

**BERKELEY REP**

JOHANNA PFAELZER - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TOM PARRISH - MANAGING DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kevin Kopjak | Prismatic Communications |  
[kevin@prismaticcommunications.com](mailto:kevin@prismaticcommunications.com)

## **BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE KICKS OFF ITS 2024/25 SEASON WITH THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF THE HIP-HOP REMIX, *MEXODUS***

Written by and featuring multi-talented writer/performers Brian Quijada and Nygel D. Robinson, and directed and costume designed by Berkeley Rep Associate Artistic Director David Mendizábal, *Mexodus* explores the often-untold stories of the Underground Railroad that led south into Mexico

Berkeley Rep's Peet's Theatre  
September 13–October 20, 2024

BERKELEY, CA (July 31, 2024)— Kicking off its 2024/25 season, Berkeley Rep will present the West Coast premiere of the hip-hop remix, ***Mexodus***. History meets hip-hop in *Mexodus*, an electrifying live-looping musical, composed in real-time by multi-talented writer/performers **Brian Quijada** and **Nygel D. Robinson**. *Mexodus* explores the often-untold stories of the Underground Railroad that led south into Mexico. Directed and costume designed by **Berkeley Rep Associate Artistic Director David Mendizábal**, this groundbreaking theatrical experience celebrates the power of Black and Brown solidarity through a story of resilience and resistance.

*Mexodus* will perform at Berkeley Rep's **Peet's Theatre** (2025 Addison St., Berkeley) **September 13–October 20, 2024. Press night will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024.** Single tickets start at \$22.50, plus a \$9 order fee, and can be purchased online at [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org) or by phone at 510-647-2949 (Tue–Sun, 12–7 p.m.). *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

"I'm thrilled to bring *Mexodus* to Berkeley Rep and introduce our audience to the incredible artistry of Brian Quijada and Nygel D. Robinson," said director **David Mendizábal**. "The technical prowess of their live-looping skills coupled with the huge heart and passion they

bring to the stage each night is sure to entertain and excite audiences. In a moment where our country is experiencing such division, I hope that this story about solidarity, brotherhood, and the power of reaching across divides to support the liberation of each other will fill our audiences with hope and inspire action.”

“*Mexodus* is not only the story of the Underground Railroad that went south to Mexico, but also a story of brotherhood and the long history of solidarity between Black and Brown people in North America,” said **Quijada** and **Robinson**. “We hope that our show will uplift, inspire, and validate the experiences of Black and Brown people in the Bay Area. As we enter into a season of change in this country, we hope that this show can play a part in combatting divisiveness, anti-immigrant sentiments, and the barriers that white supremacist ideologies create. We want to radically welcome audiences into our world with the hope that we will all be a little kinder (and righteously angrier) when we walk out of the theatre.”

The creative team for *Mexodus* includes **Riw Rakkulchon** (Scenic Design), **David Mendizábal** (Costume Design), **Mextly Couzin** (Lighting Design), **Mikhail Fiksel** (Sound & Orchestrations), **Rasean Davonté Johnson** (Projection Design), **Hope Villanueva** (Stage Manager), and **Christina Hogan** (Assistant Stage Manager).

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](https://berkeleyrep.org).