



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Cast and crew are available for interview.

Media Contact: **Michelle Hou**
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San Jose Rep Presents the 2007 Pulitzer® Prize Winner for Drama, *Rabbit Hole*.

SAN JOSE, CA. (May 7, 2007)—San Jose Rep is thrilled to bring the 2007 Pulitzer® Prize Winner for Drama, *Rabbit Hole*, to Bay Area audiences, May 12 - June 10. Nominated for a 2006 Tony® Award for Best Play, **David Lindsay-Abaire's *Rabbit Hole***, is teeming with wit, compassion and honesty. Becca (Stacy Ross) and Howie (Andy Murray) have everything a family could want until fate shatters the balance and leaves the couple drifting perilously apart. *Rabbit Hole* chronicles the family's bittersweet, rich and often funny journey through grief. But it is most of all a story of hope, reminding us of the power of the human spirit to heal and get back to the business of living. *Rabbit Hole* is directed by **Kirsten Brandt**, resident director at San Jose Rep. San Jose Repertory Theatre is located in downtown San Jose at 101 Paseo de San Antonio. Preview performances are May 12, 13, 16, and 17. **Press Opening is Friday, May 18 at 8:00p.m.**

Tickets are available at the San Jose Rep Box Office at 101 Paseo de San Antonio or can be purchased online at www.SJRep.com or by calling (408) 367-7255.

Rabbit Hole is a story about family with beautifully developed relationships that allow us to recognize ourselves in the characters ... mother, father, husband, wife, daughter, and sister. Beautifully written by one of America's most talented young playwrights, the story delivers both fresh and honest insight into the human spirit and its ability to overcome obstacles.

“David Lindsay-Abaire is one of the best playwrights in America today,” states San Jose Rep’s Artistic Director **Timothy Near**. “I love his enormously playful imagination and his ability to put that into easy, natural dialogue. He is both outrageous and very believable at the same time.”

Becca (Stacy Ross) and Howie (Andy Murray) have suffered the greatest loss that now threatens the very fabric of their love and marriage. Their lives will never be the same and now the comfort they both need lies along a most precarious path. This nationally acclaimed, award-winning play, breaks the sentimental mirror of life with honesty, precision and humor as it manages to make us laugh through our tears.

“[Abaire’s] characters are both quirky and recognizable as ourselves,” said **Near**. “How marvelous that he is able to take us on a healing journey that is funny, complex, difficult and ultimately uplifting. I am

-more-

very excited to see what **Kirsten Brandt** and her stellar cast will do with this beautiful piece.”

Rabbit Hole marks playwright **David Lindsay-Abaire’s** fourth widely acclaimed play. His Broadway stage credits also include celebrated hits *Fuddy Meers* and *Kimberly Akimbo* and music and lyrics for the musical *Shrek*. Screenplay credits include the award-winning animation movie *Robots*, his current adaptation for the movie *Inkheart*, and the screenplay adaptation of *Kimberly Akimbo* for Steven Spielberg and DreamWorks, SKG.

Prior to joining the Rep, **Kirsten Brandt** was the Artistic Director of Sledgehammer Theatre from 1999-2005, where she produced 23 productions, including nine world premieres and five west coast premieres. During her tenure, she directed 15 productions. She wrote and directed *The Frankenstein Project* and *NU: Parts I & III*. Her acclaimed production of Kelly Stuart’s *Demonology* was adapted for broadcast on KPBS-FM and her play *Berzerker gang* received a KPBS Patte Award for outstanding production in 2003.

San Jose Rep welcomes **Stacey Ross** (Becca), who was recently seen on the Rep stage in *Iphigenia at Aulis*, *Hannah and Martin* as Hannah Arendt, and in *Major Barbara* as the title character. Recently, she has appeared in *Three Sisters* at Baltimore Center Stage and *Frozen* at Marin Theatre Company.

Andy Murray returns to San Jose Rep in the role of Howie. He appeared last season as *Menelaus* in *Iphigenia at Aulis*. Other Rep appearances include, *Humpty Dumpty*, *The Matchmaker*, *Twelfth Night* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Murray teaches at The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre and The California Shakespeare Theater.

Lynne Soffer, in the role of Nat, was last seen at San Jose Rep as the Italian speaking Costanza in *Enchanted April* and previously in the Rep’s *Blithe Spirit* and *The Innocents*. Soffer has served as dialect and/or text coach on over 160 theater productions around the country including the World Premiere of *The Laramie Project* at the Denver Center and in NYC.

Jessa Watson makes her first appearance at San Jose Rep as Izzy. She has appeared in prestigious theatres around the country. Watson also channels her creative energy into writing, teaching and directing. Her work has been recognized with a KPBS Pate Award and a San Diego Critic's Circle Award.

James Breedlove makes his Rep debut in the role of Jason. He was last seen as Matthew Poncelet in the Solano College Theater production of *Dead Man Walking*, directed by George Maguire. Breedlove studies acting under Cliff Osmond and Anthony Fusco, and will graduate in June from Foothill High School in Pleasanton.

The creative team for *Rabbit Hole* includes scenic designer **Kate Edmunds**, costume designer **B. Modern**, lighting designer **David Lee Cuthbert**, and sound designer **Jeff Mockus**. The production stage manager is **Laxmi Kumaran**.

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About the Rep

San Jose Rep is the largest non-profit, professional theatre company in the South Bay, presenting six main stage productions each year. As a major contributor to South Bay's cultural community for 26 years, the Rep's mission is to stimulate, celebrate and enhance understanding of ourselves and others through the shared experience of live theater by producing new plays and classics marked by innovative interpretations and a reflection and inclusion of our community and the world in which we live. For more information, visit us at www.SJRep.com



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FACT SHEET

- WHAT:** San Jose Repertory Theatre presents the Pulitzer® Prize Winner for Drama, **RABBIT HOLE**, to Bay Area audiences. *Rabbit Hole* chronicles one family's bittersweet, rich and often funny journey through grief. It is above all a story of hope, reminding us of the power of the human spirit to heal and get back to the business of living.
- WHO:** Written by David Lindsay-Abaire / Directed by Kirsten Brandt
- Scenic Design by Kate Edmunds / Costume Design by B. Modern
- Lighting Design by David Lee Cuthbert / Sound Design by Jeff Mockus
- Stage Manager: Laxmi Kumaran
- CAST:** Andy Murray (Howie)
Stacy Ross (Becca)
Lynne Soffer (Nat)
Jessa Watson (Izzy)
James Breedlove (Jason)
- DATES, TIMES & PRICES:** **Previews: May 12, 13, 16, and 17.**
Opens: May 18, 2007
Closes: June 10, 2007
Price range: \$14- \$56

See below chart for days, times, and prices.

Day & Time	Orchestra	Parterre	Balcony
Previews: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday Evenings & Matinees	\$42.00	\$35.00	\$28.00
Tuesday Evenings Wednesday Matinees			
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Evenings	\$49.00	\$42.00	\$35.00
Saturday Matinee & Sunday Evening			
Saturday Evenings & Sunday Matinees	\$56.00	\$49.00	\$42.00

Students (full-time, with valid ID) - 1/2 off tickets for all performances, all seats.

Seniors (65 yrs +) and Teachers - \$6 off tickets all performances, all seats.

ADA or ASL discount - \$6 off your ticket and your companion's ticket.

Subscriber Single Ticket Discounts - \$4 (except seniors and students)

Rush Ticket Discounts - Balcony price for that night

Performances:

Rabbit Hole
MAY 12 - JUN 10, 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						12 8:00
13 2:00 D 7:00	14	15	16 11:00 D 8:00	17 8:00	18 8:00	19 3:00 P D 8:00
20 2:00 D 7:00	21	22 7:30	23 8:00	24 8:00	25 8:00	26 3:00 P D 8:00
27 2:00 D 7:00	28	29 7:30	30 8:00	31 8:00	1 8:00	2 3:00 P D 8:00
3 2:00 D 7:00	4	5 7:30	6 8:00	7 8:00	8 8:00	9 ASL 3:00 P D 8:00
10 2:00 D	D = Post-show Discussion P = Creative Playshop ASL = American Sign Language Interpreted Performance @ 3pm					

HOW*:

By phone: 408.367.7255

Online: www.sjrep.com

By mail: Rep Box Office, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, CA 95113

By fax: 408.367.7236

In person: Rep Box Office, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose

between South 2nd & 3rd Streets

***For group sales, call Pauline Bridges at
408.367.7263.**

SHOW-RELATED EVENTS (please include in calendar listings)

WHAT: **Post Show Discussions:** Join the cast and artistic staff in presentation/panel discussion about the artistic process behind *Rabbit Hole*.

WHEN: May 13, 16, 19, 20, 26, 27 and June 2, 3, 9 10 after matinee performances

WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose
between S. 2nd & 3rd

PRICES: Included in price of ticket

HOW: Call the box office at 408.367.7255 or boxoffice@SJRep.com.

WHAT: **Creative Playshops**

DESCRIPTION: Creative Playshops are held during each Saturday matinee for **kids ages 6 to 12** in the Rep's upstairs studio theatre. Led by San Jose Rep professionals, these playshops explore the imagination through interactive theatre activities related to the themes of the play. Just drop the kids off before the show, enjoy the performance and pick them up afterwards.

WHEN: **Saturdays, May 19 – June 9, 2007, 3:00pm**

WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose
between South 2nd & 3rd

PRICES: \$10 per child per show.

HOW: Call the Box Office 408.367.7255 or email boxoffice@sjrep.com for reservations.

WHAT: **ASL-Interpretation**

DESCRIPTION: Stage Hands of the Bay Area provides ASL interpretation for the show and post-show forum.

WHEN: **Saturday, June 9, 2007, 3:00pm**

WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose between South 2nd & 3rd

HOW: For tix or info, email ASL@sjrep.com. TDD users can use the CA State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378).

ARTISTIC PROFILES

Rabbit Hole marks playwright **David Lindsay-Abaire's** fourth widely acclaimed play. It was nominated for three Drama League Awards and five Tony Awards, including Best Play. His play *Fuddy Meers*, which premiered in fall of 1999 at the Manhattan Theatre Club before being transferred to the Minetta Lane Theatre for a commercial run, has since received more than 300 productions around the country and is currently being developed into a motion picture. *Kimberly Akimbo* was commissioned by South Coast Rep and premiered there in 2001. It received the LA Drama Critics' Circle Award for playwriting, three Garland Awards, and the 2001 Kesselring Prize. The play recently completed its sold-out New York run at Manhattan Theater Club where it was hailed as "The Comedy of the Year" by *The New York Times*. Mr. Lindsay-Abaire is currently adapting *Kimberly Akimbo* into a screenplay for Steven Spielberg and DreamWorks, SKG. His other plays include *Snow Angel*, *How We Talk in South Boston*, *A Devil Inside*, *Dotting & Dashing* and *A Show of Hands*, among others. Currently, he is working on the Broadway-bound musical *Shrek: The Musical*. He is also writing the screen adaptation of the novel, *Inkheart*, by Cornelia Funke for Newline Features. He co-wrote the animated feature *Robots* for Twentieth Century Fox and Blue Sky Studios. Lindsay-Abaire has received awards from the Berrilla Kerr Foundation, the LeComte du Nuoy Fund, Mixed Blood Theater, Primary Stages, the Tennessee Williams Literary Festival, and the South Carolina Playwrights Festival. He is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and the Juilliard School, as well as a proud member of New Dramatists, the Dramatists Guild and the Writers Guild of America.

Kirsten Brandt, (Director) is the resident director at San Jose Rep. Prior to joining the Rep, Brandt was the Artistic Director of Sledgehammer Theatre from 1999-2005 where she produced 23 productions, including nine world premieres and five west coast premieres. During her tenure, she directed 15 productions including: *A Dream Play*, *Macbeth*, *A Knife in the Heart*, *Richard III*, *Furious Blood*, *Sweet Charity* (Backstage

West Garland Award); and she wrote and directed *The Frankenstein Project* and *NU: Parts I & III*. Her play *Berzerkergang* received a KPBS Patte Award for outstanding production in 2003. Other credits include: *Hold Please, Christmas on Mars, Lobby Hero* and *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* (San Diego Critic's Circle Award) for The Old Globe; *A Christmas Carol 1941* for San Diego REP; *The Burning Deck* for La Jolla Playhouse; *Bird and the Waterfall* in Vancouver BC; and *The Laramie Project* for Sierra Rep. Ms. Brandt has directed for UCSD's MFA program, UCSC, The Fritz, Diversionary Theatre, Playwrights Project, New Dramatists, NYU Tisch School of Drama and ASK Theatre Projects. She studied playwriting at the University of Birmingham, England and directing at UC San Diego and has trained with the SITI Company. She is the recipient of the San Diego Critic's Circle Award for "Creative Achievement" in 2003.

James Breedlove (Jason) was last seen as Matthew Poncelet in the Solano College Theater production of *Dead Man Walking*, directed by George Maguire. He has appeared as the protagonist "Writer" in Woody Allen's *God (A Play)* and has performed leading roles in several works of David Ives. James studies acting under Cliff Osmond and Anthony Fusco, as well as talented others at A.C.T. in San Francisco. He will graduate in June from Foothill High School in Pleasanton where he sings in the Chamber Choir. In all of his spare time, James enjoys writing; any physical exercise; performing the works of *The Reduced Shakespeare Company* with his 3-man acting troupe, *California Remedial Arts Performers (C.R.A.P.)* and running his own window-washing business, Wally Washers. James hopes to continue his acting journey at either USC or UCLA.

Andy Murray (Howie) appeared last season as *Menelaus* in *Iphigenia at Aulis*. Other Rep appearances include, *Humpty Dumpty, The Matchmaker, Twelfth Night* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. His Bay Area work includes shows at A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, The California Shakespeare Theater, Marin Theatre Co., Magic Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz and San Francisco Shakespeare. Regional work includes Seattle Rep, Kansas City Rep and Baltimore Center Stage. Murray teaches at The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre and The California Shakespeare Theater.

Stacy Ross (*Becca*) was recently seen on the Rep stage in *Iphigenia at Aulis, Hannah and Martin* as Hannah Arendt, and in *Major Barbara* as the title character. Recently, she appeared in *Three Sisters* at Baltimore Center Stage, *Frozen* at Marin Theatre Co., in A.C.T.'s *The Rivals* and in Marin Theatre Company's *Killer Joe*. Other recent credits include: *The Comedy of Errors* and *Henry IV, Parts I & II* at California Shakespeare Theatre, *Smell of the Kill* at the Playhouse, *Man of Destiny* at the Aurora, *Arms and the Man* at California Shakespeare Theatre, *The Gamester* at A.C.T., and *Book of Days* at TheatreWorks. Ms. Ross' regional credits include *The Green Bird* and *Cloud Nine* at Berkeley Rep; *Spring Storm* and *Candida* at Marin Theatre Company; *Misalliance* at Baltimore Center Stage; and *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night* at San Francisco Shakespeare Festival.

Lynne Soffer (Nat) was last seen at San Jose Rep as the Italian speaking Costanza in *Enchanted April* and previously in the Rep's *Blithe Spirit* and *The Innocents*. She has

acted in productions with the American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, San Francisco Opera, California Shakespeare Theatre, Sacramento Theatre Company, Magic Theatre, The Aurora, Word for Word, Campo Santo, Encore, PCPA Theaterfest, Alaska Repertory, Sherwood Shakespeare Festival, Acadia Repertory Theatre of Maine, and in New York City with the Direct Theatre and the 29th Street Project. She also teaches acting, speech and textwork and has served as dialect and/or text coach on over 160 theater productions around the country including 23 for the Rep and the World Premiere of *The Laramie Project* at the Denver Center and in NYC. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity, Theater Bay Area and is an Associate Artist at California Shakespeare Theater.

Jessa Watson makes her first appearance at San Jose Repertory Theatre as Izzy. Her regional credits include *Under My Apron* at MITF Off-Off Broadway; Jack O'Brien's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* at The Old Globe; *Cabaret* and *A Christmas Carol* at San Diego Rep; *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolen) in rep with *Travesties* (Gwendolen), for which she received a KPBS Pate Award and a San Diego Critic's Circle Best Ensemble Award; *Fuddy Meers* (Heidi); *As Bees in Honey Drown* (Illya) and *First Night* (Meredith) at North Coast Rep; *Richard III* (Queen Elizabeth), *The Devil's River* (Charlotte), for which she received a San Diego Playbill Award for Outstanding Actress in a Drama, and Kelly Stewart's *Furious Blood* (Clytemnestra) at Sledgehammer Theatre. She was Associate Artist at Sledgehammer Theatre 2000-2005 and Associate Artist at North Coast Repertory Theatre 1998-2002. Watson co-directed the world premiere of Kirsten Brandt's *Berserker* with Michael Severance, as well as creating and directing NU: Part 2 for Sledgehammer Theatre and has directed for The Fritz Blitz and Traveling Lantern Theatre Companies. She was a founding Teaching Artist with the Sledgehammer Theatre Education Program, and a Teaching Artist with Playwrights Project from 2000-2004.

**Cast and crew are available for interview.
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