

For photos, videos, interviews, etc. contact:
Terence Keane, Director of Public Relations
(510) 647-2917, tkeane@berkeleyrep.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERKELEY REP ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 10TH TEEN ONE-ACTS FESTIVAL

26 youth from five local communities participate in 10th annual celebration of teen talent

FEBRUARY 14, 2011 – Since its inception 10 years ago, Berkeley Repertory Theatre's annual Teen One-Acts Festival has debuted 22 original works, engaged more than 300 teen artists, and delighted hundreds of enthusiastic audience members. Now, on its 10th anniversary, two new scripts join this impressive legacy of creativity during an evening of drama that ranges from the ditzy to the divine.

This year's winners are ***The Adoration* by 16-year-old Emma Dudley of Berkeley**, a junior at Berkeley High School, and ***The Inventors* by 16-year-old Frances Maples of Lafayette**, a junior at Acalanes High School. Mirroring Berkeley Rep's commitment to new work, the nonprofit's School of Theatre presents tomorrow's playwrights today. Over the past decade, the **Teen One-Acts Festival has premiered 21 plays (and one film), which were entirely produced, written, directed, designed, and performed by local high-school students.**

Relying on the talents of 26 youth from five local communities, this year's plays take the stage at 8:00 PM on **March 30 and 31** and **April 6 and 7**; there will also be a special 2:00 PM matinee on March 31. All performances take place in Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre at 2071 Addison Street in downtown Berkeley. **Tickets**, available only at the door, are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults.

"We're proud that we can provide so much one-on-one mentoring for teens in our community," remarks **Rachel Fink**, director of the School of Theatre. "But honestly every year, we learn as much from the teens as they learn from us. This is such a wonderful laboratory for teamwork and leadership."

The Adoration by Emma Dudley is a satirical comedy about a dramatic battle for the ultimate crush: a male teacher at the local Catholic school for girls. As the annual Mother Mary Rita Mixer approaches, four students vow to win their history teacher's heart against all odds. **Sierra Baggins of Berkeley**, a 17-year-old senior at Berkeley High, directs the show; **Tait Adams of Alameda**, a 16-year-old sophomore at Encinal High School, serves as stage manager; and **Emma Carlblom of Berkeley**, an 18-year-old senior at Berkeley High, acts as the production dramaturg.

Attempting to answer the eternal debate surrounding the origins of good and evil, ***The Inventors*** takes a poetic, imaginative look at the creation story. Frances Maples offers up an insightful fable of two brothers and the spark that separates light from darkness. The production team for ***The Inventors*** draws on three talented students from Berkeley High: the director is 16-year-old junior **Georgia Cartharis of Berkeley**; the stage manager is 17-year-old junior **Bowen Bethards of Berkeley**; and 17-year-old **Odessa Cross of Berkeley** serves as dramaturg.

The ensemble for each show is comprised of talented local teens:

- ***The Adoration*** features 17-year-old **Miles Baxter of Alameda**, a senior at Berkeley High; 17-year-old **Tessa Corrie of Berkeley**, a junior at Berkeley High; 17-year-

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old **Emma Goodfield of Berkeley**, a senior at Berkeley High; 17-year-old **Greer Jansen of Berkeley**, a senior at Berkeley High; 16-year-old **Rocky Kamen-Rubio of Berkeley**, a junior at Berkeley High; 15-year-old **Colin Mooney of Orinda**, a freshman at Miramonte High School; 16-year-old **Emily Radler of Pleasant Hill**, a junior at the Bentley School; and 17-year-old **Genevieve Zimmerman of Berkeley**, a junior at Berkeley High.

- The cast for *The Inventors* includes 14-year-old **Eleanor Maples of Lafayette**, a freshman at Acalanes High; 15-year-old **Samuel Shain of Orinda**, a freshman at Miramonte High; and 16-year-old **Gabriel Vergez of Berkeley**, a junior at Maybeck High School.

This year's Teen One-Acts festival is produced by 16-year-old **Madeleine Waters of Berkeley**, a junior at Berkeley High. The creative team features five other teens from that school. Sixteen-year-old sophomore **Oscar Peña of Berkeley** designs scenery, 16-year-old sophomore **Michaela Guzman of Berkeley** designs lighting, and 17-year-old senior **Rachel Harper of Berkeley** designs sound. Sixteen-year-old sophomore **Miranda Taylor of Berkeley** creates costumes for *The Adoration*, and 15-year-old junior **Luisa Pio of Berkeley** creates costumes for *The Inventors*.

To guide them toward a final product that is as polished and professional as possible, the **teens have been paired with mentors from Berkeley Rep's fellowship program**. This year's mentors include Elliott Ares, Akasha Atherton, Amy Bobeda, Mariko Conner, Kathryn Gucik, Mary Kay Hickox, Hana Kadoyama, Anya Kazimierski, Alling Langin, Hannah Lennett, Kathleen Martinelli, Julie McCormick, Shari McDonald, Gayle Riess, Benjamin Sandberg, Kyle Sircus, and Brandon Weinbrenner.

Berkeley Rep's Teen Council is a theatre youth group organized by teens for teens. Its goal is to foster the theatre audiences and theatre professionals of tomorrow by opening channels of communication between teens, theatre professionals, and the community at large while building a base for lifelong learning. Through a variety of interactive programs, the Teen Council provides an opportunity for youth to participate in all aspects of the dramatic process: on stage, backstage, and in front of the stage through its affiliation with the Tony Award-winning Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Currently, the Council has more than 200 members including youth from numerous local high schools. For more information, call (510) 647-2973, visit berkeleyrep.org/teencouncil, or e-mail teencouncil@berkeleyrep.org.

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ATTENTION, CALENDAR EDITORS:

- WHO: Local teens write, direct, perform, and produce their own scripts
- WHAT: The 10th annual Teen One-Acts Festival featuring two short plays:
The Adoration by Emma Dudley and *The Inventors* by Frances Maples
- WHEN: Friday, March 30 @ 8:00 PM
Saturday, March 31 @ 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Friday, April 6 @ 8:00 PM
Saturday, April 7 @ 8:00 PM
- WHERE: Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre,
2071 Addison St @ Shattuck, Downtown Berkeley, CA 97404
- HOW MUCH: \$10 for students, \$15 for general admission
- INFO: (510) 647-2974 or berkeleyrep.org/teenoneacts

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