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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 19, 2005

**LEARN *HOW TO BE GOOD* WITH RANDY COHEN,
COLUMNIST FOR *THE NEW YORK TIMES*' FEATURE, "THE ETHICIST"
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 8:00 P.M. AT CAL PERFORMANCES**

BERKELEY, October 19, 2005 – Randy Cohen, author of "The Ethicist," the weekly column and reader favorite in the Sunday *New York Times Magazine*, will offer a general approach to everyday ethics in his evening titled *How to be Good* on **Saturday, November 19 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. As an ethicist, he tackles pesky moral questions like is it acceptable to smuggle food into a movie theater or use a stray wi-fi connection. Cohen is the author of *The Good, The Bad and The Difference*, a collection of his advice, and is a multiple Emmy Award-winner for his comedy writing. His "Ethicist" column is syndicated in 38 papers across the United States and Canada. "One of the things I try to do in the column is discuss a course of action that someone is considering, and not to judge the person. That's not my job. I'm not deciding who gets into heaven," Cohen explains. Following his talk, Cohen will field questions from the audiences related to their own ethical dilemmas.

Randy Cohen was born in Charleston, South Carolina. He attended graduate school at the California Institute of the Arts as a music major studying composition, something Cohen says he is unable to account for. His first professional work was writing humor pieces, essays and stories for newspapers and magazines such as *The New Yorker*, *Harpers*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Nation*, and *Young Love Comics*. Knopf published a collection of these pieces titled *Diary of a Flying Man* in 1989. For several years, he wrote "The News Quiz," a regular column of topical comedy, for the on-line magazine *Slate*.

Cohen's first television work was writing for *Late Night With David Letterman* for which he won three Emmy awards. His fourth Emmy was for his work on Michael Moore's *TV Nation*. He received a fifth Emmy as a result of a clerical error, and he kept it, he claims. He was the original head writer on the *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* for which he also co-wrote the theme music. Cohen is also a regular contributor to *Weekend All Things Considered* on National Public Radio.

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The Good, The Bad and The Difference was recently published in paperback by Broadway Publishing.

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 2005/2006 season's Strictly Speaking include: An Evening with Ira Glass & Chris Ware (Nov. 12); former Monty Python star **John Cleese** (Feb. 8 & 9); *The New York Times* associate editor **Frank Rich** (Apr. 10); and **Michael Feldman** and his popular comedy/quiz/interview program on current events titled *Whad'Ya Know?* (Apr. 28).

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Randy Cohen's *How to Be Good*** on **Saturday, November 19** 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; 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.

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

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, November 19 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Strictly Speaking

Randy Cohen, ethicist

How To Be Good

Program: *The New York Times* columnist and Emmy Award-winning writer Randy Cohen will talk about ethics for everyday life and take questions from the audience.

Tickets: \$20.00, \$26.00, and \$32.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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