

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Kevin Kopjak | Prismatic Communications | kevin@prismaticcommunications.com

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE
ANNOUNCES FULL CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR
UNCLE VANYA

Tony Award winner John Benjamin Hickey joins the previously-announced Golden Globe and Emmy Award nominee Hugh Bonneville in Olivier Award-winner Conor McPherson's acclaimed adaptation of Anton Chekhov's masterpiece, directed by Shakespeare Theatre Company Artistic Director Simon Godwin.

A co-production with Shakespeare Theatre Company of Washington, DC

February 14–March 23, 2025
Berkeley Rep's Peet's Theatre

BERKELEY, CA (December 19, 2024)—Berkeley Repertory Theatre Artistic Director Johanna Pfaelzer and Managing Director Tom Parrish announced the complete cast and creative team for Olivier Award-winner **Conor McPherson's** acclaimed adaptation of Anton Chekhov's masterpiece, ***Uncle Vanya***, directed by Shakespeare Theatre Company Artistic Director **Simon Godwin**. *Uncle Vanya* will perform at Berkeley Rep's **Peet's Theatre** beginning **Friday, February 14**, and run through **Sunday, March 23, 2025**. Press night will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025. Single tickets (\$25-\$134) are available online at berkeleyrep.org or by phone at 510-647-2949 (Tue–Sun, 12–7 p.m.). *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

When the distinguished elderly owner of a rural estate returns with a new, young wife, Yelena, chaos erupts. Tensions run high, marriages reach their limits, confessions—and vodka—flow freely, and weapons are drawn. A co-production with **Shakespeare Theatre Company**, *Uncle Vanya* is a heartbreaking comedy about the eternal battle between futility and change.

Joining the previously announced Golden Globe and Emmy Award nominee **Hugh Bonneville** (Vanya) is Tony Award winner **John Benjamin Hickey** (Astrov). Rounding out the cast are: **Ito Aghayere** (Yelena), **Melanie Field** (Sonya), **Sharon Lockwood** (Mariya), **Kina Kantor** (Stage Manager), **Tom Nelis** (Alexander Serabyakov), **Nancy Robinette** (Marina), and **Craig Wallace** (Telegin). Understudies for *Uncle Vanya* include **Anne Darragh**, **James Whalen**, and **John Leslie Wolfe** (*listed alphabetically*).

Written by **Anton Chekhov** and adapted by **Conor McPherson**, the creative team for *Uncle Vanya* includes **Simon Godwin** (Director), **Robert Brill** (Scenic Design), **Heather Freedman** (Co-Costume Design), **Susan Hilferty** (Co-Costume Design), **Jen Shriever** (Lighting Design), **Darron West** (Sound Design), **Elisa Guthertz** (Stage Manager), **Anthony Bullock** (Assistant Stage Manager), and **Trinity Wicklund** (Stage Management Fellow).

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

###

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 86 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. Berkeley Rep invites audiences to enjoy an eclectic range of theatrical experiences featuring diverse artistic voices, themes, and perspectives through its annual seven-play season, together with up to four special event presentations. 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.

ABOUT SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY

For more than 35 years, the Tony Award-winning Shakespeare Theatre Company has dedicated itself to being the nation's premier classical theatre. Classical plays are realized best not by originalism but by walking the path Shakespeare himself followed, creating works that spoke to his own contemporary audience. STC tells vital stories in audacious forms, stories that are Shakespearean in the deepest sense, even if (and especially when) they are not written by Shakespeare. By focusing on works with profound themes and complex characters, STC's artistic mission is unique among regional theatres: to bring to vibrant life groundbreaking, thought-provoking, and eminently accessible theatre.

ABOUT HUGH BONNEVILLE

Hugh Bonneville's film credits include *Notting Hill*, *Iris*, *The Monuments Men*, *I Came By*, and the three *Paddington* movies. *Paddington in Peru* opens in UK cinemas in November 2024. His television roles

include Ian Fletcher in the BAFTA-winning *Twenty Twelve* and *W1A* (BBC) and Robert Crawley in ITV's global hit, *Downton Abbey*, for which he received nominations for a Golden Globe, two Emmys, and along with his fellow cast members won three SAG Awards for Outstanding Ensemble in a Drama Series. He recently completed a four-part comedy drama, *Douglas Is Cancelled*, for ITV and is currently filming the second series of *The Gold*, a six-part drama about the 1983 Brink's-Mat bullion. The first series is available on BBC iPlayer and Paramount+. He plays Jonathan Wilde in Apple TV's *The Completely Made-Up Adventures of Dick Turpin*.

ABOUT SIMON GODWIN

Shakespeare Theatre Company: *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Timon of Athens*; Simon Godwin joined Shakespeare Theatre Company as Artistic Director in September 2019. He has served as Associate Director of National Theatre of London, Royal Court Theatre, Bristol Old Vic, and Royal & Derngate Theatre. INTERNATIONAL: UK: Royal Court Theatre: *Routes*, *If You Don't Let Us Dream*, *We Won't Let You Sleep*, *NSFW*, *The Witness*, *Goodbye to All That*, *The Acid Test*, *Wanderlust* | National Theatre: *Strange Interlude*, *Man and Superman*, *The Beaux' Stratagem*, *Twelfth Night*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (ft. Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo), *Simon Wood's Hansard*, *Romeo & Juliet* (ft. Josh O'Connor and Jessie Buckley and filmed for Sky Arts/PBS), *Much Ado About Nothing* | Royal Shakespeare Company: *Hamlet*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Timon of Athens* (ft. Kathryn Hunter and reimagined in 2020 for Theatre for a New Audience and STC). JAPAN: Theatre Cocoon: *Hamlet*. Other productions include *The Little Mermaid*, *Krapp's Last Tape/A Kind of Alaska*, *Faith Healer*, *Far Away*, *Everyman*, *Habeas Corpus*, and *Relatively Speaking*. AWARDS: Evening Standard/Burberry Award for an Emerging Director (2012).