

LAWRENCE HELMAN *PUBLIC RELATIONS* – E MAIL - lhelman@sbcglobal.net

Tel. 415 /661- 1260 / Cell. 415/ 336- 8220 (DO NOT PUBLISH THIS #)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 14, 2015

For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:

<http://www.therhino.org/press.htm>

Theatre Rhinoceros presents...

Breaking The Code by Hugh Whitemore

Directed by John Fisher

March 4 - 21, 2015

- Limited Engagement - 15 Performances Only!

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

Previews - Wed. – Sat. March. 4 - 6, 2015 (8 pm) / Sat. March 7, 2015 – 3:00 pm

Opening Night - Sat. March 7, 2015 - 8:00 pm

Eureka Theatre in SF

www.TheRhino.org

Breaking The Code by Hugh Whitemore will have its **Theatre Rhinoceros** premiere in this exclusive San Francisco production for a limited engagement – 15 performances only!

The show plays **March 4 - 21, 2015 – Wed. - Sat. - 8:00 pm / Sat. Matinees 3:00 pm**

Previews - Wed. - Sat. March. 4 - 6, 2015 (8:00 pm) / Sat. March 7, 2015 – 3:00 pm

Opening Night / Press Night - Sat. March 7, 2015 - 8:00 pm.

Individual performance dates are:

Wed. March 4, 2015 – 8:00 pm (Preview)

Thurs. March 5, 2015 – 8:00 pm (Preview)

Fri. March 6, 2015 – 8:00 pm (Preview)

Sat. March 7, 2015 – 3:00 pm (Preview)

Sat. March 7, 2015 – 8:00 pm (Opening night)

March. 11, 12, 13, 14 – (Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat - 8:00 pm)

Sat. March 14, 2015 - matinee 3:00 pm-

March. 18, 19, 20, 21 – (Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat - 8:00 pm)

Sat. March 21, 2015 - matinee 3:00 pm

Breaking The Code features Bay Area actors **Michael DeMartini** (Smith), **John Fisher** (Turing), **Val Hendrixson*** (Knox), **Justin Lucas** (Ron), **Celia Maurice** (Sara), **Heren Patel** (Chris/Nikos), **Kirsten Peacock** (Pat), **Patrick Ross** (Ross). Lighting & Scenic Design: **Jon Wai-keung Lowe**; Costumes: **Lara Rempel**; Sound Design: **Colin Johnson**; Assistant Director: **Kirsten Peacock**; Photos by **David Wilson**. **Breaking the Code** is directed by the Glickman and Critics' Circle Award-winning **John Fisher**. **Member Actor's Equity Association.*

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

Tickets are \$10 - \$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.

Breaking The Code by Hugh Whitmore is a gripping biographical drama about homosexual scientist Alan Turing, the eccentric genius who fought on two fronts. Turing played a major role in winning the World War II, and he also battled with British morality. He broke the complex German code called Enigma, enabling allied forces to foresee Nazi u-boat maneuvers. Since his work was classified top secret for years after the war, no one knew how much was owed to him when he was put on trial for breaking another code - the taboo against homosexuality. Turing, who was also the first to conceive of and basically invent the computer, the machine that forever altered our modern world, was convicted of the criminal act of homosexuality and sentenced to undergo hormone treatments which left him physically and mentally debilitated. He died a suicide, forgotten and alone. This play is about who he was, what happened to him and why.

Renown British actor **Derek Jacobi** took the London (1986) and Broadway theatre community (1987 – 3 Tony nominations) by storm in this exceptional biographical drama. **Breaking The Code** was produced by the BBC in 1996 and broadcast on PBS in the USA. Currently **The Imitation Game (2014)** – a feature film about Alan Turing is in theatrical release - wowing critics and audiences alike. (*Nominated for 8 Academy Awards and for 5 Golden Globe Awards.*)

BIOS:

Hugh Whitmore (born 1936) is an English playwright and screenwriter. Whitmore studied for the stage at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where he is now a Member of the Council. He began his writing career in British TV with both original teleplays and adaptations of classic works by Charles Dickens, W. Somerset Maugham, Daphne du Maurier, and Charlotte Brontë, among others, and twice won a Writers' Guild of Great Britain award. His work for American TV includes *Concealed Enemies*, about the Alger Hiss case, and *The Gathering Storm*, which focused on a troubled period in the marriage of Clementine and Winston Churchill just prior to World War II. He won an Emmy Award for each. He also was nominated for his adaptation of the Carl Bernstein/Bob Woodward book about President Nixon, *The Final Days*. His most recent teleplay was *My House in Umbria*, an adaptation of the novella by William Trevor starring Maggie Smith. He also wrote the episode, "Horrible Conspiracies," for the 1971 BBC series, *Elizabeth R*.

Whitmore's film credits include: *Man at the Top* (1973), *All Creatures Great and Small* (1975), *The Blue Bird* (1976), *The Return of the Soldier* (1982), *84 Charing Cross Road* (1987), and *Utz* (1992).

The plots of Whitmore's plays frequently focus on historical figures. *Stevie* (1977) centred on the life of English poet and novelist Stevie Smith and *Pack of Lies* (1983) covered events leading up to the arrest of the Krogers, two Americans spying for the Russians, in London in 1961. Whitmore's best known work taking the form of a staged biography is *Breaking the Code* (1986) which is centered on Alan Turing, who was responsible for cracking the German Enigma code during World War II and resisted an adherence to the English code of sexual discretion with his homosexuality, for which he was charged with gross indecency. This work was adapted as a TV film in 1996. *The Best of Friends* (1987), about the friendship Dame Laurentia McLachlan, the Abbess of Stanbrook Abbey in Worcestershire, shared with George Bernard Shaw and Sydney Cockerell, director of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. His most recent was *As You Desire Me*, a 2005 adaptation of the play by Luigi Pirandello.

Whitmore is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

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 Sarria 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. John directed the Theatre Rhinoceros productions of David Mamet's *Boston Marriage* (2006) and *The Anarchist* (2015) - both as Bay Area Premieres. 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:

**WHAT: *Theatre Rhinoceros presents...*
 Breaking The Code by Hugh Whitmore
 Directed by John Fisher
 Limited Engagement - 15 Performances Only!**

WHEN: **March 4 - 21, 2015
 Wed. - Sat. - 8:00 pm / Sat. Matinees 3:00 pm
Previews: Wed. - Sat. March 4 - 6, 2015 (8:00pm) / Sat. March 7, 2015 - (3:00pm)
Opening Night / Press Night - Sat. March 7, 2015 - 8:00 pm.**

Individual perf. dates are:

Wed. March 4, 2015 – 8:00 pm [Preview]
Thurs. March 5, 2015 – 8:00 pm [Preview]
Fri. March 6, 2015 – 8:00 pm [Preview]
Sat. March 7, 2015 – 3:00 pm (Preview)
Sat. March 7, 2015 – 8:00 pm (Opening night)
March. 11, 12, 13, 14 – (Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat - 8:00 pm)
Sat. March 14, 2015 - matinee 3:00 pm
March. 18, 19, 20, 21 – (Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat - 8:00 pm)
Sat. March 21, 2015 - matinee 3:00 pm

TIX: **Tickets are \$10 - \$30 - (Previews are pay what you wish.)
 available at <http://www.therhino.org/buy.htm> or 1-800- 838-3006**

WHERE: **The Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson St.
 (btwn. Front & Battery Sts., in SF 94111 - Embarcadero BART)**

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

WEB PAGE: www.TheRhino.org

**PRESS INFO: For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:
<http://www.therhino.org/press.htm>**

###