

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denise Scatena & Arika Daniels
(619) 232-0222 / denise@scatenadaniels.com
(contact information above not for public distribution)

**San Diego REPeritory Theatre Receives
\$25,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**
Grant will support world premiere production of 'Tortilla Curtain'

SAN DIEGO – Nov. 21, 2011 – San Diego REPeritory Theatre (San Diego REP) is a recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to produce the world premiere production of “Tortilla Curtain” by playwright Matthew Spangler. The project will support a final workshop followed by a full rehearsal period and the world premiere. “Tortilla Curtain” will be directed by Sam Woodhouse, the artistic director and co-founder of San Diego REPeritory Theatre.

“Tortilla Curtain” is based on T.C. Boyle’s popular novel, *The Tortilla Curtain* which was published in 1995, in the wake of California’s Proposition 187, which would have banned all public services, including education and non-emergency health care, for undocumented immigrants in the state. Proposition 187, also known as the Save our State initiative (SOS), passed in November 1994 with 59 percent of California voters in favor and 41 percent opposed. It was later ruled unconstitutional by a federal court and never went into effect.

Tortilla Curtain playwright Matthew Spangler is a playwright and director living in San Jose, CA. His adaptation of Khaled Hosseini’s novel *The Kite Runner* premiered at San Jose Repertory Theatre, directed by David Ira Goldstein. The production received five San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards: Best Original Script, Best Overall Production for a 300+ seat theatre, as well as awards for Lighting Design, Set Design, and Sound Design. *The Kite Runner* has subsequently been produced at Arizona Theatre Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville and the Cleveland Playhouse. This will be the first time Spangler has worked with San Diego REP.

“Because *Tortilla Curtain* is based on a popular novel that tells an urgently relevant story with elegant skill and powerful emotional impact, we have high hopes that this new work can make a significant contribution to the canon of American Theatre,” says Woodhouse. “For our company, the opportunity to develop and produce a new work of theatre that speaks so directly to our mission and our bi-national region is a joyous and significant undertaking. Spangler has recently emerged as a major adaptor of novels for the American stage,” continued Woodhouse. “I am pleased that he will be present throughout the rehearsal process as we stage the world premiere of his play that speaks to issues of great relevance and resonance to Southern California, America and the world.”

Previews for the world premiere of “Tortilla Curtain” begin March 17, 2012. Opening night is March 23, and the production runs through April 8, 2012 on the Lyceum Stage. For ticket prices and additional information, please visit www.sdrep.org.

About San Diego REPeritory Theatre

San Diego REPeritory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, exotic, provocative theatre. We promote a more inclusive community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrate the multiple voices of our region. San Diego REPeritory Theatre feeds the curious soul.

To learn more about San Diego REPeritory Theatre, visit www.sdrep.org. Join us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/sandiegorep>) and follow us on Twitter ([@SanDiegoREP](https://twitter.com/SanDiegoREP)).

###