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For Immediate Release

California Repertory Company Presents
Hamlet, the Artist Formerly Known as Prince of Denmark

Directed by Mike Sulprizio and Matt Walker

February 20th through March 14th

"Something is rockin' in the State of Denmark as Shakespeare's most famous Dane meets the sound of Purple Rain"

LONG BEACH, CA, February 2009 – California Repertory Company, in cooperation with Troubadour Theater Company's Artistic and Executive Directors, presents a parody of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Directors Mike Sulprizio and Matthew Walker promise an entertaining, engaging, and thought provoking production that reinvents *Hamlet, the Artist Formerly Known as Prince of Denmark* for Cal Rep, and assure us "though this be madness, yet there is method in it."

This warped version of Hamlet offers murder, vengeance, *Controversy*, intrigue, and a little *Purple Rain*. Kiss the old *Hamlet* goodbye, follow the *Sign O' the Times* and move into the *Erotic City* in this parody with a *Sexy MF*. Let's *Go Crazy* and party like its 1599!

The stage has been set, as Directors Sulprizio and Walker come to Cal Rep as ambassadors of funk, bringing their unique Troubadour charm, while still giving opportunity for growth and development in their critically acclaimed work of *Hamlet, the Artist Formerly Known as Prince of Denmark*. Director Sulprizio wants audience's to know that the current production is no imitation or replacement of the original, "We're not bringing our show and putting on our show. We're creating a new show with the Cal Rep Company," he declares "it's a production all of its own that seeks to expand the horizons of the audience."

The current production respects its predecessor while still offering something new. Both *Hamlet* and Prince are recognized. In the current climate, Director Walker is excited to present a production that is humorous and attracts audiences to theatre, stating, "The economy is depressing, let us offer something that doesn't promise anything but a good time."

***Hamlet, the Artist Formerly Known as Prince of Denmark* will open on February 20th at 8:00 p.m.** and run through March 14th. Performances will be Tuesday through Thursday beginning at 7:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. with a 2:00 p.m. performance on March 14th, there will be **no performances on March 6th or 7th**. The Graduate Theatre Production Company of California State University Long Beach, California Repertory Company performs in downtown Long Beach at the Armory, 854 E. 7th Street. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$17 for seniors and students (with valid ID). For tickets and information please call (562) 985-5526 or visit www.calrep.org.

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