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***THIS AMERICAN LIFE* HOST IRA GLASS AND
CONTRIBUTOR DAVID RAKOFF BRING THEIR BAG OF STORIES TO
CAL PERFORMANCES SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 8 :00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, January 17, 2008—Together on stage, **Ira Glass** and **David Rakoff** give a look behind the scenes of the award-winning radio program *This American Life Saturday, February 23* at **Zellerbach Hall** at **8:00 p.m.** With his weekly series, Glass has reinvented radio, finding drama, poignancy and humor in everyday places. One of his favorite cohorts is David Rakoff, "...a whore with a heart of gold," says Glass. "David's a man who says all the nasty things we want to hear and then reveals that, actually, it's all about love." The evening will include the performance of a story by Glass and Rakoff from the radio program, followed by an in-depth look at how the segment was produced, from original idea to its final version. Additional anecdotes and stories from the series and questions from the audience are included in the performance.

THIS AMERICAN LIFE

This American Life focuses on the details of life that often go unobserved. The program 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 (Glass and Ware appeared together at Cal Performances November 2005). The new television version of *This American Life* airs on Showtime Networks.

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IRA GLASS

Ira 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."

DAVID RAKOFF

"**David Rakoff** has a rapier wit, slashing in all directions with slice-of-life insights and cutting remarks," says *Publishers Weekly*, "sometimes nicking himself with self-deprecation in his dexterous duello with the American experience." A regular on *This American Life*, David Rakoff is also a frequent contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*, a correspondent for *Outside* magazine, and has written for *GQ*, *Salon*, *New York Magazine*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *The New York Observer*, and *Wired*, among others.

Rakoff has worked in theater with David and Amy Sedaris, as director of their play *Stitches*, and he acted in *The Little Freida Mysteries* and the Obie award-winning *One Woman Shoe*. As an actor, he has portrayed Lance Loud, poet Vladimir Mayakovsky, and, in the window of Barney's department store, Sigmund Freud. Television appearances include *Cosby*, *As the World Turns*, and *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. His collection of essays, *Fraud*, was published in May 2001 from Doubleday. He lives in New York City.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Ira Glass** and **David Rakoff** on **Saturday, February 23** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00**, **\$28.00** and **\$36.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community Rush Tickets. Rush Tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush Ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush Ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available at 510-642-9988, press 2 for the Rush Ticket hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances 2007/08 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, February 23 at **8:00 p.m.**

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

Strictly Speaking

Ira Glass, writer and host of *This American Life*

David Rakoff, contributor to *This American Life*

Program: *This American Life* host Ira Glass and contributor David Rakoff give a look behind the scenes of the ever-popular radio series.

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