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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 17, 2014

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<http://www.therhino.org/press.htm> (press materials available by Dec. 8, 2014)

Theatre Rhinoceros presents...

The Anarchist by David Mamet

West Coast Premiere

Starring Velina Brown* and Tamar Cohn

Directed by John Fisher

January 2 – 17, 2015 - Limited Engagement - 15 Performances Only!

Wed. - Sat. - 8:00 pm / Sat. Matinees - 3:00 pm

(Sun. Jan 4: Matinee 3:00 pm; and Sunday evening show - 7:00 pm.)

Previews Jan. 2 & 3 (Fri.- 8 pm) & (Sat. - 3 pm Matinee)

– Opens Sat. Jan. 3 - 8:00 pm

Eureka Theatre in SF www.TheRhino.org

**Member Actor's Equity Association*

"Mr. Mamet has always been preoccupied with words both as power tools and as camouflage. That's true whether the language is lowdown (as in "Glengarry" and "American Buffalo") or high-flown (as in "Oleanna"). This has often involved a certain verbal self-consciousness among his characters. But it has never been as acute as in "The Anarchist," in which both women are especially aware of words as instruments of misdirection and what Cathy calls the opacity of human motives." - Ben Brantley NY Times Review (excerpt) Dec. 2012

The Anarchist by David Mamet will have its California premiere in this exclusive **Theatre Rhinoceros** production in San Francisco for a limited engagement – 15 performances only!

The show plays **Jan. 2 – 17, 2015 - Wed. - Sat. - 8:00 pm / Sat. Matinees 1/3, 10, 17;**

(Sun. Jan 4: Matinee 3:00 pm and Sunday evening show - 7:00 pm.)

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Jan. 7, 8, 9 - (Wed., Thurs., Fri. - 8:00 pm)

Sat. Jan 10, 2015 - matinee 3:00 pm / Sat. Jan 10, 2015 - 8:00 pm

Jan. 14, 15, 16 - (Wed., Thurs., Fri. - 8:00 pm)

Sat. Jan 17, 2015 - matinee 3:00 pm / Sat. Jan 17, 2015 - 8:00 pm

The Anarchist stars Bay Area favorites **Velina Brown*** (*A Lady and a Woman*; SF Mime Troupe) and **Tamar Cohn** (*The Habit of Art*). **The Anarchist** is directed by the Glickman and Critics' Circle Award-winning **John Fisher**. Lighting & Scenic Design: **Jon Wai-keung Lowe**.

Shows are at **The Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson St.** (btwn. Front & Battery Sts., in SF 94111, Embarcadero BART)

Tickets are \$15 - \$30 and are available at <http://www.therhino.org/buy.htm> or **1-800- 838-3006**. (Previews are pay-what-you-wish.)

To arrange an interview with director John Fisher, or any of the actors or for additional info, call publicist Lawrence Helman at 415/ 661-1260.

The Anarchist by **David Mamet** is a psychological drama about a lesbian anarchist on the day of her possible parole and her battles with a prison psychologist, the woman who holds the key to her freedom.

Nothing is quite what it seems in David Mamet's latest work. With a nod to his mentor, Harold Pinter, Mamet once again employs his signature verbal jousting in this battle of two women over freedom, power, money, religion—and the lack thereof. Theatre Rhinoceros is proud to present the West Coast Premiere of this exciting drama which premiered on Broadway (2012) - starring **Patti LuPone** and **Deborah Winger**.

David Mamet and Theatre Rhino and John Fisher have a unique history. John Fisher directed the Theatre Rhinoceros production of Mamet's *Boston Marriage* in its Bay Area Premiere in 2006. Fisher wrote an undergraduate thesis at UC Berkeley on Mamet. In addition, Michael Hausman, Mamet's film producer, produced John Fisher's first NYC show, "*Tangled Versions of the Truth*". Fisher met Mamet on opening night and Mr. Mamet was kind enough to lend his encouragement to Fisher, a young director just starting out.

BIOS:

David Mamet is a playwright, director, author, essayist, screenwriter, and film director. His plays include *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *American Buffalo*, *A Life in the Theatre*, *Oleanna*, *The Cryptogram*, and *Race*. These plays have received the Pulitzer Prize and the several Tony Awards. He has been nominated for the Academy Award for his work in film.

He began teaching drama at Goddard College (VT) in 1971 and wrote several plays. His first play to receive attention, *The Duck Variations* (1972), displays features found in much of his work: a fixed setting, few characters, a simple plot, and dialogue that captures the rhythms of everyday speech. *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* (1974) (later adapted for film as *About Last Night...*) examines relationships between men and women. *American Buffalo* (1975), for which Mamet received the NY Drama Critics Circle Award, is set in a junk shop and deals with the efforts of three men trying to steal a valuable coin. The main character of *The Water Engine: An American Fable* (1977) creates a new engine but is murdered when he refuses to sell his invention for profit. Other plays from this period include *A Life in the Theatre*, *The Woods*, *Reunion*, and *Dark Pony* (all 1977), as well as *The Sanctity of Marriage* (1979).

Glengarry Glen Ross (1982), Mamet's most praised work, is the story of four Florida real estate agents competing to become their company's top salesperson by trying to cheat unsuspecting customers. The play was awarded both the NY Drama Critics Circle Award and the Pulitzer Prize in drama. *Edmond* (1982) involves a businessman who leaves his wife and wanders into

a run-down area of NYC. After being beaten and robbed, he turns to violence and is imprisoned for murdering a waitress. *Prairie du chien* (1985) and *The Shawl* (1985) are companion pieces. The first play centers on an unusual murder, while the second concerns a psychic's efforts to obtain a client's inheritance. *Speed-the-Plow* (1988), in which pop singer Madonna (1958–) made her first appearance on Broadway, is the story of a close male friendship that is threatened by the arrival of a strange woman.

David Mamet has also written several screenplays. The first, *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1981), is generally considered his least successful effort. In *The Verdict* (1982), based on Barry Reed's novel *The Verdict* (1980), an alcoholic lawyer battles injustice to win a lawsuit for a woman who suffered brain damage during childbirth. Reviewers praised Mamet's dialogue, and the screenplay was nominated for an Academy Award. He also made his first effort at directing with the 1987 film *House of Games* (for which he also wrote the screenplay), about a doctor's involvement with a con man.

In the latter half of the 1980s Mamet published two collections of essays, *Writing in Restaurants* and *Some Freaks*. Both books are packed with Mamet's opinions on a variety of topics such as friendship, religion, politics, morals, society, and of course, the American theater. Mamet has also taught at The Yale Drama School and NYU. He often lectures to classes at the Atlantic Theater Company, and was one of the company's founding members.

Mamet continues to direct films and write plays, essays, and screenplays. His recent film works include the 1994 film version of his play *Oleanna* (which was first produced on stage in 1992), *The Winslow Boy* (1999), *State and Main* (2000), and *Heist* (2001). In 1999 he wrote a book of essays, *Jafsie and John Henry. Wilson: A Consideration of the Sources*, a novel, was released in 2001. Mamet married actress Rebecca Pidgeon in 1991. They have two children. He also has two children from his first marriage to actress Lindsay Crouse.

Velina Brown* (Ann) was last seen at Theatre Rhino in Shirlene Holmes' period love story *A Lady and a Woman* and she's pleased to return to The Rhino in this provocative play. She is an award winning actress, singer/songwriter, and co artistic director of the SF Mime Troupe. Velina's most recent appearance was in Michael Gene Sullivan's *Recipe* at Central Works Theatre, in Berkeley. She appeared in SFMT's Summer 2014 show *Ripple Effec*" at a park near you, as well as at the American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, The Magic Theatre, TheatreWorks, Shotgun Players, SF Playhouse, Symmetry Theatre, The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre and The Denver Theatre Center among others. She has appeared on TV shows such as *Final Witness*, *Party of Five*, *Nash Bridges* and *Trauma* and in films including: *Bee Season*, *Maladaptive*, *One Way to Valhalla* and *Milk*. Also a career coach for artists, Velina writes a monthly advice column for Theatre Bay Area Magazine called "The Business of Show Biz". www.velinabrown.com

Tamar Cohn (Cathy) is glad to return to The Rhino after two exciting runs of *The Habit of Art* (2014), as well as the earlier *100 Saints You Should Know* and *A Necessary Evil*. Tamar just finished playing another revolutionary of sorts, the radical baker Ruth in *Recipe* at Central Works. Other favorites include *The Chairs* at Cutting Ball, *The Oldest Profession* at Brava Theater, *Witness for the Prosecution* at CenterREP and *2 x Malamud* with A Traveling Jewish Theatre. Also: AlterTheater Ensemble, 6th St. Playhouse, California Conservatory Theatre, Pacific Alliance Stage Co., Woman's Will, and others. She lives in Marin with a terrific husband and a decrepit cat; two sons live nearby.

* *The Actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of*

Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

John Fisher (Director) John Fisher's play *To Sleep and Dream* won the 2014 Bay Area Critics Circle Award for Best Original Script and his 2014 production of Alan Bennett's *The Habit of Art* was nominated for three TBA Awards including Best Production of a Play. John's other plays include *The Joy of Gay Sex*, which was produced Off-Broadway, and *Medea: The Musical*, which was produced in SF, LA, Seattle and as part of the HBO Comedy Arts Festival. Recent projects include *Fighting Mac!*, named by the *Bay Area Reporter* as one of the best productions of 2011, *SexRev: The José Sarría Experience* (a Theatre Rhino production at CounterPULSE). John is a two-time winner of the Will Glickman Playwright Award, a GLAAD Media Award, two *L.A. Weekly* Awards, a Garland Award, two Cable Car Awards, a *SF Bay Guardian* Goldie Award, and five Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Awards. He holds a Ph.D. in Dramatic Art from the UC Berkeley and has taught at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz and at the Yale School of Drama. His association with the work of David Mamet began when he wrote an undergraduate thesis on the dramaturgy of Mamet's plays and screenplays. John directed the Theatre Rhinoceros production of David Mamet's *Boston Marriage* in its Bay Area Premiere in 2006. He has been Executive Artistic Director at Theatre Rhinoceros since 2002.

Theatre Rhinoceros, America's longest running and most adventurous queer theatre, develops and produces professional works of theatre that enlighten, enrich, and explore both the ordinary and the extraordinary aspects of our queer community.

Calendar Editors:

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Directions to Theatre & Parking: <http://www.theeurekatheatre.com/Directions.html>

WEB PAGE: www.TheRhino.org

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