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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 20, 2014 ..

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<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**

**Return Engagement – 19 Performances Only!**

**July 31 – Aug. 23, 2014 - MUST CLOSE Aug. 23.**

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

**Previews Thurs., July 31 – Fri., Aug. 1, Sat. Aug. 2**

**Opens Sat. Aug. 2 - 8:00 pm**

**Eureka Theatre in SF**

**[www.TheRhino.org](http://www.TheRhino.org)**

**Trailer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPR31OVzaFI>

Here is what Bay Area critics said about the Spring 2014 production of HABIT OF ART:

*"Theatre Rhino scores an "A" with this production, both for giving local audiences the opportunity to experience it, and by delivering it with such style.... Happily, Theatre Rhinoceros is providing local audiences the opportunity to see this challenging, insightful, and entertaining play in one of Rhino's classiest productions.... Director John Fisher has expertly staged this play of interwoven scenarios and complex staging." □ - Richard Dodds – Bay Area Reporter (BAR)*

*"'Habit of Art' reveals power of theatre! The polished Bay Area premiere of 'Habit of Art' at Theatre Rhinoceros offers an intriguing glimpse of how a play is formed - and much more.... John Fisher directs with careful attention to both of the plays' comic and poignant nuances, and he and his actors are adept at differentiating, and inhabiting, their two roles." □ - Jean Schiffman – SF Examiner*

□ **"AN EXCEPTIONAL PRODUCTION OF ALAN BENNETT'S 'THE HABIT OF ART'...**

*John Fisher's direction is sharp" - □Richard Connema – For All Events*

Due to popular demand and great reviews when it played in SF [March 27 – April 13, 2014]

**The Habit of Art - A Very British Comedy by Alan Bennett** is coming back for a RETURN ENGAGEMENT for 19 performances only - **July 31 – Aug. 23, 2014** in this exclusive **Theatre Rhinoceros** production in SF. **Previews: Thurs., July 31 – Fri., Aug. 1, Sat. Aug. 2 (3:00 pm) (No Press at Previews Please.)**

**Opening Night:** Sat., Aug. 2, 2014 @ 8:00 pm

**Performance Times:** Wed. - Sat. - 8:00 pm / Sat. Matinees, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23 - 3:00 pm

**Performance dates:** July 31, Aug 1, 2 (matinee) [Previews), Aug. 2 [Opening night),  
Aug. 6, 7, 8, 9 (matinee & eve.)  
Aug. 13, 14, 15, 16 (matinee & eve.)  
Aug. 20, 21, 22, 23 (matinee & eve.)

Shows are at **Eureka Theatre – 215 Jackson St. (btwn. Front & Battery Sts.), SF, CA, 94111.**

**Tickets \$15 - \$25** - available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/723956>  
or 1-800-838-3006. (Previews are pay-what-you-wish.)

To arrange an interview with director/actor 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** (Donald/Carpenter 7/31-8/9), **Ryan Tasker** \* (Donald/Carpenter 8/13-8/23) **Seth Siegel** (*Charlie*) and **Kathryn Wood** (*George*). (\*Member Actor's Equity Association)

**The Habit of Art** is directed by the Glickman and Critics' Circle Award-winning **John Fisher**. Stage Manager: **Valerie Tu**; Scenic Design: **Gilbert Johnson**; Costume Design: **Scarlett Kellum**; Lighting Design: **Jon Wai-keung Lowe**; Accent Coach: **Alicia Bales**; 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](http://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. *To Sleep and Dream* won the 2013 "Best Original Script" award from the Bay Area Critics Circle.

### **Calendar Editors:**

WHAT: **The Habit of Art**

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TIX: **Tickets \$15-\$25 - (Previews are pay what you wish.)**

**<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/723956> or 1-800-838-3006**

VENUE: **Eureka Theatre – 215 Jackson St. (btwn. Battery & Front Sts.), SF, CA, 94111**

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

WEB PAGE: **[www.TheRhino.org](http://www.TheRhino.org)**

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**Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for  
*The Habit of Art* - by Alan Bennett  
A Theatre Rhinoceros production  
at Eureka Theatre: July 31 – Aug. 23, 2014**

**15 seconds:**

Alan Bennett's witty and touching new play *The Habit of Art* plays for 4 weeks only for a limited Return Engagement at **The Eureka Theatre – 215 Jackson St.** in SF. Runs **July 31 – Aug. 23.**

**Call (800) 838-3006** or visit [TheRhino.org](http://TheRhino.org) for tickets.

**30 seconds:**

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**Call (800) 838-3006** or visit [TheRhino.org](http://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. *The Bay Area Reporter* says, "The Rhino scores an 'A' with this production!" *The Habit of Art* plays for 4 weeks only for a limited Return Engagement at **The Eureka Theatre – 215 Jackson St.** in SF.

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