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**BERKELEY PLAYHOUSE TO PRESENT THE
DAZZLING MUSICAL TALE *PIPPIN***

Limited engagement begins April 5 at the historic Julia Morgan Theater

BERKELEY (March 11, 2019) – Berkeley Playhouse continues their eleventh season of soul-stirring professional theater with the charming, enchanting, and dazzling *Pippin*. From the composer of *Wicked* comes this musical parable about the cyclical paths one can take to find what is right in front of them. Prince Pippin, son of King Charlemagne the Great, is on a quest for the secret to true happiness and fulfillment. Unable to gain insight from his father, Pippin decides that experience and adventure is the path to enlightenment. He heads into war as a soldier, explores relationships without love, tries his hand at artistry—he even becomes the king of the land! And yet happiness eludes Pippin. As narrated by a troupe of magical performers, this exuberant journey of existential fulfillment is one of Broadway’s enduring classics—and a true musical masterpiece from one of our most celebrated composers.

Performances run Friday through Sunday, and select Thursday evenings, beginning April 5, 2019. Press night will be held on Saturday, April 6 at 7pm. Tickets (ranging from \$20—\$40) are available by calling (510) 845-8542 x351 or by visiting online at www.berkeleyplayhouse.org. Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.

“This is one of my absolute favorite shows and I’m thrilled to bring together some of the strongest actors and creative minds in the Bay Area to help me bring it to life,” says Executive Director and Producer Kimberly Dooley, who will also direct the production. “This ragtag troupe of storytellers uses all their powers of dazzle and deception to weave together an intriguing and urgent story about ambition, fame, power and love, and whether the “search for meaning” in all it’s well-intentioned sincerity, is misguided or not.”

Adds Founding Artistic Director Elizabeth McKoy, “Fitting with the mission of Berkeley Playhouse, *Pippin* is a show that encourages audiences to think critically and reflects on what’s happening in our society today. This exuberant and powerful story echoes some very real realities that young people are facing as they navigate this complicated world we live in.”

Continuing to make theater available for all audiences, the run of Berkeley Playhouse’s *Pippin* includes two low-cost preview performances and offers two Pay What You Can performances.

ABOUT BERKELEY PLAYHOUSE: Founded in 2007 by professional theater actor, director, and teacher for over 25 years, Elizabeth McKoy, Berkeley Playhouse's mission is to create theater and programs that engage, ignite, and celebrate diverse Bay Area audiences through a thriving conservatory, a professional mainstage season, educational outreach, and a commitment to the development of new family musicals. In support of our mission, we maintain and enhance the historic Julia Morgan Theater. A commitment to community, diversity, inclusion, and empowerment is at the heart of our work.

PREVIEWS: Friday, April 5 at 7 pm, and Saturday, April 6 at 1 pm

OPENS: Saturday, April 6 at 7 pm

PRESS: Saturday, April 6 at 7 pm

CLOSES: Sunday, May 5 at 2 pm

PERFORMANCES: Due to the unique performance schedule, please check the website for specific dates and times. All performances at Berkeley Playhouse at The Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704.

TICKETS: For tickets (\$22 for previews, \$20–\$40 for regular performances) or more information, the public may call (510) 845-8542 x351 or visit berkeleyplayhouse.org. Group rates available for 10 or more people. Ticket prices are subject to change at any time.

PAY WHAT YOU CAN: There will be two "Pay What You Can" performances, Thursday, April 18 at 7 pm and Thursday, May 2 at 7 pm. The promotion is cash only at the door one hour prior to performance time. We request a donation of \$20 per ticket but are able to accept a minimum of \$5 per ticket.

FAMILY GUIDE: Education is central to the mission at Berkeley Playhouse. A family guide created by Berkeley Playhouse staff has been created to enrich the learning experience of all patrons both young and seasoned. Links to the free family guide can be found online at berkeleyplayhouse.org.

Berkeley Playhouse gratefully acknowledges support from Madonna Estates Winery; City of Berkeley Civic Arts Commission, Fleishacker Foundation, American Eagle Outfitters, Inc., Peet's Coffee, Extreme Pizza, The Imagination Foundation, and individual donors.