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BERKELEY PLAYHOUSE TO KICK OFF 12TH SEASON WITH THE FEEL GOOD HIT MAMMA MIA!

Limited engagement to play historic Julia Morgan Theater beginning September 20, 2019

BERKELEY (August 19, 2019) – Berkeley Playhouse opens their 12th season of professional theater for family audiences with *Mamma Mia!*, an uproarious adventure along the iridescent blue seas of the Greek Isles.

On the eve of her wedding day, Sophie seeks to discover the father she never knew, bringing three men from her mother's past back to the island they last set foot on 20 years ago. What follows is an unforgettable story full of lively dance numbers, non-stop laughs, and ABBA's iconic, toe-tapping hits. One of the longest-running shows in Broadway history, you won't want to miss this feel-good celebration of love, laughter, and friendship.

Performances run Friday through Sunday, and select Thursday evenings, beginning September 20, 2019. Press night will be held on Saturday, September 21 at 7pm. Tickets (ranging from \$25—\$44) are available by calling (510) 845-8542 x351 or by visiting online at berkeleyplayhouse.org. Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.

"I'm thrilled to dive into our 12th season of theater with this joyous, beloved story," says Founding Artistic Director Elizabeth McKoy. "*Mamma Mia!* is truly the ultimate celebration of love, laughter, and community, and is packed full of unforgettable hit songs that the whole family will adore."

"Without a doubt, this production is the perfect opener for our ambitious new season," adds Executive Director and Producer Kimberly Dooley. "This year, we're dreaming big and diving into powerful pieces of theater that tell passionate stories about the family and communities that you will care for, laugh with, and cheer on as they fight for what they believe in."

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, September 20 at 7 pm, and Saturday, September 21st 1 pm

OPENS: September 21st at 7 pm

PRESS: September 21st at 7 pm

CLOSES: Sunday, October 20 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 (\$25 for previews, \$29–\$44 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 one "Pay What You Can" performance on Thursday, October 3 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.

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