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**STAGE, SCREEN AND TELEVISION STAR MICHAEL MCKEAN COMES TO
CAL PERFORMANCES SUNDAY, APRIL 15 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**THE GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING, OSCAR-NOMINATED SONGWRITER IS ALSO A
CREATIVE FORCE BEHIND THE SCENES**

BERKELEY, March 7, 2007—As a special reward for finishing those pesky tax returns, Bay Area comedy lovers will get a well-deserved laugh when comedian, actor, writer, director, musician and songwriter **Michael McKean** comes to **Zellerbach Hall** on **Sunday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m.** Since his early career as a member of the satirical comedy group Credibility Gap, **Michael McKean** has been associated with some of pop culture's most iconographic films and television shows of the last three decades. He starred in the '70s series *Laverne and Shirley*, also serving as writer and sometime director. He co-wrote and composed music for and starred in Rob Reiner's classic rock comedy mockumentary, *This is Spinal Tap*, with Christopher Guest, Reiner and Harry Shearer. He also co-wrote the Academy Award-nominated, Grammy Award-winning song "A Kiss at the End of the Rainbow" for *A Mighty Wind*, in which he again co-starred with Guest and Shearer. His latest accomplishments include reuniting with Guest again in the film *For Your Consideration*; making his Broadway musical comedy debut in the hit musical *Hairspray*; and starring in the world premiere of Woody Allen's play, *A Second Hand Memory*. McKean returned to Broadway last season in a revival of *Pajama Game* and then traveled across the Atlantic to star in *Love Song* in London's West End. The free-wheeling program in Berkeley, part of Cal Performances *Strictly Speaking* series, promises to touch on much of this work.

McKean spent most of 2004 working in the New York theater scene. He followed Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein when he took over the role of irrepressible stage mother Edna Turnblad in the Broadway production of *Hairspray*, the hit musical comedy based on writer-director John Waters' 1988 film. McKean proved more than up to the challenge of filling Fierstein's shoes, delighting audiences and critics alike, and proved himself to be as

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accomplished on stage as he is on screen. That success, in turn, led to another New York theater opportunity for McKean: he was cast in Woody Allen's new play, *A Second Hand Memory*, which ran Off-Broadway at Atlantic Theater Company. In 2005, McKean made his debut at the Williamstown Theatre Festival Mainstage in Tom Stoppard's *On the Razzle* with English director David Jones. He also joined the cast of the irreverent IFC program *Hopeless Pictures* as Mel Wax, the head of a dysfunctional Hollywood indie dream factory.

McKean's recent feature film credits include *For Your Consideration*, *The Producers*, *Relative Strangers*, *The Aristocrats*, *Auto Focus*, *Little Nicky*, *Beautiful*, Clint Eastwood's *True Crime*, *Teaching Mrs. Tingle*, *Mystery*, *Alaska*, *And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself* (HBO) with Antonio Banderas, *100 Mile Rule*, R.L. Stine's *Haunted Lighthouse*, and *The Guru*. His long list of motion picture credits also includes *The Brady Bunch Movie* and *The Big Picture*, which McKean also co-wrote with Christopher Guest.

McKean's musical compositions for *A Mighty Wind*, directed by Christopher Guest, are notable for both quantity—he worked on 10 songs, more than any other contributor to this soundtrack—and quality. “A Kiss at the End of the Rainbow,” is one of three songs on which McKean collaborated with his wife, actress Annette O’Toole. In 2003, “A Kiss at the End of the Rainbow” earned a Best Original Song Oscar nomination for McKean and O’Toole. The song went on to win a Grammy Award. The team of McKean and O’Toole also contributed two comedic folks pastiches to *A Mighty Wind*, “Fare Away” and “Potato’s in the Paddy Wagon.”

Prior to his contributions to *A Mighty Wind*, McKean's best-known accomplishments as a composer for films and television were his legendary collaborations (as “David St. Hubbins”) with Christopher Guest (“Nigel Tufnel”) and Harry Shearer (“Derek Smalls”) for the soundtrack of *This Is Spinal Tap*. He also wrote music for *Laverne & Shirley*, sketch comedy pilot *The T.V. Show* and series *Morton & Hayes*, and composed songs for Christopher Guest's first two directorial efforts, *Waiting for Guffman* and *Best in Show*.

On television, McKean recently played the waxen Adrian Van Voorhees on Martin Short's Comedy Central series *Primetime Glick*. Other television successes, besides the

aforementioned *Laverne and Shirley*, include *Saturday Night Live*, *Tracey Takes On* and *Dream On*, for which McKean also directed episodes; as well as *Boston Legal*, *Alias*, *The X Files* and recurring role of Perry White in the WB series *Smallville*. Since 1976, the ubiquitous performer has appeared in over 80 different projects.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Michael McKean** on **Sunday, April 15** at **7:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00**, **\$28.00** and **\$38.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.net; 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.calperformances.net.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, April 15 at **7:00 p.m.**

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

Strictly Speaking
Michael McKean

Program: Comedian, actor, songwriter Michael McKean comes to Berkeley with a free-wheeling program that promises to touch on much of his wide-ranging work.

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