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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 19, 2017**

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

<http://therhino.org/press-room/#heart>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/events/131152070851598/>

*Theatre Rhinoceros presents...*

## **THE NORMAL HEART**

by Larry Kramer

Directed by John Fisher

The Gateway Theatre (*Formerly The Eureka Theatre*)

215 Jackson St. (at Battery St.), SF, CA 94111

**Nov. 3 - 25, 2017**

*Limited Engagement - 4 Weeks! - 19 Performances.*

(No Perf. Thurs. 11/23 - Thanksgiving)

**Opening Night: Sat., Nov. 4, 2017 - 8:00 pm** (Reception to follow)

The Gateway Theatre (*Formerly The Eureka Theatre*)

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

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

### **Synopsis:**

#### ***THE NORMAL HEART* by Larry Kramer**

A searing drama about public and private indifference to the AIDS plague and one man's lonely fight to awaken the world to the crisis. Produced to acclaim in NY, London and LA.

*The Normal Heart* follows Ned Weeks, a gay activist enraged at the indifference of public officials and the gay community. While trying to save the world from itself, he confronts the personal toll of AIDS when his lover dies of the disease.

Originally published in 1985 and celebrated in a passionate and eloquent 2011 Broadway revival. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Normal\\_Heart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Normal_Heart)

***THE NORMAL HEART*** is a Theatre Rhinoceros Premiere. It was last presented in SF by ACT in Sept. 2012. A made for TV film on HBO directed by Ryan Murphy in May 2014 – won 2 Emmy Awards including Best TV Movie, and Best Supporting Actor (Matt Bomer).

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

Tickets \$20 - \$40 and available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3091258>  
or 1-800-838-3006. (All Previews are pay-what-you-wish at the door.)

**CAST - THE NORMAL HEART** - features Bay Area Actors:  
**John Fisher** (*Ned*); **Benoît Monin** (*Bruce*); **Morgan Lange** (*Tommy*);  
*other cast members TBA*

**Tech Credits:**

**Dan Draper** (Costume Designer); **John Fisher** (Director); **Gilbert Johnson** (Set Designer);  
**Lawrence Helman** (Publicist); **Sean Keehan** (Lighting Designer); **Bert vanAalsburg** (Set  
Construction); **David Wilson** (Graphics/Ads/Photography)

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**Perf. Dates & Times:**        **Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat.**                        **- 8:00 pm**  
   **Sat. Matinees**                                        **- 3:00 pm**  
   **Tues. Perfs. (Nov. 14 & 21, 2017)**                **- 7:00 pm**

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**Nov. 15, 16, 17, 18**    **- Wed. Thurs., Fri., Sat. - 8:00 pm**  
**Nov. 18**                        **- Sat. Matinee - 3:00 pm**  
**Nov. 21**                        **- Tues. - 7:00 pm**  
**Nov. 22, 24, 25 - Wed. Fri., Sat.**        **- 8:00 pm (no Perf. Thurs 11/23 - Thanksgiving)**  
**Nov. 25**                        **- Sat. Matinee - 3:00 pm**

**To arrange an interview with director John Fisher, or any of the actors or for additional info,**  
**contact Lawrence Helman - 415- 336-8220    [lhelman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lhelman@sbcglobal.net)**  
*(Playwright Larry Kramer **MAY** be available for **limited** phoner interviews.*  
*Requests must be received via e-mail to Lawrence Helman.)*

**Selected NYC Reviews for The Normal Heart:**

- "An angry, unrelenting and gripping piece of political theatre." - *NY Daily News*  
- "Like the best social playwrights, Kramer produces a cross fire of life and death energies that illuminate the many issues and create a fierce and moving human drama."- *Newsweek*  
- "If you see only one play this year, make it *The Normal Heart!*" - *Backstage*  
"Run to *The Normal Heart* if you want to be reminded of how alive you are!" -*The Village Voice*  
- "Hits you like a jackhammer. A powerful example of theater at its most direct, passionate and urgent. Devastating." - *AM New York*

- " This is essentially Ibsen for our times. The play's complexity is brought to pulse-pounding life! The entire company acts up a storm, and the production leaves you drenched. Raw, scary and galvanizing." - *Time Out New York*
- "Scalding and poignant. It is a breathtaking achievement. Period." - *Daily News*
- "*The Normal Heart* is breathing fire again! A great cathartic night at the theater!" - *NY Times*
- "One harrowing meltdown seems to incite another — a cascade of anguish as a terrifyingly unknowable killer bears down on a great metropolis... A theatergoer of any age or background can relate... You come to understand in the naked fury of *The Normal Heart* that the voices of history can, in fact, feel as if they are speaking directly to you" - *The Washington Post*

### **Selected Bios:**

**John Fisher** (*Director / Ned*) Recent playwriting: *Flim-Flam* (March 2017); *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.) He directed and acted in the TBA Award Recommended Productions of *Breaking the Code* (nominated for five 2016 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards) and *Equus*. In 2016 John received two nominations from the BATCC as Best Leading Actor for his performances in *Shakespeare Goes to War* and *Breaking the Code*. John is the only two-time winner of the Will Glickman Playwrighting Award for *Medea: The Musical* and *Combat!* His plays have been performed in NY, LA and across the USA. In Summer 2017 John directed *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* for Theatre Rhino. John also appeared as Lear in *Lear!* in July 2017 and at the United Solo Festival in Manhattan in his one man show *A History of World War II*.

**Theatre Rhinoceros** - Founded in 1977, The Rhino 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...***  
**THE NORMAL HEART**  
 by Larry Kramer  
 Directed by John Fisher  
 The Gateway Theatre (*Formerly The Eureka Theatre*)  
 215 Jackson St. (at Battery St.), SF, CA 94111

### **Synopsis: *THE NORMAL HEART* by Larry Kramer**

A searing drama about public and private indifference to the AIDS plague and one man's lonely fight to awaken the world to the crisis. Produced to acclaim in NY, London and LA. *The Normal Heart* follows Ned Weeks, a gay activist enraged at the indifference of public

officials and the gay community. While trying to save the world from itself, he confronts the personal toll of AIDS when his lover dies of the disease.

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**PRESS INFO:**            **For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:**  
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## **Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for**

***The Normal Heart*** by Larry Kramer. Directed by **John Fisher**

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**Nov. 3 - 25, 2017- *Limited Engagement – 4 Weeks!* - 19 Performances.**

**A Theatre Rhinoceros production at Gateway Theatre (formerly the Eureka Theatre) in SF.**

### **15 seconds:**

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### **30 seconds:**

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### **1 minute:**

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## **Upcoming shows in Theatre Rhinoceros – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**

A whole new season of LGBT plays all performed at our new home The Gateway Theatre (*formerly the Eureka Theatre*) - **215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111** in the financial district in downtown San Francisco. [www.therhino.org](http://www.therhino.org)

## **Coming up at Theatre Rhinoceros:**

***The 2017 Rhino New Year's Eve Spectacular***

***Tom Ammiano and Friends***

Former Rhino star and activist-politician Tom Ammiano hosts an evening of LGBT entertainment to ring in the New Year.

**Sun., Dec. 31, 2017 - 8:00 pm – ONE SHOW ONLY.**

**The Gateway Theatre** (*formerly the Eureka Theatre*)

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

**###**