

# THEATRE RHINOCEROS

GLAAD MEDIA AWARD WINNER



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 10, 2014.

### ***The Battle of Midway! Live! Onstage!***

Written and Directed by John Fisher  
Music by Don Seaver

#### **Musical-Comedy**

#### **Production Company:**

Theatre Rhinoceros

#### **Title:**

***The Battle of Midway! Live! Onstage!***

#### **Creative Team:**

By John Fisher/Music by Don Seaver

Donald Currie (Nim), Naomi Evans (Shigeru) John Fisher (Writer/Director; Fletch), Gilbert Johnson (Sets), Sean Keehan (Lights), Katina Letheule (Naggy), Justin Lucas (Bull), Daile Mitchum (Yammy), Kirsten Peacock (Hiro), Sean Keehan (Lights), Lara Rempel (Costumes), Paul Renolis (Frank), J. D. Scalzo (Spru), Don Seaver (Composer), Christine U'Ren (Graphics) David Wilson (Photography), Sarah Young (Stage Manager/Asst. Director.)

#### **Venue:**

#### **The Costume Shop**

1117 Market Street, at 7th Street  
(Muni Bus Lines: All Market Street Lines, 19; BART: Civic Center)  
San Francisco, CA 94102

#### **Previews:**

Fri., November 14 – Saturday, November 16, 2014  
(No Press at Previews Please)

#### **Opening Night:**

Wed., November 19, 2014 @ 800 PM (Reception to follow)

#### **Regular Performances:**

Thurs., November 20 – Sun., November 30, 2014

***There is NO performance on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27.***

#### **Performance Times:**

Wed. - Sat. @ 800 PM  
Matinees: Saturdays 11/15, 11/22 and 11/29 @ 300 pm  
Sunday, November 30 @ 300 pm

#### **Box Office:**

www.TheRhino.org or (800) 838-3006

#### **TIX:**

\$15 - \$20 (All previews are “pay what you wish at the door.”)

#### **Press:**

Visit our website at <http://www.TheRhino.org/press.htm> or contact John Fisher, at (415) 552-4100/jofish94117<at>yahoo.com

The individual performance dates are: **November 14 (8pm), 15 (Two Shows: 3pm and 8pm)/ 19 (Opening Night @ 8pm), 20 (8pm), 21 (8pm), 22 (Two Shows: 3pm and 8pm)/ 26 (8pm), 28 (8pm), 29 (Two Shows: 3pm and 8pm), 30 (3pm.) There is NO performance on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27.** Shows are at **The Costume Shop**, 1117 Market Street, at 7th Street (Muni Bus Lines: All Market Street Lines, 19; BART: Civic Center), San Francisco, CA 94102 **Tickets are \$15- \$20 - (Previews are \$15.)**

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

The famous naval battle becomes a campy-musical. Finally! Join Nim, Fletch, Spru, Yammy and Naggy as they slug it out in the Central Pacific. It's the Second World War like you've never seen it before! The Battle of Midway was the turning point of the Pacific War. But it's been made into a couple of movies, written up in dozens of histories, and even crept its way (nearly) into some musicals and straight plays. Where do we go from here? Utilizing camp, drag, gender fuck and a lot of expository writing, Theatre Rhino attempts to revolutionize this story just as the US and Japan revolutionized naval combat. This will be a high concept, low-tech extravaganza. The music is original but the story is borrowed. In this musical retelling the Battle of Midway becomes a battle of wills as childish admirals and glory seeking pilots chase each other about the Pacific Ocean. This farcical pugilalia shows up warfare for all its vanity and gory-glory seeking. Greenhorns will come to learn more about history. Aficionados will come to nitpick facts and roll their eyes at the grotesque liberties taken, liberties that are that much more obnoxious because they are embedded in so much truth. They therefore can only be seen as corrupting and dangerous to the consumer. Beware. The Battle of Midway will be performed between Halloween and Thanksgiving – thus it will be irreverent but grateful.

**John Fisher** (Writer/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* has been 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 San Francisco, Los Angeles, 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 *San Francisco Bay Guardian* Goldie Award, and five Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Awards. He holds a Ph.D. in Dramatic Art from the University of California, Berkeley and has taught at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz and at the Yale School of Drama. John has been Executive Artistic Director at Theatre Rhinoceros since 2002.

**Don Seaver** (Composer) Don Seaver started song writing with a country/western band in Dallas in 1982, then moved to San Francisco in 1983. There he composed a ballet score for the Paul

Taylor Dance Company in 1990, then began twenty years in the theatre with original scores and sound design. He has worked with a number of Bay Area theatres, including San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Marin Theatre Company, Magic Theatre, Theatre Rhinoceros, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Aurora Theatre, Encore Theatre, Exit Theatre, Stage rex, Phoenix II Theatre, Shotgun Players, Playground and Genesisus. In addition, he has composed scores for cable TV, videogames, and ballet, and is (STILL) working on an opera about Leonard Bernstein. He has been nominated for several Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Awards for best score/sound design and won one in 1999 for his jazz score for *Mere Mortals* and one (with Julie Jackson) for *Southern Lights* in 2004. During all these years, he has continued to write his own songs and in 2010 released his first CD of his pop/rock singles, *Lessons Learned*, produced by famed songwriter/producer Bonnie Hayes. He is currently working on his next CD!

**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.

Public Service Announcements for  
*The Battle of Midway! Live! Onstage!*  
Written and Directed by John Fisher/Music by Don Seaver  
A Theatre Rhinoceros production at The Costume Shop: November 14 – 30, 2014

**15 seconds:**

*The Battle of Midway! Live! Onstage!* The famous naval battle becomes a musical-comedy. Finally! It's the Second World War like you've never seen it before! Starting November 14th. Call (800) 838-3006 or visit [TheRhino.org](http://TheRhino.org) for more information.

**30 seconds:**

*The Battle of Midway! Live! Onstage!* The famous naval battle becomes a musical-comedy. Finally! Join Nim, Fletch, Spru, Yammy and Naggy as they slug it out in the Central Pacific. It's the Second World War like you've never seen it before! Starting November 14th. Call (800) 838-3006 or visit [TheRhino.org](http://TheRhino.org) for more information.

**1 minute:**

*The Battle of Midway! Live! Onstage!* The famous naval battle becomes a musical-comedy. Finally! Join Nim, Fletch, Spru, Yammy and Naggy as they slug it out in the Central Pacific. It's the Second World War like you've never seen it before! *The Battle of Midway! Live! Onstage!* is a song, dance and pugilist affaire extraordinaire! Starting November 14th. Call (800) 838-3006 or visit [TheRhino.org](http://TheRhino.org) for more information.