoy time at the theatre

BERKELEY, CA (September 16, 2024)—Today, **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (Berkeley Rep) announced **Theatre Explorers**, a brand-new subscription series add-on that offers engaging and age-appropriate workshops for students in grades K-5 concurrent with select Saturday matinees throughout the 2024/25 season so parents can enjoy time at the theatre. Led by professional teaching artists from Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre, programming will include games, movies, and art projects. Registration is \$25 per child, per performance date. Theatre Explorers will be held next door to Berkeley Rep at the School of Theatre (2071 Addison Street, Berkeley).

Theatre Explorers is currently available as an add-on for 2024/25 season subscribers for select performances. To purchase, visit berkeleyrep.org/explorers. Space permitting, individual show opportunities may be made available at a later date. Theatre Explorers matinee dates for the 2024/25 season are:

- Saturday, October 5, 2024 (2 p.m.): *Mexodus*
- Saturday, November 16, 2024 (2 p.m.): *The Matchbox Magic Flute*
- Saturday, November 30, 2024 (2 p.m.): *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*
- Saturday, February 22, 2025 (2 p.m.): *The Thing About Jellyfish*
- Saturday, March 8, 2025 (2 p.m.): *Uncle Vanya*
- Saturday, April 26, 2025 (2 p.m.): *Here There Are Blueberries*
- Saturday, May 24, 2025 (2 p.m.): *the aves*

"We are excited to introduce Theatre Explorers as a new addition to Berkeley Rep programming," said **Anthony Jackson**, Director of Berkeley Rep School of Theatre. "In our continued search for ways to eliminate access barriers for audiences to attend live theatre, this new program gives families a unique way to enjoy the theatre experience together. While parents experience Berkeley Rep mainstage performances, their children will engage in dynamic, age-appropriate workshops led by our expert teaching artists."

Further expanding on its commitment to serve elementary school-aged students, Berkeley Rep has:

- Expanded the cohort of teaching artists that focus primarily on Story Builders curriculum, Berkeley Rep's literacy program for elementary schools.

- Last season, increased its presence in local schools, serving over 1,300 students in the classroom.
- Held its first ever full day summer camp for elementary school students in Summer 2024, which sold out.
- Added Saturday morning classes to School of Theatre offerings for students in K-5.

Berkeley Rep's 2024/25 season also features two intergenerational productions that are ideal for introducing younger audiences to the theatre—***The Matchbox Magic Flute*** (ages 8+), a mesmerizing adaptation of Mozart's iconic *Magic Flute* featuring only 10 singers and five musicians, performing October 18–December 8, 2024, and the world premiere of ***The Thing About Jellyfish*** (ages 12+), based on the *New York Times* bestselling young adult novel by Ali Benjamin, adapted for the stage by Keith Bunin and directed by Tyne Rafaeli, performing January 31–March 9, 2025.

Berkeley Rep recognizes the generous support of **BART** and **Peet's Coffee**, Berkeley Rep's official season sponsors. Berkeley Rep is also delighted to recognize the support at the season sponsor level from **Stephen & Susan Chamberlin, Yogen & Peggy Dalal, Bruce Golden & Michelle Mercer, Frances Hellman & Warren Breslau, Wayne Jordan & Quinn Delaney, Jonathan Logan & John Piane, Gisele & Kenneth F. Miller, Jack & Betty Schafer, The Strauch Kulhanjian Family, Kelli & Steffan Tomlinson, and Gail & Arne Wagner.**

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ABOUT BERKELEY REP

Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to an international leader in innovative theatre. Known for its ambition, relevance, and excellence, as well as its adventurous audience, the nonprofit has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. Over 6 million people have enjoyed more than 500 shows at Berkeley Rep, including 85 world premieres. Berkeley Rep shows have gone on to win 8 Tony Awards, 9 Obie Awards, 11 Drama Desk Awards, 1 Grammy Award, 1 Pulitzer Prize, 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. Through its annual seven-play season, together with up to four special event presentations, Berkeley Rep invites audiences to enjoy an eclectic range of theatrical experiences featuring diverse artistic voices, themes, and perspectives. To formalize, enhance, and expand the processes by which Berkeley Rep makes theatre, The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work was launched in 2012. Serving some 20,000 people a year, Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre ensures broad access to dynamic arts educational activities, especially for Bay Area youth, and provides immersive training for current and future theatre makers. In 2021, Berkeley Rep launched In Dialogue, a program that places its theatre-making skills and resources in service of the community. Using storytelling as an anchor, In Dialogue is developing long-term collaborations with local, socially centered organizations, as well as educating and activating our audiences around organizations whose work aligns with the themes of our productions. Berkeley Rep's bustling facilities—which include the 600-seat Roda Theatre, 400-seat Peet's Theatre, Medak Center, and a spacious campus in West Berkeley—are helping revitalize a renowned city. Learn more at berkeleyrep.org.