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For Immediate Release

California Repertory Company Presents
The Kentucky Cycle Part I & Part II
Directed by Trevor Biship
October 24th through December 13th
"The Cycle is You"

LONG BEACH, CA, October 2008 – Robert Schenkkan's *The Kentucky Cycle* is a series of nine plays that reimagines over 200 years of eastern Kentucky history. While the features are local, the issues raised in the play are universally American. The plays explore violence as a part of the everyday American experience by addressing centuries-old challenges, such as race, gender, class, and responsibility toward the environment. Through the story of seven generations of a Kentucky family, Schenkkan's *The Kentucky Cycle* questions both our past and present urge to use force first and ask questions later.

After travelling through eastern Kentucky, Robert Schenkkan was compelled to write the epic *Kentucky Cycle* for his wife Mary Anne. Upon researching the region, the work grew into nine shorter plays examining how modern America understands and views history. In the early stages of development, the play travelled from New York to Los Angeles, where it was workshopped at the Mark Taper Forum. After receiving the largest grant ever given by the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays, the complete "cycle" debuted at the Intiman Theatre in Seattle in 1991. Later, in 1992, after returning to the Mark Taper Forum for the 25th Anniversary Season, the "cycle" was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. *The Kentucky Cycle* has won the PEN Centre West and the LA Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best Play, also the Broadway production received nominations for Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards.

Sixteen years later the "cycle" again arrives in Southern California. This season, California Repertory Company examines what America is and what it could be. *The Kentucky Cycle* utilizes the past to ask the audience 'what next?' Director Trevor Biship hopes the audience will leave discovering their own power for change and the responsibility they have as Americans.

Director Biship comes to California Repertory Company with a diverse background in contemporary theatre. He has directed local and regional premieres by playwrights such as Suzan-Lori Parks and Paula Vogel. He has worked at many regional theatres, including South Coast Repertory, Cornerstone Theatre Company, Pasadena Playhouse, and Laguna Playhouse. For his recent production of *Machinal*, Biship was praised by the *Long Beach Gazette*: "It's Biship's treatment of the story that makes this a memorable production." He has also been commended by *The Los Angeles Times*, *The L.A. Weekly* and *BackStage*.

The Kentucky Cycle Part I opens October 24th and Part II opens October 31st. Part I performances will be on October 24th, 25th, November 4th, 6th, 12th, 18th, 20th, December 3rd, 5th, 9th, and 11th. Part II performances will be on October 31st, November 1st, 5th, 13th, 14th, 19th, 21st, December 2nd, 4th, 10th, and 12th. Tuesday through Thursday performances begin at 7:30PM and Friday performances at 8:00PM. Beginning Saturday November 15th through December 13th, *The Kentucky Cycle* performances will run Part I at 2:00PM and Part II at 8:00PM. **No performances during Thanksgiving week.** 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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