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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 30, 2005

**AN EVENING OF STORYTELLING WITH PUBLIC RADIO'S IRA GLASS &  
GRAPHIC NOVELIST CHRIS WARE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 8:00 P.M.  
IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, September 30, 2005 – Visible and Invisible Drawings: An Evening with Chris Ware and Ira Glass** will be presented on **Saturday, November 12 at 8:00 p.m.** by Cal Performances. Together on stage **Ira Glass**, host and producer of the Peabody Award-winning weekly program *This American Life*, and **Chris Ware**, author of the brilliant and heart-breaking graphic novel *Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth*, will demonstrate and discuss the art of storytelling. Both Glass and Ware tell epic stories to nationwide audiences with power, originality and sophistication. Using a mixture of narration, live audio and images, the two will collaborate on a true story, each in his own medium, about a man who as a boy sought to save Chicago's architectural treasures from demolition. They will then be joined on stage by **Orville Schell**, Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley, who will facilitate a discussion about the live collaboration and similarities between Glass' and Ware's two very different media.

**IRA GLASS**

As host and producer of the documentary public radio program *This American Life*, **Ira Glass** has reinvented radio, finding drama, poignancy and humor in everyday places, and focusing on the details of life that often go unobserved. *This American Life* had its premiere on Chicago's public radio station WBEZ in late 1995 and is now heard on more than 500 public radio stations each week by over 1.7 million listeners. Sidestepping sensationalism, Glass and his staff serve up narrative epics that pinpoint, in the tradition of Studs Terkel, the unusual and poetic in the everyday. *This American Life* addresses one theme each week, exploring it from various points of view. It has become an enduring favorite on public radio across the country. A number of stories from the program are in development to become feature films at Warner Brothers. The show has released two Greatest Hits compilations and a DVD, created with cartoonist Chris Ware.

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Glass began his career as an intern at National Public Radio's network headquarters in Washington, DC in 1978, when he was 19 years old. Over the years, he worked on nearly every NPR network news program and held virtually every production job in NPR's Washington headquarters. He has been a tape cutter, newscast writer, desk assistant, editor, and producer. He has filled in as host of *Talk of the Nation* and *Weekend All Things Considered*.

Under Glass's editorial direction, *This American Life* has won the highest honors for broadcasting and journalistic excellence, including the Peabody and DuPont-Columbia awards, as well as the Robert F. Kennedy Award. The *American Journalism Review* declared that the show is "at the vanguard of a journalistic revolution." It has attracted continuous national media attention over the years, including features in *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and numerous other publications. Ira Glass has made appearances on the *Late Show with David Letterman* and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. In 2001, *Time* magazine named Glass "Best Radio Host in America."

## CHRIS WARE

**Chris Ware** was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1967. While attending the University of Texas in Austin, he published a regular comic strip in the student newspaper. Art Spiegelman saw his strip and gave the unknown cartoonist four pages in *RAW* magazine. Ware moved to Chicago in the early '90s and began publishing in the pages of the Chicago alternative weekly *New City* the strip known as "The Acme Novelty Library," which has been distributed in 15 volumes since 1993 by Fantagraphics and published in a large-format hardcover by Pantheon (2005). This critically-acclaimed strip, which won several comics awards during the 1990s, is where he honed his distinctive style. From this strip emerged the graphic novel *Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth* (Pantheon, 2000) which was an overnight sensation and "arguably the greatest achievement of the form, ever" (*The New York Times*). The novel received the Guardian First Book Award in 2001, the American Book Award in 2000, and the prestigious French comics award "L'Alph Art" in 2003. Ware is also the author of *The Acme Novelty Datebook* (Drawn & Quarterly, 2003), *Quimby the Mouse* (Fantagraphics, 2003), and is the editor of the 13<sup>th</sup> issue of *McSweeney's* (2005). He is a contributor to *The New Yorker*, and the *New York Times Magazine's* new "Funny Pages."

Chris is also one of America's most respected popular artists and his work has appeared in many national and international art exhibits, including the Whitney Biennial exhibit in 2002. In his spare time Chris publishes *The Rag Time Ephemeralist*, an exquisitely designed and informative journal devoted to the exploration, preservation, and celebration of early 20<sup>th</sup> century American popular music. He continues to publish "The Acme Novelty Library" every week in the *Chicago Reader*. Ware lives in Chicago with his wife Marnie and their child.

### STRICTLY SPEAKING

This is the third year of Cal Performances' popular **Strictly Speaking** series, a series of events designed to bring the most intriguing literary, cultural, scientific and political voices of the day to Bay Area audiences. The 2005/2006 season's Strictly Speaking guests scheduled *to date* include: **Randy Cohen** (Nov. 19), *New York Times*' "The Ethicist" columnist and Emmy Award-winning writer of *Late Night With David Letterman* and *TV Nation*; former Monty Python star **John Cleese** (Feb. 8 & 9); *New York Times* associate editor **Frank Rich** (Apr. 10); and **Michael Feldman** (Apr. 28) along with his popular comedy/quiz/interview program on current events titled *Whad'Ya Know?*

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Visible and Invisible Drawings: An Evening with Chris Ware and Ira Glass** on **Saturday, November 12 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 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**

**Saturday, November 12 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

*Strictly Speaking*

**Visible and Invisible Drawings: An Evening with Chris Ware and Ira Glass**

**Chris Ware**, artist

**Ira Glass**, radio producer

**Program:** Together on stage, Ira Glass, host and producer of the Peabody Award-winning weekly program *This American Life*, and Chris Ware, author of the brilliant and heart-breaking graphic novel *Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth*, will demonstrate and discuss the art of storytelling.

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