

LAWRENCE HELMAN *PUBLIC RELATIONS* – E MAIL - [lhelman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lhelman@sbcglobal.net)

Tel. 415 /661- 1260 / Cell. 415/ 336- 8220 (DO NOT PUBLISH THIS #)

**PRESS CONTACT: Joseph Tally 510-506-4924 [joseph.g.tally@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.g.tally@gmail.com)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 3, 2016

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

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

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1848995008655820/>

*Theatre Rhinoceros presents...*

**EQUUS by Peter Shaffer**

***"At least I galloped... When did you?"***

directed by John Fisher

**Nov. 25 – Dec. 10, 2016**

*Limited Engagement - Only 17 Performances - 3 Weeks!*

**Opening Night: Sun. Nov. 27, 2016 - 7:00 pm**

**Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111**

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

EQUUS is a Tony Award-winning play about suppressed sexuality that took critics and audiences by storm. A timeless classic and a cornerstone of modern drama that delves into the darkest recesses of human existence.

*"The closest I have seen a contemporary play come to reanimating the spirit of mystery that makes the stage a place of breathless discovery rather than a classroom for rational demonstration. Mr. Shaffer may have been trying for just such iconography a portrait of the drives that lead men to crucify themselves there. Here I think he's found it." - The NY Times*

**Performance Dates: Nov. 25 - Dec. 10, 2016**

Previews (4): Fri. Nov. 25 - 8:00 pm; Sat., Nov. 26 - 3:00 pm,  
Sat., Nov. 26 - 8:00 pm, Sun. Nov. 27 - 2:00 pm  
*(No Press at Previews Please)*

**Opening Night: Sun. Nov. 27, 2016 - 7:00 pm (Reception to follow)**

**Perf. Dates & Times: Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. - 8:00 pm  
Sat. Matinees - 3:00 pm**

**Special Added shows: Sun. Nov. 27, 2016 – 2:00 and 7:00 pm**

EQUUS by Peter Shaffer will have its Theatre Rhinoceros premiere for a limited engagement - 17 performances only – 3 weeks! The show plays Nov. 25 - Dec. 10, 2016 - Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. - 8:00 pm / Sat. Matinees - 3:00 pm.

Previews (4): Fri. Nov. 25 - 8:00 pm; Sat., Nov. 26 - 3:00 pm, Sat., Nov. 26 - 8:00 pm, Sun. Nov. 27 - 3:00 pm. Special Added shows: Sun. Nov. 27, 2016 - 2:00 and 7:00 pm

**Opening Night: Sun. Nov. 27, 2016 - 7:00 pm (Reception to follow)**

**Individual performance dates are: Nov. 25 – Dec. 10, 2016**

Nov. 25, 2016	- Fri. - 8:00 pm [Preview]
Nov. 26	- Sat. - 3:00 pm [Preview]
Nov. 26	- Sat. - 8:00 pm [Preview]
Nov. 27	- Sun. - 2:00 pm [Preview]
Nov. 27	- Sun. - 7:00 pm (Opening night – <i>Reception to follow</i> )
Nov. 29	- Tues. - 8:00 pm
Nov. 30	- Wed. - 8:00 pm
Dec. 1	- Thurs. - 8:00 pm
Dec. 2	- Fri. - 8:00 pm
Dec. 3	- Sat. - matinee - 3:00 pm
Dec. 3	- Sat. - 8:00 pm
Dec. 6, 7, 8, 9	- Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.- 8:00 pm
Dec. 10	- Sat. matinee - 3:00 pm
Dec. 10	- Sat. - 8:00 pm

Shows are at **Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111**  
– Embarcadero BART

Tickets are \$15 - \$40 and are available at <http://www.therhino.org/buy.htm> or  
1-800-838-3006. (All Previews are pay-what-you-wish at the door.)

**EQUUS features Bay Area actors:**

**John Fisher** (Director; *Dysart*)\*, **Rudy Guerrero** (*Nugget/Mr. Strang/Horseman/Dalton*)\*, **Iris Haas-Biel** (*Jill*; Assistant Director), **Morgan Lange** (*Alan Strang*), **Ann Lawler** (*Hesther/Mrs. Strang/Nurse*). (\*Member Actors Equity Association).

**Tech Credits:**

**Jenna Apollonia** (Stage Manager), **Lawrence Helman** (Publicist), **Gilbert Johnson** (Scenic Designer), **Sean Keehan** (Lighting Designer), **Daisy Neske** (Costume Designer), **David Wilson** (Graphics; Photography; Ads). **EQUUS is directed by John Fisher.**

To arrange an interview with director **John Fisher** or any of the actors or for additional info, contact **Joseph Tally 510-506-4924** [joseph.g.tally@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.g.tally@gmail.com)

**Synopsis - EQUUS**

**EQUUS** is a Tony Award-winning explosive play about suppressed sexuality that took critics and audiences by storm. A timeless classic and a cornerstone of modern drama that delves into the darkest recesses of human existence.

Dr. Martin Dysart, a psychiatrist, is confronted with Alan Strang, a boy who has blinded six horses in a violent fit of passion. This very passion is as foreign to Dysart as the act itself. To the boy's parents it is a hideous mystery; Alan has always adored horses. To Dysart it is a psychological puzzle that leads both doctor and patient to a complex and disturbingly dramatic confrontation. This international success reached new acclaim in London (2007) and on Broadway (2008) when revived starring Daniel Radcliffe.

## Selected Bios:

**Peter Shaffer** (playwright)

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2016/jun/06/peter-shaffer-elaborate-theatre-he-succeeded-equus-amadeus>

Peter Levin Shaffer (born 1926) became one of England's most popular and respected playwrights; his work was equally successful in the United States, where he chose to live. Born May 15, 1926, Peter Shaffer worked as a conscript in the coal mines in England from 1944 to 1947; that is, during the last year of World War II and the immediate postwar period. He graduated from Trinity College of Cambridge University in 1950. The following year he joined with his fraternal twin, Anthony, to publish the first of three mystery novels, *Woman in the Wardrobe*, under the joint pseudonym of Peter Anthony. He and Anthony, later best known as the author of the play *Sleuth*, repeated their success with *How Doth the Little Crocodile* in 1952 and *Withered Murder* in 1955.

In 1951 his first radio play, *The Prodigal Father*, was presented on the BBC and his initial venture into TV drama, *The Salt Land*, appeared on ITV. It was followed in 1957 by *Balance of Terror* on BBC-TV. (In 1989, he returned to radio with the dramatic monologue *Whom Do I Have the Honour of Addressing?* on BBC.) During these years Shaffer worked at the NY Public Library (1951-1954) and for the music publisher Bosey & Hawkes (1954-1955) and served as a literary critic for *Truth* (1956-1957).

In 1958 Shaffer had his first great theatrical success with *Five Finger Exercise*, which opened in London, enjoyed a two-year run, and won the *Evening Standard* Drama Award. It was produced in NY the following year and received the NY Drama Critics Circle Award in 1960. A conventional realistic drama about what has come to be called a dysfunctional family, it surely contains autobiographical elements in the character of the 19-year-old Clive, torn between his unimaginative businessman father and his doting, overindulgent mother.

There followed a number of short plays of varying success: the double bill of *The Private Ear* and *The Public Eye* opened in London in 1962 and in New York a year later; *The Merry Roosters Panto* (1963); *Black Comedy*, written to accompany *Miss Julie* with Maggie Smith and Albert Finney, premiered at Chichester in 1965. It was produced in NY in 1966, accompanied by a companion piece written especially for the American production, titled *White Lies*. While *Black Comedy* was received with wild enthusiasm, *White Lies* was not, prompting Shaffer to rework it twice; the subsequent effort was titled *The White Liars* and *White Liars*. The revisions, however, were no better received than the original; when the double bill was revived by off-Broadway's Roundabout Theater in 1993, the consensus of critics and viewers was that *White Liars* had to be endured in order to get to *Black Comedy*.

Shaffer had begun writing screenplays in 1963, collaborating with Peter Brook on *Lord of the Flies*, and added *The Pad (and How to Use It)*, based on *The Private Ear*, in 1966; *Follow Me!* in 1971; and *The Public Eye* in 1972. His next great stage success occurred with *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*, which opened at Chichester in 1964, was moved to London, and appeared in NY in 1965. Shaffer was delighted with the work, writing, "I do not think that I ever enjoyed doing anything so much ...," and generally the critics were equally pleased.

In 1970 Shaffer's most American play, *The Battle of Shrivings*, opened in London. The designation was his and he explained that he associated it most strongly with sojourns in NYC in 1968 & 1969 "when he became obsessed by the fever of that time." But the story of a community of pacifists, protesters, and vegetarians led by Sir Gideon Petrie, a combination of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Daniel Berrigan, and Abbie Hoffman, had no success with either the critics or the public, and plans to take it to NY were dropped. Shaffer rewrote it and retitled it *Shrivings*, but it was kept alive in the printed version only.

Shaffer had a resounding hit with *Equus* in 1974, which ran for over 1,000 performances in London. But if the British liked it, the Americans were ecstatic over the story of a young man who is put into the hands of a psychiatrist after blinding six horses. In his splendid introduction to his collected plays (1982), the playwright tells of the true story that prompted the work and shows how he adapted it to

achieve greater universality. In Manhattan in 1975 it won the TONY Award, the NY Drama Critics Circle Award, and the Outer Critics Circle Award. In 1977 it was made into a film and Shaffer wrote the script.

Even more successful was the 1979 drama *Amadeus*, about the relationship between the genius Mozart and the near-great Salieri, who, according to one not widely credited tradition, had murdered his young rival, driven by jealousy. Like *Equus* this work ran for over 1,000 performances in London; it won the *Evening Standard* Drama Award for 1979 and the TONY Award in NY. Made into a film, with Shaffer doing the screenplay, it won an Oscar for best film in 1984.

In 1985 came *Yonadab*, based on a story of incest in the Old Testament book of *Samuel* but prompted by Dan Jacobson's novel *The Rape of Tomar*, which had attracted Shaffer since its publication. It remained in the repertory of the National Theater in London. *Lettice and Lovage*, written as a gift for Maggie Smith, opened in 1987 and ran for 3 years in London, with a shorter run in NY. A frankly commercial comedy, it was labeled "original" by both the *Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* in London; while on this side of the Atlantic Henry Popkin in *Theater Week* judged it "surely the most effective laugh-machine that Broadway has seen in many years." In *The Gift of the Gorgon* (1992), Shaffer considers the quest for identity, creativity, and the boundary between justice and revenge in a flashy vehicle drawn from Greek mythology. As usual, critics were divided and audience response was far more uniformly enthusiastic.

Shaffer received the William Inge Award for Distinguished Achievement in the American Theater in 1992. He was appointed Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University in 1994. Shaffer died on 6 June 2016 at the age of 90.

**John Fisher** (*Dysart*/Director) is a playwright, director, and actor. Recent play writing credits include his play *Shakespeare Goes to War* (nominated for six 2016 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards) and *To Sleep and Dream* (2014 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award Winner for Best Script) as well as his direction of and acting in the Theatre Bay Area Award-winning production of Alan Bennett's *The Habit of Art* and the TBA Recommended Production of *Breaking the Code* (nominated for five 2016 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards). John also acted in both *Shakespeare Goes to War* and *Breaking the Code* and was nominated as Best Leading Actor of 2016 for both performances. In the 2014-15 season John directed the West Coast Premiere of David Mamet's *The Anarchist*.

**Theatre Rhinoceros** - founded in 1977 is the longest running LGBT theatre in the nation. We develop and produce works of theatre that enlighten, enrich, and explore both the ordinary and the extraordinary aspects of our queer community. Our emphasis is on new works, works about under-represented members of the larger queer community, and revivals of lesser known queer classics. Over the years Theatre Rhinoceros has received many awards of recognition including: Theatre Rhinoceros Day in the City Proclamation from Mayor Gavin Newsome, State Assembly Certificate of Recognition from Senator Mark Leno, recognitions from Congressperson Nancy Pelosi and Assembly Persons Tom Ammiano and Carole Migden, numerous Cable Car, BATCC and TBA Awards and Nominations, and the GLAAD Media Award for Best LGBT Theatre.

## **Calendar Editors:**

WHAT: *Theatre Rhinoceros presents...*  
EQUUS by Peter Shaffer  
*"At least I galloped... When did you?"*  
directed by John Fisher

EQUUS is an explosive play about suppressed sexuality that took critics and audiences by storm. A timeless classic and a cornerstone of modern drama that delves into the darkest recesses of human existence.

WHEN: Nov. 25 - Dec. 10, 2016  
*Limited Engagement - Only 17 Performances - 3 Weeks!*  
Opening Night: Sun. Nov. 27, 2016 - 7:00 pm

The show plays Nov. 25 - Dec. 10, 2016

- Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. - 8:00 pm / Sat. Matinees - 3:00 pm.

Previews (4): Fri. Nov. 25 - 8:00 pm; Sat., Nov. 26 - 3:00 pm, Sat., Nov. 26 - 8:00 pm, Sun. Nov. 27 - 3:00 pm. Special Added shows: Sun. Nov. 27, 2016 - 2:00 and 7:00 pm

Opening Night: Sun. Nov. 27, 2016 - 7:00 pm (*Reception to follow*)

**Individual performance dates are: Nov. 25 – Dec. 10, 2016**

Nov. 25, 2016	- Fri. - 8:00 pm [Preview]
Nov. 26	- Sat. - 3:00 pm [Preview]
Nov. 26	- Sat. - 8:00 pm [Preview]
Nov. 27	- Sun. - 2:00 pm [Preview]
Nov. 27	- Sun. - 7:00 pm (Opening night – <i>Reception to follow</i> )
Nov. 29	- Tues. - 8:00 pm
Nov. 30	- Wed. - 8:00 pm
Dec. 1	- Thurs. - 8:00 pm
Dec. 2	- Fri. - 8:00 pm
Dec. 3	- Sat. - matinee - 3:00 pm
Dec. 3	- Sat. - 8:00 pm
Dec. 6, 7, 8, 9	- Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.- 8:00 pm
Dec. 10	- Sat. matinee - 3:00 pm
Dec. 10	- Sat. - 8:00 pm

TIX: Tickets are \$15 - \$40 and are available at <http://www.therhino.org/buy.htm> or 1-800- 838-3006. (All Previews are pay-what-you-wish at the door.)

WHERE: Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111

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

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1848995008655820/>

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

PRESS CONTACT: Joseph Tally 510-506-4924 [joseph.g.tally@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.g.tally@gmail.com)

## **Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for**

**EQUUS by Peter Shaffer / directed by John Fisher**

***Limited Engagement - Only 17 Performances - 3 Weeks!***

**A Theatre Rhinoceros production at**

**Eureka Theatre in SF: Nov. 25 – Dec. 10, 2016**

### **15 seconds:**

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to come see EQUUS by Peter Shaffer – A Tony Award-winning play that delves into the darkest recesses of human existence.

EQUUS plays Nov. 25 – Dec. 10, - 3 weeks only,

at The Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) in San Francisco.

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

### **30 seconds:**

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to come see EQUUS by Peter Shaffer – A Tony Award-winning play that delves into the darkest recesses of human existence.

The NY Times calls EQUUS ...

*"The closest I have seen a contemporary play come to reanimating the spirit of mystery that makes the stage a place of breathless discovery rather than a classroom for rational demonstration."*

EQUUS plays Nov. 25 - Dec. 10, - 3 weeks only,

at The Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) in San Francisco.

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

### **1 minute:**

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to come see EQUUS by Peter Shaffer – A Tony Award-winning play that delves into the darkest recesses of human existence.

The NY Times calls EQUUS ...

*"The closest I have seen a contemporary play come to reanimating the spirit of mystery that makes the stage a place of breathless discovery rather than a classroom for rational demonstration."*

**Theatre Rhinoceros** - founded in 1977 is the longest running LGBT theatre in the nation.

They develop and produce works of theatre that enlighten, enrich, and explore both the ordinary and the extraordinary aspects of our queer community. Their emphasis is on new works, works about under-represented members of the larger queer community, and revivals of lesser known queer classics.

EQUUS plays Nov. 25 - Dec. 10, - 3 weeks only,

at The Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) in San Francisco.

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

## **Upcoming Shows in the 2016/17 Season at Theatre Rhino:**

A whole new season of LGBT plays all performed at our new home The Eureka Theatre 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111 in beautiful Downtown San Francisco! Join us for a wild ride in 2016-17!

Bay Area Premiere

### **Gertrude Stein and a Companion**

By Win Wells

The love of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas takes the stage in this witty and romantic account of their life together.

December 28, 2016 – January 7, 2017

Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) in San Francisco.

A Rhino Tradition

### **The New Year's Eve Spectacular**

The stars of *Foodies* and *Shopping* return for an evening of song and comedy to ring in the New Year.

December 31, 2016 – *One Show Only!*

Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) in San Francisco.

World Premiere

### **Ding Dong!**

By John Fisher

A San Francisco drag party turns into a crazy evening of self-discovery. Ding Dong! And another drag queen comes through the door.

February 25 – March 19, 2017

Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) in San Francisco.

### **Priscilla, Queen of the Desert**

The Musical

By Stephan Elliott and Allan Scott

The glorious musical adventure about trannies, drag shows, Down Under, and what we will do for love.

May 27 – July 2, 2017

Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) in San Francisco.

Special Event

### **Lear!**

An Outdoor Shakespeare Adventure

In the spirit of *Titus!* and *Timon!*, The Rhino takes to the park once again for another walkabout production. A Co-Production of the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival.

July 7-9, 2017

Yerba Buena Gardens - 750 Howard St. (Btw'n 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sts.) in San Francisco

###