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***THE NEW YORK TIMES* OP-ED COLUMNIST FRANK RICH BRINGS HIS SAVVY  
CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS TO CAL PERFORMANCES  
MONDAY, APRIL 10 AT 8:00 P.M.**

**BERKELEY, March 7, 2006** – In what is sure to be a provocative evening, *The New York Times*' associate editor and columnist **Frank Rich** brings his witty and razor-sharp views on the intersection of American culture and politics to Zellerbach Hall **Monday, April 10 at 8:00 p.m.** Zeroing in on today's key issues, his weekly 1500-word essays have been a reader favorite since their inception in April 2005. Fans are currently doing without Rich's opinions as he is on a three month leave from the newspaper while writing a book, tentatively titled *The Greatest Story Ever Sold*, about the fictions that have engulfed the United States since September 11, 2001. "I now want to stand back from four and a half years and try to put together the narrative, essentially by which truth went down the toilet and tell that story of how it happened," Rich explained recently on "Open Source," a Public Radio International talk show. "Begin the summer before 9/11 when we were obsessed with Gary Condit and shark attacks, then go to the day that supposedly changed everything, 9/11, and then see how we ended up in a war against someone who did not attack us on 9/11."

Rich has been at *The New York Times* since 1980, when he was named chief theater critic. Beginning in 1994, he became an Op-Ed columnist, and in 1999 he became the first *Times* columnist to write a regular double-length column for the Op-Ed page. From 1999 to 2003, he additionally served as Senior Writer for *The New York Times Magazine*. The dual title was a first for *The Times* and allowed Rich to explore a variety of topics at greater length. His columns and articles in each venue have drawn from his background as a theater critic and observer of art, entertainment and politics.

In addition to his work at *The Times*, Rich has written about culture and politics for many other publications. His childhood memoir, *Ghost Light*, was published in 2000 by Random

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House and as a Random House Trade Paperback in 2001. The film rights to *Ghost Light* have been acquired by Storyline Entertainment. A collection of Mr. Rich's drama reviews, *Hot Seat: Theater Criticism for The New York Times, 1980-1993*, was published by Random House in October 1998. His book *The Theatre Art of Boris Aronson*, co-authored with Lisa Aronson, was published by Knopf in 1987.

Before joining *The New York Times*, Mr. Rich was a film and television critic at *Time* magazine. Earlier, he had been film critic for *New York Post* and film critic and senior editor of *New Times* magazine. He was a founding editor of the *Richmond (Va.) Mercury*, a weekly newspaper, in the early 1970s.

Born on June 2, 1949 in Washington, D.C., Rich is a graduate of its public schools. He earned a B.A. degree in American History and Literature, graduating magna cum laude from Harvard College in 1971. At Harvard, he was editorial chairman of *The Harvard Crimson*, an honorary Harvard College scholar, a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the recipient of a Henry Russell Shaw Traveling Fellowship. Rich has two sons and lives in Manhattan with his wife, the author and novelist Alex Witchel, who is a reporter for *The New York Times*.

### STRICTLY SPEAKING

This is the third year of Cal Performances' popular Strictly Speaking series designed to bring the most intriguing literary, cultural, scientific and political voices of the day to Bay Area audiences. The remainder of 2005/2006 season's Strictly Speaking series includes **Michael Feldman** and his popular comedy/quiz/interview program on current events titled ***Whad'Ya Know?*** (Apr. 28).

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Frank Rich** on **Monday, April 10** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00, \$26.00** and **\$32.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association

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members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

The *Contra Costa Times* and Classical 102.1 KDFC are season media sponsors of the 2005/06 performing arts season.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Monday, April 10 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*Strictly Speaking*  
**Frank Rich**

**Program:** *The New York Times* Op-Ed columnist Frank Rich brings his witty and razor-sharp views on American culture and politics to what is sure to be a provocative evening.

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