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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 8, 2015.

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

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

Theatre Rhinoceros presents...

Shakespeare Goes To War

A World Premiere Comedy-Drama

Written and Directed by John Fisher

Nov. 4 - 28, 2015

- Limited Engagement - 22 Performances Only!

Thick House in SF (Potrero Hill) www.TheRhino.org

Wed. – Thur. - 7:30 pm / Fri. - Sat. - 8:00 pm / Sat. Matinees - 3:00 pm

Previews: Wed. - Thur. Nov. 4, 5 - 7:30 pm / Fri. - Sat. Nov. 6, 7 - 8:00 pm

Sat. Nov. 7, 2015 - 3:00 pm

Tues. Night performances 11/17 and 11/24 ONLY - 7:00 pm

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

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1067112176666199/>

Shakespeare Goes To War, a *World Premiere Comedy-Drama*, written and directed by John Fisher will have its Theatre Rhinoceros premiere in this exclusive San Francisco production for a limited engagement – 22 performances only!

The show plays Nov. 4 - 28, 2015 / Wed. - Thur. - 7:30 pm / Fri. - Sat. - 8:00 pm /

Sat. Matinees - 3:00 pm

Tues. Night performances 11/17 and 11/24 ONLY - 7:00 pm

Previews: Wed. - Thurs. Nov. 4, 5 -7:30 pm / Fri. - Sat. Nov. 6, 7 - 8:00 pm /

Sat. Nov. 7, 2015 - 3:00 pm

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

Individual performance dates are:

Wed. Nov 4, 2015 - 7:30 pm [Preview]

Thurs. Nov 5, 2015 - 7:30 pm [Preview]

Fri. Nov 6, 2015 - 8:00 pm [Preview]

Sat. Nov 7, 2015 - 3:00 pm (Preview)

Sat. Nov 7, 2015 - 8:00 pm (Opening night)

Nov. 11, 12, 13, 14 - (Wed., Thurs., - 7:30 pm / Fri., Sat - 8:00 pm)

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

Nov. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 - (Tues. - 7:00 pm), (Wed., Thurs., - 7:30 pm) / Fri., Sat - 8:00 pm)

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

Nov. 24, 25, 27. 28 - (Tues., - 7:00 pm), Wed. - 7:30 pm) / Fri., Sat - 8:00 pm)

Sat. Nov 28, 2015 - matinee 3:00 pm

There is no performance Thanksgiving – Thurs. 11/26/15

Shows are at **Thick House 1695 18th St. (Arkansas & Carolina Sts.), SF 94107 Potrero Hill**

Tickets are \$10 - \$35 and are available at <http://www.therhino.org/buy.htm> or 1-800- 838-3006. (Previews are pay-what-you-wish.)

Shakespeare Goes To War, a World Premiere Comedy-Drama features Bay Area actors: **Kevin Copps** (Maitland/Bachman); **John Fisher** (Playwright/Director/Harry), **Sean Keehan** (Ryker/Conroy); **Gabriel A. Ross** (Jack/Young Harry); **Jesse F. Vaughn** (Douglas/Jerry).

Tech Credits:

Colin Johnson (Assistant Director); **Scarlett Kellum** (Costume Designer); **JinAh Lee** (Stage Manager); **Jon Wai-keung Lowe** (Scenic and Lighting Designer); **David Wilson** (Graphic Designer/Photographer)

Shakespeare Goes To War, is directed by the Glickman and Critics' Circle Award-winning **John Fisher**.

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.

Shakespeare Goes To War, a World Premiere Comedy-Drama, written and directed by **John Fisher** begins in the 1970s as Jack goes off to high school, unsure of himself and his place in the world. There Jack meets his great inspiration, an English teacher named Harry Smith. Harry introduces him to Shakespeare, acting, and the magic of theatre. Harry also shares his experiences of being a prisoner of war in a German prison camp during World War II. There he met his own surprising inspiration: the crafty and deceptive Colonel Klambach, camp commandant. The play is set in the P.O.W. camp in 1944 and at Jack's high school in 1978. 1978 was the time of the notorious Brigg's Initiative in California - a ballot proposition designed to fire all gay public school teachers - that now threatens Harry's career. As Harry faces his own challenges in the past and present, Jack learns that he might be able to help Harry, through his use of a surprising weapon – Shakespeare.

John Fisher adds: “ **Shakespeare Goes to War** will use Thick House in a dynamic way. We will place the action on the audience risers and the real audience onstage. I've always loved the steep mountain shape of the audience with all its stairs and railings. Our set designer Jon Lowe suggested we put the action for one of our shows on these audience risers.

"Shakespeare Goes to War" was specifically written to utilize this exciting space. The action goes up and down the stairs, over the railings and to every part of the theatre. The audience itself is seated on stage and even there they will be surrounded by action."

BIOS:

John Fisher (Playwright/Director/Harry) is a playwright, director, actor and teacher. Recent work includes his play *To Sleep and Dream* (2014 Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Award for Best Script) and his direction of the Theatre Bay Area Award-winning production of Alan Bennett's *The Habit of Art*. Last season John appeared as Alan Turing in *Breaking the Code* (Eureka Theatre) and directed the West Coast Premiere of David Mamet's *The Anarchist*. He will direct and appear in his new comedy-drama *Shakespeare Goes to War* (11/15, Thick House.) John'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 two NEA Project Grants, an SF Arts Commission Grant,

the GLAAD Media Award for Best L.A. Theatre, two *L.A. Weekly* Awards, the *BackstageWest* Garland Award, two Cable Car Awards, the *SF Bay Guardian* Goldie Award, and five Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Awards. He holds a Ph.D. in Dramatic Art from UC Berkeley and has taught at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, A.C.T. and at the Yale School of Drama. Recent work includes *SexRev: The José Sarria Experience*, a Theatre Rhino production at CounterPULSE. Recent directing projects include *A Lady and Woman* at the Eureka Theatre and *Food Stories* for Word-for-Word. Since 2003 John has been Executive/Artistic Director of the GLAAD Media Award-Winning Theatre Rhinoceros, the longest running LGBT theatre in the nation.

Kevin Capps (Bachman/Maitland/Briggs/Reagan/Thompson) recently appeared in Theatre Rhino's *Breaking the Code*. He has appeared with many Bay Area companies, including Sleepwalkers, No Nude Men, Theatre Q, Willows and Ragged Wing. Productions have included *Proof*; *The Cherry Orchard*; *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*; *Mame*; *Entertaining Mr. Sloan*; *As Bees in Honey Drown*; *Camping with Henry and Tom* and *The Dining Room*, among others.

Sean Keehan (Ryker/Conroy) is an actor, designer, and media producer. He studied acting at ACT and UC San Diego, where he graduated Cum Laude. He has previously appeared with The Rhino in *Timon* and *SexRev: The José Sarria Experience*. On film Sean has worked with Tim Burton, Vince Vaughn, and has appeared in commercials for Tilamook, HBO, and BlueJeans Network.

Gabriel A. Ross (Jack/Harry Jr.) Gabriel is excited to be back with Theatre Rhinoceros after appearing in the 2015 Spring production of *Timon* (Board of Supervisors). He has performed in the Bay Area for over 10 years. Recent performances include *Saint Joan* - Jewel Theatre (Charles), *The Homosexuals* - NCTC (Michael); *Pearls Over Shanghai* - Thrillpeddlers (Sebastian); *Doll's House* - Marin Onstage (Torvald); and *The Underpants* - Custom Made Theatre (Cohen). He earned an MFA in Classical Acting from GWU.

Jesse F. Vaughn (Douglas/Jerry) is making his debut with Theatre Rhinoceros. He recently appeared in *Dance the Holy Ghost* (Ubuntu Theater Project) and *510s: Five Ten Minute Plays Inspired by Oakland* (Laney College/Fusion Theater Project.) Jesse also recently acted in the film *Death Waltz* (Director Marcus Vaughn)

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:

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

WHAT: *Theatre Rhinoceros presents...*
Shakespeare Goes To War
A World Premiere Comedy-Drama - Written and Directed by John Fisher
Limited Engagement - 21 Performances Only!

WHEN: **Nov. 4 - 28, 2015**
Previews: Wed. - Thurs. Nov. 4, 5 -7:30 pm / Fri. - Sat. Nov. 6, 7 - 8:00 pm /
Sat. Nov. 7, 2015 - 3:00 pm
Tues. Night performances 11/17 and 11/24 ONLY - 7:00 pm
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WHERE: **Thick House - 1695 18th St. (Arkansas & Carolina Sts.), SF 94107 Potrero Hill**
<http://www.thickhouse.org/drivingdirections.html>

WEB PAGE: www.TheRhino.org

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1067112176666199/>

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**Public Service Announcements - PSA for
Shakespeare Goes to War by John Fisher
A Theatre Rhinoceros Production
Thick House - 1695 18th Street, San Francisco
November 4- 28, 2015**

15 seconds:

Theatre Rhino presents *Shakespeare Goes to War*, a new comedy-drama by John Fisher. *Shakespeare Goes to War* plays November 4 - 28 at Thick House in San Francisco. Visit TheRhino.org for more information.

30 seconds:

Theatre Rhino presents *Shakespeare Goes to War*, a new comedy-drama by John Fisher about the power of The Bard. *Shakespeare Goes to War* plays November 4 - 28 at Thick House in San Francisco. Visit TheRhino.org for more information.

1 minute:

Theatre Rhino presents *Shakespeare Goes to War*, a new comedy-drama by John Fisher about the power of The Bard. *Shakespeare Goes to War* plays November 4 - 28 at Thick House in San Francisco. Don't miss the new production by the GLAAD Media Award-Winning Theatre Rhinoceros. Visit TheRhino.org for more information.

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