

## Meet our Leaders



**Tony Taccone** is enjoying his 15<sup>th</sup> year as artistic director of Berkeley Repertory Theatre, where he has staged more than 35 shows – including world premieres by Culture Clash, Rinde Eckert, David Edgar, Danny Hoch, Geoff Hoyle, Quincy Long, Itamar Moses, and Lemony Snicket. Taccone took two shows from Berkeley Rep to Broadway: Sarah Jones’ *Bridge & Tunnel*, which won a Tony Award for its star, and Carrie Fisher’s *Wishful Drinking*, which set box-office records in Berkeley before enjoying a six-city national tour. Taccone commissioned Tony Kushner’s legendary *Angels in America*, co-directed its world premiere at the Mark Taper Forum, and has collaborated with Kushner on seven projects. Their production of *Brundibar* featured designs by beloved children’s author Maurice Sendak; it debuted at Berkeley Rep and then traveled to Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven and the New Victory Theatre in New York. Two of Taccone’s recent shows transferred to London: *Continental Divide* played the Barbican in 2004, and *Tiny Kushner* played the Tricycle Theatre last fall. His regional credits include Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, Arizona Repertory Theatre, Center Theatre Group, the Guthrie Theater, Hartford Stage, the Huntington Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Public Theater, San Jose Repertory Theatre, and Seattle Repertory Theatre, as well as San Francisco’s Eureka Theatre where he served six years as artistic director before coming to Berkeley Rep. Taccone has served on the faculty at UC Berkeley and the board of Theatre Communications Group, and acted as a regional representative for the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. Known as a director, he recently turned his hand to playwriting, and two of his scripts are premiering this year: *Rita Moreno: Life Without Makeup* and *Ghost Light*, a co-production between Berkeley Rep and OSF.



**Susan Medak** has served as Berkeley Rep’s managing director since 1990, leading the administration and operations of the Theatre. She has served as president of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and as treasurer of Theatre Communications Group, two organizations that represent the interests of nonprofit theatres across the nation. Medak chaired two panels for the Massachusetts Arts Council and has also served on program panels for the National Endowment for the Arts. Closer to home, Medak chairs the Downtown Berkeley Business Improvement District and serves as president of the Downtown Berkeley Association. She is the founding chair of the Berkeley Arts in Education Steering Committee for Berkeley Unified School District and the Berkeley Cultural Trust. Medak serves on the faculty of Yale School of Drama and is a proud member of the Mont Blanc Ladies’ Literary Guild and Trekking Society. She lives in Berkeley with her husband and son.