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AMERICAN RACONTEUR IRA GLASS BRINGS HIS *RADIO STORIES & OTHER STORIES* TO CAL PERFORMANCES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 8:00 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL

BERKELEY, October 22, 2009—Ira Glass, award-winning journalist, host and producer of Chicago Public Radio’s *This American Life*, comes to Cal Performances on **Saturday, December 5 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall**. Recognized as “a storyteller who filters his interviews and impressions through a distinctive literary imagination, an eccentric intelligence, and a sympathetic heart” (*The New York Times*), Glass will discuss, in an unmoderated talk, what makes for an irresistible radio story. He will dissect the process and guiding principles of creating compelling narratives out of raw material—monologues, interviews and recorded events—with the use of careful editing and added music. Additionally, audiences will catch a glimpse at the personal path that led Glass to become a storyteller. There will be a Q&A session with the audience following the talk. *Radio Stories & Other Stories* is a part of Cal Performances’ *Strictly Speaking* series.

“There are so many things you can do on radio that are so much harder to do well in any other medium,” says **Ira Glass**. “Certain things are just more powerful, when done as talking, without pictures.” He began his career as an intern at National Public Radio (NPR) in 1978, at the age of 19, while a major in semiotics at Brown University. From that point forward, he spent time in just about every production job at NPR, from tape cutter, desk assistant, newscast writer, editor to producer.

From 1989 to 1995, Glass was a reporter in NPR’s Chicago Bureau, garnering considerable acclaim for a series of long-form stories for *All Things Considered* about Chicago’s Taft High School, as well as following the Clinton 1992 Presidential Campaign and anchoring NPR’s live broadcast of the Clinton Inauguration. From 1990 to 1995, he co-hosted with NPR producer Gary Covino a weekly, local program on WBEZ-FM called *The Wild Room*, a format that morphed into *This American Life*, now heard on over 500 public radio stations each week by over 1.7 million listeners.

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This American Life premiered on Chicago's WBEZ in November 1995, and went national in June 1996. Under Glass's editorial direction, the program has won the highest honors for broadcasting and journalistic excellence: the Peabody, duPont-Columbia awards and Robert F. Kennedy awards. *The American Journalism Review* and *Brill's Content* declared the show "at the vanguard of a journalistic revolution," and in 2001, *Time* magazine named Glass "Best Radio Host in America." Writers as diverse as Anne Lamott, Sandra Tsing Loh, Tobias Wolff, Bill Buford, Sarah Vowell, David Sedaris and David Rakoff (the latter three have all appeared at Cal Performances) have read their work on the show. The television adaptation of *This American Life* ran on Showtime for two seasons.

TICKET INFORMATION

This performance is sold out. Tickets for **Ira Glass: *Radio Stories & Other Stories*** on **Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$20.00, \$28.00 and \$36.00** and may become available due to last-minute returns. Patrons should check with the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability. Additionally, patrons may join the notification list at www.calperformances.org to be contacted via e-mail if tickets become available for this performance. All other 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 three 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 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a

performance only.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, December 5 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Strictly Speaking

Ira Glass

Radio Stories & Other Stories

Program: Ira Glass, producer and host of NPR's *This American Life*, returns solo for an unmoderated talk about his work; a Q&A with the audience will follow.

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