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## **TWO BERKELEY REP SHOWS FEATURED THIS WEEK ON PBS / KQED-TV**

**Local audiences can tune in to see *Let Me Down Easy* and a *Ghost Light* documentary**

JANUARY 11, 2011 – In the coming week, by tuning into KQED 9, local television viewers can get a taste of the intimacy and adventure that theatregoers regularly enjoy at the Tony Award-winning Berkeley Repertory Theatre. First, Anna Deavere Smith's electrifying solo show *Let Me Down Easy* airs on PBS' *Great Performances*. Then KQED debuts *The Memory Be Green*, an original documentary about the world-premiere production of *Ghost Light*. As if that were not enough, *This American Life* – the popular public radio program – devoted its entire hour to *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs* last week, and that episode can now be heard online.

*The Memory Be Green* focuses on a new play written by Tony Taccone and directed by Jonathan Moscone that honors the memory of the latter's father: *Ghost Light* conjures an imaginary world based on the historic assassination of Mayor George Moscone. The 30-minute documentary combines reflections about the late leader, and the era in which he lived, with a look at the artistic process behind creating a new work for the stage. In the play's fictional world, the main character is directing a production of *Hamlet*, and KQED's documentary takes its title from a line in that script.

***The Memory Be Green* premieres on KQED 9 at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, January 17.** The film will also be screened at Berkeley Rep as part of its free Page to Stage on Monday, January 23 at 7:00 PM. Repeats will be shown on KQED Life and other KQED channels and will also be available online at [kqed.org](http://kqed.org). *The Memory Be Green*, a co-production of KQED and Dave Iverson, is funded in part by San Francisco Foundation. *Ghost Light*, a co-production of Berkeley Rep and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, plays on the Thrust Stage through February 19.

**But first *Great Performances* features *Let Me Down Easy* on Friday, January 13 at 9:00 PM.** Those fortunate enough to have seen it live know that this show is a tour de force. Conceived, written, and performed by Anna Deavere Smith and staged by esteemed director Leonard Foglia, *Let Me Down Easy* explores the depths of human strength. Smith conducted 320 interviews on three continents to create this play – and now she paints indelible portraits of more than 20 unforgettable individuals. Together, their voices tell a stunning story about the vulnerability of the human body, the resilience of the spirit, and the price of care. *Let Me Down Easy* broke box office records at Berkeley Rep and played to sold-out houses for an astonishing ten weeks! Now *Great Performances* offers the opportunity to experience it again – or to marvel at it for the first time.

Finally, Mike Daisey's monologue about the CEO of Apple appeared at Berkeley Rep last January. It attracted international headlines and went on to Seattle and Washington, DC before occupying off Broadway for an extended run. Now it's caught the attention of Ira Glass and his colleagues at PRI. Last Sunday, public broadcasting fans across the nation heard an hour-long program devoted to this controversial show. **To listen to *This American Life's* investigation of *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs*, just visit [thisamericanlife.org](http://thisamericanlife.org).**

See tomorrow's shows today at Berkeley Rep. There's still time to catch the American premiere of *The Wild Bride*, which extended its run by three weeks thanks to rapturous reviews. Next Steven Epp, the star of *Figaro* and *The Miser*, returns to unleash another Molière masterpiece

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with *A Doctor in Spite of Himself*. Then Les Waters bids Berkeley adieu with his staging of John Logan's *Red*, a feverish script that won the Tony Award for Best Play in 2011, and Dael Orlandersmith delivers a fierce and unforgettable performance in the world premiere of *Black n Blue Boys / Broken Men*. To top it off, Berkeley Rep is offering two special presentations this spring: *In Paris*, a beautiful romance starring Mikhail Baryshnikov, and the world premiere of Eve Ensler's *Emotional Creature*. For details, call (510) 647-2949 or click [berkeleyrep.org](http://berkeleyrep.org).

#### **ABOUT BERKELEY REP**

Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to a national leader in innovative theatre. Known for its core values of imagination and excellence, as well as its educated and adventurous audience, the nonprofit has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. With two stages, a school, and a Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre, Berkeley Rep is proud to premiere exhilarating new plays. In the last six years, the company has helped send six shows to Broadway. Seven more landed off Broadway, one moved to London, two turned into films, and others have toured the nation. Come see tomorrow's plays today at Berkeley Rep.

#### **ABOUT KQED**

KQED has served Northern California for more than 50 years and is affiliated with NPR and PBS. KQED owns and operates public television stations KQED 9 (San Francisco/Bay Area), KQED Plus (San Jose/Bay Area), and KQET 25 (Watsonville/Monterey); KQED Public Radio (88.5FM San Francisco and 89.3FM Sacramento); the interactive platforms [kqed.org](http://kqed.org) and [KQEDnews.org](http://KQEDnews.org); and KQED Education. KQED Public Television, one of the nation's most-watched public television stations, is the producer of local and national series such as *QUEST*; *Check, Please! Bay Area*; *This Week in Northern California*; *Truly CA*; and *Essential Pépin*. KQED's digital television channels include 9HD, KQED Life, KQED World, KQED Kids, and KQED V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio, home of *Forum* with Michael Krasny and *The California Report*, is one of the most-listened-to public radio stations in the nation with an award-winning news and public affairs program service delivering more than 18 local newscasts each weekday. KQED Interactive provides KQED's cross-platform news service, [KQEDnews.org](http://KQEDnews.org), and offers several popular local blogs, video and audio podcasts, and a live radio stream at [kqed.org](http://kqed.org). KQED Education brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents and the general public through workshops, community screenings, and multimedia resources.

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