

Berkeley Playhouse

**NEWS RELEASE - FOR
IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**
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For more information or photos, please contact:
Jerry R. Foust
Executive Director
pressrelease@berkeleyplayhouse.org
510.845.8542

Berkeley Playhouse to Hold Rainbow Reception Events for LGBT Families

**A Celebration of Diversity for Non-Traditional Families and their
Allies; Aladdin Event on August 8**

BERKELEY, CA - Berkeley Playhouse has announced its new Rainbow Reception series for LGBT/non-traditional families and their allies, to be held on the first Sunday of each 2010-2011 professional season production, 90 minutes before the evening performance. These kid-friendly events are intended to build community and give families a place to meet each other, share resources and build a network.

Berkeley Playhouse's Conservatory and Youth Company have long been home to many same-sex parents and non-traditional families. Executive Director Jerry R. Foust said, "The Rainbow Receptions will give our Gay and Lesbian families another place to come together, building their community of support and sharing resources. And of course, it's an opportunity to share in the magical and important experience of live theatre together."

The inaugural reception will be held Sunday, August 8 prior to the evening performance of Disney's "Aladdin," the Playhouse's season opener. The reception will begin at 3:30pm in Studio One, lower level of the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts (2640 College Avenue, Berkeley). Included in the kid-friendly event will be punch and cookies, "sneak peak" entertainment by some of the "Aladdin" performers, and a meet & greet with the Berkeley Playhouse staff and show design team. There are performances of Aladdin on August 8 at 12noon and 5:00pm.

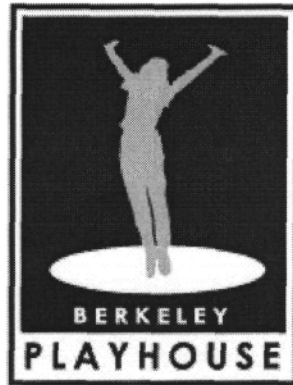
Foust added, "The welcome mat is out. We want all families to know they have a home at Berkeley Playhouse!"

For more information, visit the Berkeley Playhouse website: www.berkeleyplayhouse.org

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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.



2640 College Avenue / Berkeley, CA 94704 / 510.665.5565
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