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For Immediate Release

SAN DIEGO REP TO STREAM RECORDING OF *HOUSE OF JOY*

San Diego, CA – March 31, 2020 - San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) announced today that, for the first time in the theatre's 45-year history, it will make available for digital viewing one of its season productions. ***House of Joy***, by playwright **Madhuri Shekar** and directed by Artistic Director **Sam Woodhouse** and National Directors Fellowship Director-in-Residence **Arpita Mukherjee**, is now available to stream on Vimeo. Access to the recorded production can be purchased on San Diego REP's website at sdrep.org with a suggested donation ranging from \$10 to \$100. Those who held tickets for performances between March 12 – 29 and were unable to see the production due to cancellation will be given access to the video free of charge.

San Diego REP's production held its opening night on March 11; the very next day, after only 6 performances in front of a paying audience, the theatre's management made the tough decision to cancel the remainder of the 4-week run due to precautions surrounding COVID-19.

"These are unprecedented times we're living in, and all of us are looking for ways to make life feel a little more normal right now. But live theatre has survived for millennia by constantly finding new ways to tell important stories," says Woodhouse. "I'm proud of the work the entire company did to make *House of Joy* the beautiful show it was. Their hard work deserves to be seen, and the story of *House of Joy* is one that must be told."

San Diego REP's recorded performance of *House of Joy* took place during an invited dress rehearsal on March 4. Viewers can access *House of Joy* by purchasing the link and permissions at sdrep.org. Admission to the video is available with a suggested donation ranging from \$10 to \$100; access will last for a strictly limited time ending on April 12. Vimeo is available on any web browser and as an application on mobile devices and most major television streaming devices, including Roku, Apple TV, Xbox, Playstation and more.

Set in the 17th century, in a place like Delhi, India, *House of Joy* spins the tale of Hamida, one of the elite female bodyguards in the Emperor's Imperial Harem. When faced with an impossible ethical quandary, Hamida goes against everything she believes and risks her life to help abused Queen Mariyam escape the heavily guarded harem. Inspired by the epic legends of Indian history, Shekar has crafted a swashbuckling action-adventure romance centering on strong women who battle each other as well as a world threatening to enter their sacred space. This wildly entertaining story of palace intrigue and betrayal features sword fights, narrow escapes and sparks of revolution that culminates in a breathtaking conclusion!

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).

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