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**THEATRE RHINOCEROS IN COOPERATION WITH THE GLBT HISTORY MUSEUM**

**PRESENTS A STAGED READING OF A NEW PLAY:**

**THE LEGEND OF PINK by Kheven LaGrone**

**DIRECTED by Darryl V. Jones**

**DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017 TIME: 7PM**

**LOCATION: GLBT History Museum, 4127 18<sup>th</sup> St., San Francisco**

**SYNOPSIS:** The time is the late Twentieth Century, the place is the streets of West Oakland. Drug wars rage, the streets are owned by gangs and, to a large extent, the legal establishment looks the other way. In this environment, the lovely transgender woman, Pink, does her best to bring a bit of beauty to her harsh surroundings. But people are watching Pink as she tries to form a connection with a beautiful young man who no one knows or recognizes, and they don't like it. When things become dangerous and deadly, it turns out the young man is the son of a judge. Suddenly, the legal establishment has to pay attention.

**ACTORS:** LaKeidrick Wimberly, Gabriel Christian, Sean Scott, and Teresita Brown

**Playwright Kheven LaGrone's statement:**

*The story was inspired by my close relationship with a transgender person and my own experiences as a middle-class African American boy growing up in the "diverse" and "progressive" Bay Area.*

*The story is based in West Oakland because it represents many of the problems of gentrification. In the past, outsiders, often even city officials, acted as if Oakland was a ghost town. In reality, they were just not part of the community's vibrancy and liveliness and so they could not see it. They just saw the negative portrayal in the media. When gentrifiers moved in, they acted as if they gave the city life. This is the truth. As the Legend of Pink shows, people outside of Pink's neighborhood might not have seen her, but she had an exciting life. She added to the vibrancy of the neighborhood. She is part of the neighborhood's history.*

*Black communities in the Bay Area are often reluctant to discuss class and father-son relationships (especially from the father's perspective). We don't often discuss the loss of trust. We don't discuss assumptions we make about ourselves and each other. I would like to encourage more critical discussions about these issues. Sometimes, the truth hurts.*

**Director Darryl V. Jones's statement:**

*The Legend of Pink is an interesting exploration of the subcultures and codes of behavior that exist within our urban communities, that go unnoticed until attention is drawn to them when a crime of some kind is committed. It is similar to the film MOONLIGHT in that the environment of oppression is all around you. It hangs heavy in the air. The play explores how drugs can be a trap that lures people from the outside into that world with dangerous consequences. It takes place in the neighborhood of West Oakland known as the "The Bottom," in 1989. At that time, the neighborhood was completely run over by drug dealers. There were blocks dedicated to the buying and selling of crack cocaine and lines of cars could be seen pulling up day and night. When you add a drag queen in the mix, you have a recipe for volatile theatre.*

*It takes another look at an unconventional relationship between two black men: Pink, a drag queen and her friend? or lover? who never says he is gay, but clearly he has deep feelings for Pink. It also explores the danger that lurks in the urban streets under gang ownership and how naive people lured by drugs risk their lives entering these neighborhoods. And it questions whether the gentrification of West Oakland has been all good. There is always a price to pay,*