



# THEATRE RHINOCEROS

GLAAD MEDIA AWARD WINNER

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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July 15, 2010

*Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray*  
Adapted for the Stage by John Fisher

**Theatre – Comedy-Drama**

**Production Company:** Theatre Rhinoceros

**Title:** *Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Adapted for the Stage and Directed by John Fisher

**Creative Team:** Stephen Chun, John Fisher, Aaron Martinsen, Celia Maurice, Gloria McDonald, Lia Metz, Anthony Powers, Adam Simpson, Christine U'Ren, Jef Valentine, Maryssa Wanlass

**Venue:** Eureka Theatre  
215 Jackson Street (between Front and Battery)  
San Francisco, CA 94111

**Previews:** Thurs., August 26 – Sat., August 28 @ 800 PM; Sun., August 29 @ 300 PM  
(No Press at Previews Please)

**Opening Night:** Wed., September 1, 2010 @ 800 PM (Wine Reception to follow)

**Performances:** Thursday, September 2nd – Sunday, September 19th

Wed. - Sat. @ 800 PM

Sundays, 9/5, 9/12 and 9/19 @ 300 PM

**Box Office:** www.TheRhino.org or (800) 838-3006

**TIX:** \$10 - \$25 (First two previews 8/26 and 8/27 are “pay what you wish”); Tickets go on sale Monday, July 12, 2010.

**Press:** Visit our website at www.TheRhino.org or contact John Fisher, at (415) 552-4100

Publicity pictures are available for download on our website — [www.TheRhino.org](http://www.TheRhino.org)

**About the Production:** Oscar Wilde's electrifying novel comes to the stage in this dynamic World Premiere adaptation. Using words, movement, and music this new performance keeps Wilde's story in its own time but highlights the relevance of his fable to our own. Wilde's story of vanity, ambition and lust rocked his world with its frank portrayal of the lives of artists and libertines. This production will utilize a cinematic and “surprise element” technique in its narrative, creating a dreamscape of possibility even as it tells Wilde's story. This story remains potent today in exploring the limits and delimits of desire and ambition. In the tradition of

*Frankenstein* and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Wilde's story even challenges the limits of corporality. Just as the body is mutable, the story telling will be mutable. This sexy, shocking story is at once mystery, fantasy, science fiction and terrifying parable.

**Oscar Wilde** (Author) Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde (16 October 1854 – 30 November 1900) was an Irish writer, poet, and prominent aesthete. His parents were successful Dublin intellectuals, and from an early age he was tutored at home, where he showed his intelligence, becoming fluent in French and German. He attended boarding school for six years, then matriculated to university at seventeen years of age. Wilde proved himself to be an outstanding classicist, reading Greats, first at Trinity College, Dublin, then at Magdalen College, Oxford. After university, Wilde moved around trying his hand at various literary activities: he published a book of poems and toured America lecturing extensively on aestheticism. He then returned to London, where he worked prolifically as a journalist for four years. Known for his biting wit, flamboyant dress, and glittering conversation, Wilde was one of the best-known personalities of his day. He next produced a series of dialogues and essays that developed his ideas about the supremacy of art. However, it was his only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* – still widely read – that brought him more lasting recognition. He became one of the most successful playwrights of the late Victorian era in London with a series of social satires which continue to be performed, especially his masterpiece *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

At the height of his fame and success, Wilde suffered a dramatic downfall in a sensational series of trials. He sued his lover's father for libel, though the case was dropped at trial. After two subsequent trials, Wilde was imprisoned for two years' hard labor, having been convicted of "gross indecency" with other men. In prison he wrote *De Profundis*, a dark counterpoint to his earlier philosophy of pleasure. Upon his release he left immediately for France, never to return to Ireland or Britain. There he wrote his last work, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, a long, terse poem commemorating the harsh rhythms of prison life. He died destitute in Paris at the age of forty-six.

**John Fisher** (Adaptor) Fisher's plays include *The Joy of Gay Sex*, which was produced Off-Broadway, and *Medea: The Musical*, which was produced on HBO. Recent projects include *Ishi: The Last of the Yahi* at Theatre Rhino and *Red Scare on Sunset* at ACT. John is a two-time winner of the Will Glickman Playwright Award, and a recipient of the NEA Grant, a GLAAD Media Award, two *L.A. Weekly* Awards, a Garland Award, two Cable Car Awards, a *San Francisco Bay Guardian* Goldie Award, and the Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Award. John holds a Ph.D. in Dramatic Art from the University of California, Berkeley and has taught at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, A.C.T. and at the Yale School of Drama.

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