

**Jerry Foust**

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 8:35 AM  
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**Subject:** News Release - Julia Morgan Center Architecture Will Play Leading Role in "Rain"

## **Berkeley Playhouse**

**A Program of the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts**

**NEWS RELEASE - FOR  
IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**  
February 15, 2010

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### **Julia Morgan Center Architecture to Play Leading Role in Berkeley Playhouse's *Singin' in the Rain***

**Family-Friendly Production Opens in Early March; Runs for Three Weekends**



BERKELEY, CA - Berkeley Playhouse will present *Singin' in the Rain* as the second piece in its 2009-2010 season in March. The historic Julia Morgan Center for the Arts will provide the perfect setting for the show, and, in fact, will play a

leading role!

***Singin' in the Rain*** takes audiences into the magic of a 1920s Hollywood soundstage where, according to director Matthew Graham Smith, "cinema gave the American imagination a vivid new language for dreaming big dreams."

Instead of creating a set that would hide the bare wooden beams and other features of the 100-year-old building, designer Kim Tolman has embraced the architecture, and in some ways, given it a starring role.

Smith's vision of the show insists that the audience see everything - everything - that goes on behind the scenes. In Tolman's design, masking of the wings has disappeared, and actors in the ensemble will give the audience a glimpse of how scene changes and illusions like the famous rain scene are accomplished. From the curb to their seats, audience members will feel transported back to "old Hollywoodland."

Chris Black's innovative and award winning choreography re-thinks the classic steps of tap, jazz, and trademark moves of the period to give us a fresh look at something familiar. Robbie Cowan will music direct the show.

According to Smith, "This is a character-driven comedy with high stakes, big egos, unforgettable tunes, and unbeatable dance routines. You won't believe how classic Hollywood will seduce your imagination to make illusion come to life!"

Jerry R. Foust, Producing Artistic Director/Managing Director of the Playhouse reminds the public that recent Berkeley Playhouse shows have had sell-out crowds, and "the best way to get the best seats for this unforgettable show is to reserve tickets in advance online at [www.berkeleyplayhouse.org](http://www.berkeleyplayhouse.org)."

Tickets are on-sale now at the Berkeley Playhouse website. Some shows are expected to sell-out. All seats are reserved.



## THE DETAILS

- **"Singin' In the Rain"**
- Opens: Saturday, March 6, 2010
- Closes: March 21, 2010
- Shows: Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday; Some Thursdays. Check website for Student Rush and Pay-What-You-Can Nights
- Julia Morgan Center for the Arts (2640 College Avenue, Berkeley)

- Tickets: [www.berkeleyplayhouse.org](http://www.berkeleyplayhouse.org)

Berkeley Playhouse, founded in 2007 by Elizabeth McKoy, continues to set new attendance records with its brand of high-quality, family-friendly music theatre. More information about Berkeley Playhouse and the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts (located at 2640 College Avenue) may be found at [www.berkeleyplayhouse.org](http://www.berkeleyplayhouse.org)

**Looking Ahead @ Berkeley Playhouse's Season:** *Oliver!* will be presented in April and May at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts.

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The mission of The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts is to foster the development of an artistic community where children and youth create, experience and are transformed by the performing arts. Berkeley Playhouse, a program of The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, provides children and families with unique music theatre experiences. From classes and workshops to youth company performances to professional mainstage shows, Berkeley Playhouse provides something for everyone - from age 2 to 102. Beginning in 2009-2010, Berkeley Playhouse will make its permanent performance home at the Julia Morgan Center stage.



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[www.berkeleyplayhouse.org](http://www.berkeleyplayhouse.org) / [www.juliamorgan.org](http://www.juliamorgan.org)

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