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San Diego REPeritory Theatre Announces Commission of Rick Najera's Comedy *Sweet Fifteen - Quinceañera* for 2006-2007 Season

SAN DIEGO – June 13, 2006 – San Diego REPeritory Theatre has commissioned Rick Najera's interactive comedy, *Sweet Fifteen - Quinceañera*, to be presented as a workshop run November 3-12, 2006. This will be the fourth play at San Diego REP for Najera, an award-winning Hollywood scribe, Broadway stage actor and San Diego native. Sam Woodhouse, the REP's Artistic Director, will direct.

"I am thrilled that San Diego REP once again has the opportunity to partner with Najera, one of the nation's most imaginative writers of comedy," states Woodhouse. *"We are especially pleased to begin work with Rick on the latest project supported by San Diego REP's Calafia Initiative, our long term effort to make new works of theatre that speak to the present and future of our binational region."*

Sweet Fifteen- Quinceañera is an interactive comedy set in National City based on a Latino family whose patriarch has just returned home from a ten year unexplained absence that began the day his daughter turned 15. He vows to put his family financially back on their feet, under one condition, that he gives his daughter (now 25) the quinceañera (sweet fifteen birthday party) she really deserves. The performance will jump with music, dance, taffeta dresses and surprise appearances by the famous and infamous.

Najera, an award-winning writer-director-producer and actor, with writing credits on hit comedy shows such as *MAD TV* and *In Living Color*, recently performed on Broadway in New York City at the legendary Helen Hayes Theatre with his award winning comedy, *Latinologues*. Previous stage plays commissioned by San Diego REP include Najera's *A Quiet Love*, *Latins Anonymous* and *Latinologues*.

Rick Najera's workshop of *Sweet Fifteen- Quinceañera* will be performed for a limited time only; November 3-12, 2006 at the San Diego REPertory Theatre (79 Horton Plaza, downtown San Diego). Tickets will be on sale and available Aug 22, 2006 at the REP's Box Office, 619-544-1000, or online at www.sandiegorep.com.

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