

# THEATRE RHINOCEROS

John Fisher, Artistic Director

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## THEATRE RHINOCEROS PRESENTS

FROM THE CREATOR OF THE LEGENDARY ROCK MUSICAL **RENT**

### **Jonathan Larson's *tick, tick... BOOM!***

Directed by Christopher Herold

**February 10-28, 2010,**

**Press Night Saturday, 2/13/10, 800 PM**

(Previews February 10 –12)

### **Eureka Theatre**

215 Jackson Street, San Francisco (Embarcadero BART)

THEATRE RHINOCEROS presents Jonathan Larson's rock musical *tick, tick... BOOM!*, for a three week run, opening on Saturday, February 13 at 800 PM in the Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson Street, San Francisco (Previews February 10–12). *tick, tick... BOOM!* is a heart breaking and hilarious journey through the dilemmas of real life and the rewards and limitations of dreaming. Directed by Christopher Herold, this run of *tick, tick... BOOM!* marks the San Francisco premiere of the Jonathan Larson rock musical that brought him the attention and recognition that led to his award winning musical **Rent**.

Larson was inspired by the monologues of Eric Bogosian, Spalding Gray, and the performances of Laurie Anderson to develop a autobiographical rock musical that became *tick, tick... BOOM!* which he first performed from 1990-94. Produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International *tick, tick... BOOM!* has a cast that features Scott Gessford, Holly Nugent, Brian Yates Sharber\* (\*Actors Equity), sets by Dan Kryston, lights by Wai-keung Lowe and costumes by Christine U'ren.

**tick, tick... BOOM!** continues its run for THREE WEEKS ONLY!

Wednesdays-Sundays, February 10-28, (Previews Feb. 10–12)

in the Eureka Theatre , 215 Jackson Street, San Francisco. (Embarcadero BART)

**Performances** are 8 PM Wed.-Sat., with

3 PM matinees on Sunday 2/21 & 2/28 (except Sun. . 2/14 at 7 PM.)

**Tickets** are \$15 - \$30 Student/Senior TBA \$5 discount

16 \$10 tickets held for all performances at the door(7-730 PM)

**Tickets are available at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or (800) 838-3006 (24-Hour Ticket Hotline) Visit our website at [www.TheRhino.org](http://www.TheRhino.org)**

**Press photos are available for download on [www.TheRhino.org](http://www.TheRhino.org)**

Originally written and performed as a dramatic monologue based on his life, Jonathan Larson conceived of *tick, tick... BOOM!* around the same time he was creating **Rent**. The show was workshopped in a number of places, but a full production was never staged. After his untimely death, his producing partner Victoria Leacock brought **David Auburn**, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning play **Proof**, aboard as script consultant to reconfigure the piece. He restructured the monologue into a seamless three actor musical. The show opened at the Jane Street Theatre on June 13, 2001, where it played until January 6, 2002.

**tick, tick... BOOM!** opens on a Saturday night in 1990. Jon is about to turn 30, his show *Superbia* will have its first public performance--a workshop--in a few days, and he's worried that he may have made a wrong career choice. We meet his girlfriend, Susan, and his best friend, Michael, who reveals that he is HIV-positive, Jon thinks about their lifetime of friendship; about what led him to choose a career in the theatre, and about whether he should give up his dreams of success as a composer. Finally, as his 30th birthday actually arrives, he ponders the choices we face in life, and thinks about how we translate those decisions into everyday living.

**Jonathan Larson** was born in Mount Vernon, New York, on February 4, 1960. A talented actor and musician, he was offered a full scholarship to Adelphi University on Long Island, where he met his idol (and later mentor) Stephen Sondheim. After graduating, he moved to the East Village neighborhood of Manhattan and, over a period of 12 years, wrote many plays and musicals, including this off-Broadway hit **tick, tick... BOOM!** In 1982 he adapted George Orwell's "1984" for the musical stage. He completed book, music, and lyrics, recorded a demo tape, sent a script to director Harold Prince, and wrote to Orwell's estate. The theatrical rights were unfortunately not available. In **tick, tick... BOOM!** with songs and stories, he told half-funny, half-bitter tales of bad readings and waiting tables. In 1994 he began work on what would be known as **Rent**. Finished in 1995, the musical was set to go into previews off-Broadway in early 1996. The night of the final dress rehearsal, Jonathan died of an aortic dissection as a result of later-to-be-known Marfan's syndrome.

**David Auburn** (Script Consultant) Auburn is best known for his 2000 play **Proof**, which won the 2001 Tony Award for Best Play, as well as the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Auburn has adapted it into a film, which was released in 2005. He has also been awarded the Helen Merrill Play writing Award and a

Guggenheim Fellowship. Following **Proof**, he wrote the screenplay for the movie **The Lake House**, released by Warner Bro's. in 2006. In 2007, he made his directorial debut with the **The Girl in the Park**, for which he also wrote the screenplay. Auburn spent two years in The Juilliard School's playwriting program, studying under the noted dramatists Marsha Norman and Christopher Durang. His first full-length play, *Skyscraper*, ran off-Broadway in 1997.

**Christopher Herold** (Director). The former Artistic Director and a founding member of Jawbone Theater Ensemble, Herold's work with that company includes direction of the San Francisco premiere of Manfred Karge's *Conquest of the South Pole* and Samuel Beckett's *Play* for the Bay Area Fringe Festival. He also directed the critically acclaimed production of *Achilles and Patroclus* for Central Works Theatre Ensemble. Herold is currently Director of ACT's Summer Training Congress, has directed studio productions there of *The Kentucky Cycle: Part One*, *Galileo*, *Escape From Happiness*, *The Marriage of Bette and Boo* and *Fuddy Meers*. A member of the faculty at the University of California at Berkeley, Herold has also taught at Berkeley Repertory School of Theater and Stanford University. He has worked previously with Theater Rhino as an actor, appearing as *Caesar and Caesar* in *Cleopatra: The Musical* and as Craig in *Barebacking*, both by John Fisher. Locally, he has appeared with the Aurora Theater, the Magic Theater, Central Works, Shotgun Players, and Playwrights Foundation.

**Dave Dobrusky** (Musical Director) is a favorite with 42nd Street Moon audiences where he has worked on numerous musicals. He is also a collaborator of Tom Orr's. **tick, tick...BOOM!** is Mr. Dobrusky's Rhino debut.

**Scott Gessford** (Jonathan) returns to the Theatre Rhino stage after appearing as Whizzer in last season's *Falsettos*. His other recent Bay Area credits include Rocky in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Ray of Light Theatre Company), Erik in Jay Kuo's *InSignificant Others* (Pier 39), Man 2 in *Putting It Together* (Custom Made Theatre), and a year-long stint with Morris Bobrow's *Shopping! The Musical* (AWAT Productions). Scott earned a BFA in Acting from U of South Dakota.

**Holly Nugent** (Susan) Holly holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory and recently won the award for Best Actor for the San Francisco 7 Day Film Festival for her work in the short film "Look Both Ways." She has been seen on San Francisco stages in Shopping! The Musical, Tony and Tina's Wedding, Ray of Light's I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change, and most recently starring as Emma Carew in the Royal Underground's Production of Jekyll and Hyde.

**Brian Yates Sharber** (Michael) was most recently seen on the NBC series Trauma playing Sarah Palin. Moviegoers may recognize Brian from his cameo appearance in the Academy Award winning film Milk. His theatre credits begin with the Theatre Rhinoceros production Up Jumped Springtime and Brian is excited to return to Rhino. Other credits include *Nash Bridges* and the independent film *No One Sleeps*. TheatreWorks (*Dessa Rose, Memphis, Ragtime, Raisin*); Marin Theatre Company (*As Thousands Cheer, Lady in the Dark, Springstorm*); numerous performances with 42nd Street Moon and Theatre Rhinoceros and an acclaimed run as the Emcee in *Cabaret* at the SF Playhouse.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

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