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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 19, 2014

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

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

Theatre Rhinoceros presents...

The Habit of Art

A Very British Comedy by Alan Bennett (*The History Boys*) □

Directed by John Fisher

Bay Area Premiere - Limited Engagement - 14 Performances Only!

March 27 – April 13, 2014 - MUST CLOSE April 13.

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

Previews March 27 & 28 (Thurs. & Fri.) – Opens Sat. March 29 - 8:00 pm

Z Below Theatre in SF

www.TheRhino.org

" ●●●● [Five Stars] Alan Bennett's immaculate new play-within-a-play has the audience bawling with laughter throughout...[A] sad, funny, whimsical piece about age and fading dreams." *The Sunday Telegraph*

"A multi-levelled work that deals with sex, death, creativity, biography and much else besides... Beautifully written... Deeply moving." Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

The Habit of Art - A Very British Comedy by Alan Bennett will have its Bay Area premiere in this exclusive **Theatre Rhinoceros** production in San Francisco for a limited engagement – 14 performances only! The show plays **March 27 – April 13, 2014 - Wed. - Sat. - 8:00 pm / Sun. - 3:00 pm. Previews March 27 & 28 (Thurs. & Fri.) (No Press at Previews please.) – Opening night Sat., March 29 - 8:00 pm. Perfs.: Sun., March 30 thru Sun., April 13, 2014. MUST CLOSE April 13. Dates / Times: Wed. - Sat. - 8:00 pm, Sun.,- 3:00 pm.**

Individual performance dates are: **March 27, 28 (previews), 29 (opening), 30 (3 pm) / April 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 / 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 2014.**

Shows are at **Z Below Theatre - 470 Florida St. (btwn. 17th & Mariposa Sts.), SF, CA, 94110.**

Tickets are \$15 - \$35 and are available at <http://www.therhino.org/buy.htm> or **1-866-811-4111**. (Previews are pay-what-you-wish.) Tickets go on sale Feb. 6, 2014

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

The Habit of Art - Alan Bennett's new play is as much about the theatre as it is about poetry or music. It looks at the unsettling desires of two difficult men, and at the ethics of biography. It reflects on growing old, on creativity and inspiration, and on persisting when all passion's spent: ultimately, on the habit of art.

Benjamin Britten, sailing uncomfortably close to the wind with his new opera, *Death in Venice*, seeks advice from his former collaborator and friend, W. H. Auden. During this imagined meeting, their first for twenty-five years, they are observed and interrupted by, amongst others, their future biographer and a young man from the local bus station.

The seven character play features **Tamar Cohn** (*Kay*), **Donald Currie** (*W. H. Auden*), **Michael DeMartini** (*Neil*), **John Fisher** (*Benjamin Britten*), **Justin Lucas** (*Stuart*), **Craig Souza** (*Carpenter*) and **Kathryn Wood** (*George*.)

The Habit of Art is directed by the Glickman and Critics' Circle Award-winning **John Fisher**. Scenic Design: **Gilbert Johnson**; Costume Design: **Scarlett Kellum**, Photos by **Kent Taylor**.

Theatre Rhino's previous presentation of an Alan Bennett play was the American premiere of *Single Spies* in 2004 starring local theatre legend Jeffrey Hartgraves as Guy Burgess.

Theatre Rhinoceros is America's longest-running and most adventurous LGBT theatre.

www.TheRhino.org

And a Special Event!

Theatre Rhino Benefit Spectacular!

Press Contact: John Fisher – 415- 552-4100

Theatre Rhino presents...

Veronica Klaus in *Lee à la V*

with the Tammy L. Hall Quartet

Sunday, April 6, 2014 – 7:30 pm - One Show only!

Z Below, 470 Florida St. (btw'n. 17th & Mariposa Streets), SF 94110

Admission: \$25.00, includes the show, drinks, and food

Veronica Klaus evokes the spirit, atmosphere and artistry of Miss Peggy Lee in this evening of some of her most delicious songs. Backed by the Tammy L. Hall Quartet, Veronica will give you Fever! -- Press Photos at www.TheRhino.org

Bios:

Alan Bennett (playwright) has been one of the leading English-language dramatists since the success of *Beyond the Fringe* in the 1960s. His television series *Talking Heads* has become a modern-day classic, as have many of his works for the stage, including *Forty Years On*, *The Lady In The Van*, *A Question of Attribution*, *The Madness of George III* (together with the Oscar-nominated screenplay *The Madness of King George*), and an adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. At the National Theatre, *The History Boys* won Evening Standard, Critics' Circle, and Olivier awards, and the South Bank Award. On Broadway it won five New York Drama Desk Awards, four Outer Critics' Circle Awards, a New York Drama Critics' Award for Best Play, a New York Drama League Award, and six Tony Awards including Best Play. The film of *The History Boys* was released in 2006. Mr. Bennett's latest play, *The Habit of Art*, toured successfully after its run at The National Theatre. *The History Boys* has recently completed its second tour out of Bath (Bath Theatre Royal Productions) and *The Madness of George III* opens at Bath this summer. Mr. Bennett has recently been awarded the Prix Europeen de la SACD.

John Fisher (Director & Actor – *Benjamin Britten*) Fisher's plays include *The Joy of Gay Sex*, which was produced Off-Broadway, and *Medea: The Musical*, which was produced as a part of the HBO Comedy Arts Festival and ran for 18 months in its original SF production. John is a two-time winner of the Will Glickman Playwright Award, and a recipient of an NEA Project Grant, 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, ACT and at the Yale School of Drama. Recent work includes *SexRev: The José Sarría Experience*, a Theatre Rhino production at CounterPULSE, the Sondheim musical *Road Show*, and his own play *To Sleep and Dream* at Z Below.

Calendar Editors:

- WHAT: **The Habit of Art**
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April 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 / 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 2014.
- TIX: **Tickets are \$15-\$35 - (Previews are pay what you wish.)**
available at <http://www.therhino.org/buy.htm> or 1-866-811-4111
- VENUE: **Z Below Theatre - 470 Florida St. (btwn. 17 & Mariposa Sts.), SF, CA, 94110**
Directions to Theatre & Parking: <http://zspace.org/visit/directions>

WEB PAGE: www.TheRhino.org

PRESS INFO: For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:
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Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for *The Habit of Art - by Alan Bennett*

A Theatre Rhinoceros production at Z Below: March 27 – April 13, 2014

15 seconds:

Alan Bennett's witty and touching new play ***The Habit of Art*** plays for 3 weeks only at **Z Below - 470 Florida St. (btwn. 17 & Mariposa Sts.)** in **SF**. Runs **March 27 – April 13**. Call (866) 811-4111 or visit TheRhino.org for tickets.

30 seconds:

Alan Bennett's witty and touching new play ***The Habit of Art*** plays for 3 weeks only at **Z Below - 470 Florida St. (btwn. 17 & Mariposa Sts.)** in **SF**. ***The Habit of Art*** looks at the unsettling desires of two difficult men, and the ethics of biography. Runs **March 27 – April 13**. Call (866) 811-4111 or visit TheRhino.org for tickets.

1 minute:

From Alan Bennett, the author of *The History Boys*, comes a witty and touching new play ***The Habit of Art***. ***The Habit of Art*** tells the story of poet W. H. Auden and composer Benjamin Britten, but it is as much a play about theatre as it is a tale of poetry and music. The play looks at the unsettling desires of two difficult men, and the ethics of biography. It reflects on growing old, on creativity and inspiration, and on persisting when all passion's spent: ultimately, on the habit of art. Don't miss Alan Bennett's ***The Habit of Art***, Runs **March 27 – April 13**, at **Z Below - 470 Florida St. (btwn. 17 & Mariposa Sts.)** in **SF**. Call (866) 811-4111 or visit TheRhino.org for tickets.