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“THIS COULD BE AMERICA”

**THE CAL REP AT THE ARMORY 2008-2009 SEASON CONNECTS OUR
PAST WITH OUR FUTURE AND FOCUSES ON WHAT AMERICA
“COULD BE.”**

LONG BEACH, CA (July 10, 2008) – LADCC award-winning California Repertory Company returns to The Long Beach National Guard Armory with their electrifying 2008-2009 season which runs October 24, 2008 through May 9, 2009. The collaboration between the National Guard and Cal Rep yields unexpected and innovative theatrical art and Cal Rep is proud to perform its second season at The Armory.

“This season focuses on engagement and awareness; connecting the past with the future,” says Cal Rep Artistic Director, Joanne Gordon. “We should provoke, we cannot be timid. Yet our sojourn at the Armory is creating some interesting challenges and some evocative juxtapositions. The men and women of 640th Aviation Support Battalion have opened my eyes. Knowing that any one of them could be shipped off to the war zone personalizes our politics and prevents any slick or easy moralizing. I cannot pretend that we have any answers. Rather I trust that this season will ask questions.”

The season opens with *The Kentucky Cycle* by Robert Schenkkan, a two-part epic drama running in repertory. In this intimate revival of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play three generations of a Kentucky family relive an eternal cycle of violence. Part 1 will run October 24 through December 13 and Part 2 will run October 31 through December 13, 2008. This provocative production will be directed by guest artist, Trevor Bishop. This is Bishop's first time directing for Cal Rep, although you may have seen his extraordinary work with the University Players when he directed *Durang/Durang* and *Machinal*.

The second production in the Cal Rep season is a Robin Hood treatment of a Machiavellian story: *King Elton John*, conceived and directed by guest artist Matt Walker. This production boasts men in tights and oversized sunglasses where Shakespeare's King John meets Elton. Walker's witty syntheses of classic texts and popular music have received numerous accolades and his irreverent humor is a welcome addition to the Cal Rep vernacular. This musical pastiche runs February 20 through March 7, 2009.

Cal Rep continues their exploration of America with a piece conceived and directed by Cal Rep Artistic Director, Joanne Gordon. *"And the War Came"* is a drama dedicated to the men and women of the National Guard. We share their home. They rescue us. Experience the war through their own words. This celebration of courage and fortitude runs April 24 through May 9, 2009.

Cal Rep at the Armory performances are Tuesday through Thursday at 7:30pm, Friday and Saturday at 8pm, and one matinee on the last Saturday of each run at 2pm. The Armory is located at 854 E. 7th Street in Long Beach, on the corner of Alamitos Street and 7th Street, neighboring the Museum of Latin American Art. All tickets for Cal Rep productions are \$20 for general admission, \$17 for students (with valid ID), and \$15 for military, seniors (55 and older), and children (12 and under). For tickets and information please call (562) 985-5526 or visit www.calrep.org.

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