

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Berkeley, CA – March 17th, 2010

Hmm! Bacon! Yes, actual frying bacon on stage. Who could resist the enticing smell? - or the darkly comic, hauntingly mythic portrait of the American family in CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS. Written by Pulitzer Prize winner Sam Shepard, CURSE is at once poetic, violent, lyrical and outrageous. Set in California in the 1970s, the play surreally chronicles a farm family as they dream of a better life while dealing with an increasingly bizarre present life. Veering from everyday concerns (such as bacon!) to flights of theatrical invention, this CURSE never lets us forget the deeply conflicted yet seemingly inescapable ties of family.

Robert Estes (director) has directed new plays for Solano Rep, Marin Festival of One Acts, and other local theatres. Recently, he directed staged readings of Twelfth Night, The Tempest and other great plays by the Bard for Subterranean Shakespeare. Robert has served as dramaturg for Town Hall Theatre and CalShakes (where he'll assistant direct *Mrs. Warren's Profession* in June). Later this year, he'll direct *Other People's Money* for Masquers in Point Richmond. Robert sees this as a something of a homecoming — once upon a time he graduated from UC Berkeley.

Actors Ensemble of Berkeley has been producing rarely seen plays in Berkeley since 1957. Run solely by the efforts of its volunteers, AE is Berkeley's longest-running theater company, enlisting the talents of 100's of actors, technicians, artists and volunteers year after year.

When: April 23rd through May 22nd, 2010, Friday and Saturdays at 8pm, plus an additional performance Thursday, May 20th, 2010, 2010 at 8pm.

What: Play – CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS

Who: Actors Ensemble of Berkeley

Where: Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Avenue (@ Berryman) in Berkeley

Public Info: (510) 649-5999 www.aeofberkeley.org, info@aeofberkeley.org

Admission: All shows - \$15 General Admission; \$12 for Seniors and Students (w/ I.D.).

To order tickets online, visit www.aeofberkeley.org. To reserve tickets, call (510) 649-5999.

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