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For Immediate Release

La Jolla Playhouse and The Old Globe join San Diego REP to co-sponsor “We Are Listening”

San Diego, CA – August 25, 2020 – The leadership teams of **San Diego Repertory Theatre** (San Diego REP), **The Old Globe** and **La Jolla Playhouse** announced today a new partnership between the three theatres to co-sponsor San Diego REP’s successful series, “We Are Listening,” a live online salon about Black artists’ experiences in the theatre industry hosted and curated by San Diego REP’s Development Coordinator **Ahmed K. Dents**. This new co-sponsorship brings together some of San Diego’s most influential arts organizations in an effort to widen the reach of the important discussions being held in the series. “We Are Listening” is hosted **every other Thursday at 7 PM** on Zoom. Visit sdrep.org/listening for more information and to register for free.

Joining Dents to co-curate the discussions will be The Old Globe Associate Artistic Director and Director of Arts Engagement **Fredome Bradley-Ballentine** and La Jolla Playhouse Artistic Programs Manager & Local Casting Director **Jacole Kitchen**, both former guests in the series. Currently planned guests include writer **Bil Wright** and performer **Eboni Muse** on **August 27** and Artistic Director Emeritus of Pasadena Playhouse **Sheldon Epps** on **September 10**.

“The challenges, desires, obstacles and dreams that inform the careers of African American theatre artists in America today demand to be heard and understood,” says **Sam Woodhouse**, San Diego REP Artistic Director. “There is much work to do in the march towards racial justice, equity and the dismantling of white supremacy in our culture. ‘We Are Listening’ is part of that march.”

“We are honored to partner with San Diego REP and The Old Globe on this extraordinary program. Amplifying voices of color on our stages is vital to becoming a more compassionate and inclusive community,” says the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse **Christopher Ashley**. “One of our tasks as a society, and specifically as theater artists, is to figure out how to re-emerge from this moment in a more equitable way, and we can only accomplish this by engaging in these invaluable conversations.”

“The Old Globe’s commitment to making theatre as a public good obliges us to serve every part of our community,” said Erna Finci Viterbi Artistic Director **Barry Edelstein**, “And in this moment of racial reckoning across American society, this means paying special attention to the experience of Black San Diego. ‘We Are Listening’ is a great way to do that. The Globe is honored and grateful to partner with San Diego REP and La Jolla Playhouse as we strive toward anti-racism in the San Diego theatre ecosystem.”

Guests who have joined the conversation include Kitchen, Bradley-Ballentine, founding Artistic Director of MOXIE Theatre and freelance director **Delicia Turner Sonnenberg**, The Old Globe board

member and Theatre Corner founder **Michael Taylor**, San Diego Arts & Culture Commissioner, CEO of Urban Warriors and founder of Kuumba Fest **Dajahn Blevins**, Common Ground Theatre Executive Artistic Director **Yolanda Franklin**, actor **Antonio “TJ” Johnson**, actor **Monique Gaffney**, director **Thom W. Jones II** and actor and singer **Minka Wiltz**.

About The Old Globe

The Tony Award–winning The Old Globe is one of the country’s leading professional not-for-profit regional theatres. Now in its 85th year, the Globe is San Diego’s flagship performing arts institution, and it serves a vibrant community with theatre as a public good. Under the leadership of Erna Finci Viterbi Artistic Director Barry Edelstein and Managing Director Timothy J. Shields, The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 16 productions of classic, contemporary, and new works on its three Balboa Park stages, including its internationally renowned Shakespeare Festival. More than 250,000 people annually attend Globe productions and participate in the theatre’s artistic and arts engagement programs. Its nationally prominent Arts Engagement Department provides an array of participatory programs that make theatre matter to more people in neighborhoods throughout the region. Humanities programs at the Globe and around the city broaden the community’s understanding of theatre art in all its forms. The Globe also boasts a range of new play development programs with professional and community-based writers, as well as the renowned The Old Globe and University of San Diego Shiley Graduate Theatre Program. Numerous world premieres—such as 2014 Tony Award winner for Best Musical *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*, *Bright Star*, *The Full Monty*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and *Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*—have been developed at The Old Globe and have gone on to highly successful runs on Broadway and at regional theatres across the country.

About La Jolla Playhouse

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what’s new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 105 world premieres, commissioning 52 new works, and sending 33 productions to Broadway – including the hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

About San Diego Repertory Theatre

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, provocative and inclusive theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Repertory Theatre is downtown San Diego’s resident theatre, promoting an interconnected community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts over 550 events and performances year-round on its three stages at the Lyceum Theatre. Since moving to the Lyceum, The REP has produced 54 main stage productions by Latino playwrights, and more than 45 world premieres. The company has received more than 200 awards for artistic excellence from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patté Theatre Awards, NAACP, Backstage West, Dramalogue and StageSceneLA. In 2005, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented The REP with the Craig Noel Award “For 30 Years of Artistic Dedication to Downtown and Diversity.” San Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul. To learn more about San Diego Repertory Theatre, to purchase tickets, or make a donation, visit sdrep.org. Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@SanDiegoREP).