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Theatre Rhinoceros presents...

THE RETURN OF LAST YEAR'S HIT

After a 2017 Sold-Out Run, An Encore Production of:

Priscilla Queen of the Desert - *The Musical*

Book by Stephan Elliott and Allan Scott

Based on the Latent Image/Specific Films Motion Picture

Distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc.

Directed by John Fisher

Music Direction by Mark Dietrich

Choreography by AeJay Mitchell

May 26 – June 30, 2018

Limited Engagement - 5 Weeks! - 23 Performances.

Opening Night: Thurs., May 31, 2018 - 8:00 pm (Reception to follow)

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

www.TheRhino.org

After last year's (2017) sold-out run, and the most successful show in the 40 year history of Theatre Rhinoceros, we are thrilled to be presenting - BY POPULAR DEMAND - an encore production for 2017/2018 Season of ***Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical***. *Priscilla* has a book by Australian film director/writer Stephan Elliott and Allan Scott, using well-known pop songs as its score. Adapted from Elliott's 1994 Oscar-winning film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, the musical is the heart-warming, uplifting adventure of three friends who hop aboard a battered old bus searching for love and friendship and end up finding more than they could have ever dreamed of. With a dazzling array of over-the-top costumes, extraordinary headdresses, A FULL SIZE BUS - ON STAGE, and a hit parade of dance floor favorites, this wildly fresh and funny musical is a journey to the heart of FABULOUS.

SYNOPSIS:

The Musical follows two drag queens and a transsexual (Tick, Adam, and Bernadette), who buy a run-down old bus (they call Priscilla) and set out on a road trip across the Australian Outback when one of them, Tick, is invited by his ex-wife to perform his drag show at her far-away resort. However, Tick is hesitant to tell his friends, Bernadette (a former performing icon who's best days are behind her) and Adam (a rambunctious young troublemaker), his own personal reasons for taking the trip. During their journey, the trio encounters an array of

Australian citizens, some of who aren't receptive to their lifestyle, including incidents of homo and transphobia, while widening comfort zones, finding new horizons, and strengthening their own friendship.

Shows are at **Gateway Theatre, 215 Jackson St.**, (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111

– Embarcadero BART **Tickets are \$15 - \$45** and available at

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3385582>

or **1-800-838-3006**. (All Previews are pay-what-you-wish at the door.)

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical features Bay Area Actors:

Suzy Jane Edwards (*Ensemble*); **Rudy Guerrero*** (*Tick/Mitzi*); **John-Thomas Hanson** (*Ensemble*); **Morgan Lange** (*Ensemble*); **Kim Larsen** (*Bernadette*); **Grace Liu** (*Cynthia*); **Lisa McHenry** (*Diva*); **Caitlin Papp** (*Diva*); **Charles Peoples III*** (*Adam/Felicia*); **Phaedra Tillery** (*Diva*); **David Tuttle** (*Miss Understanding*); **Dee Wagner** (*Ensemble*); **Cameron Weston** (*Bob*); **Cameron Zener** (*Benji*).

** The Actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

Tech Credits:

Stephanie Niemann (Stage Manager); **Mark Dietrich** (Music Director); **John Fisher** (Director/Producer); **Fred Sharkey** (Set Construction); **James Goode** (Sound Designer); **Lawrence Helman** (Publicist); **Robert Horek** (Costume Designer); **Connor Hagen** (Ass't. Stage Manager); **Gilbert Johnson** (Set Designer); **Sean Keehan** (Lighting Designer); **Glenn Krumholz** (Milner); **AeJay Mitchell** (Choreographer)

Performance Dates: May 26 – June 30, 2018

Previews (4) **Sat., May 26 - 3:00 pm** (*No Press at Previews Please*)
 Sat., May 26 - 8:00 pm
 Sun., May 27 - 3:00 pm (*Our only Sunday performance!*)
 Wed., May 30 - 8:00 pm

Opening Night: Thurs., May 31, 2018 – 8:00 pm (Reception to follow)

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

Individual performance dates are: May 26 – June 30, 2018

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June 30 - Sat. - 8:00 pm (Closing Performance)

To arrange an interview with director John Fisher or any of the actors or for additional info, contact Lawrence Helman - 415- 661-1260 lhelman@sbcglobal.net

The Critics raved about the 2017 Production.

A glorious time at the theatre that will make what's happening in the real world just a little more bearable. - **Andrea Chase - KillerMovieReviews.com**

An infectious good time - **Patrick Thomas - Twoontheaisel**

Every so often there are good to great shows at the intimate Eureka Theatre. PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT the musical is one of the great ones earning a well-deserved standing ovation. - **Kedar Adour – ForAll Events**

As director of this Theatre Rhino extravaganza-gone-bonkers, John Fisher has left no corn unshucked to ensure that gaudy glamour, high-stepping hilarity, and pun-packed playfulness rule the stage, this kaleidoscope of kitsch is truly magnificent. - **Eddie Reynolds - Theatreeddys**

Director John Fisher orchestrates an exemplary production that a small company shouldn't be capable of. Everything works, from scenic design to lighting, from sound to musical direction. - **Victor Cordell - ForAllEvents**

"It's revivifying to know that lavishly chintzy, gender-bending theater, the sort that celebrates humankind through tawdry puns, through a shared esprit de corps between cast and audience, can still thrive in San Francisco... Exuberant choreography! The Rhino detonates sartorial explosion after explosion!" - **Lily Janiak, SF Chronicle**

The sincerity, hilarity, and compassion of a production like this isn't something you can practice; it's just got to be there from day one. - **Adam Brinklow – Edgemedianetwork.com**

Theatre Rhino has gotten "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" up on its feet – and its high heels – with such an enthusiastic embrace that affection easily flows back from the audience. - **Richard Dodds – Bay Area Reporter**

As good as the London & B'way productions. - **Richard Connema - Talkinbroadway.com**

Fun Facts about Priscilla Queen of the Desert

- The musical was produced by on Broadway by Bette Midler.
- Priscilla - The Musical won a Tony Award - Best Costume Design -Tim Chappel & Lizzy Gardiner.
- The Film had the World Premiere at the Castro Theatre in SF in 1994 as part of the SF Int'l. Film Festival. The 1st time the director saw the film with an audience. A Legendary screening.
- Australian costume designer Lizzy Gardiner wore a dress made of 254 expired American Express Gold cards to the 67th Academy Awards on March 27, 1995, where she won an Oscar for Best Costume Design. The gown had originally been conceived for the film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* along with many other outlandish costumes such as one made solely out of pink flip flops, but American Express had forbidden it. In SF the dress was part of a Hollywood Costume Exhibit at a Macy's Passport show. The dress was lost in shipment through Fed Ex and was found days later at a plumbing supply shop in Daly City and returned to Macy's. The dress was auctioned off for charity in 1999 for \$12,650, with the proceeds going to AmfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research.

Selected Bios:

John Fisher (*Director*) Recent playwriting: *A History of World War II* (Winner Best Actor Award – United Solo Festival 2017, NYC, Encore Production 2018); *Transitions* (March 2018); *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 Playwriting Award for *Medea: The Musical* and *Combat!* His plays have been performed in NY, LA and across the country. John appeared as Lear in *King Lear* at Yerba Buena Gardens in 2017. His new play *Lavender Scare* deals with the FBI attack on gays in the 1950s. www.johnfisher.biz

Mark Dietrich (*Music Director*) makes his debut with Theatre Rhinoceros with Priscilla. Mark is a Computer Science professor, piano instructor, audition coach, and small business owner, having retired from the military in 2006 and from IT/tech in 2017. Music Direction credits: *Man of La Mancha* (Custom Made Theater); *Oklahoma!*, *Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical*, *The Taffetas* (Altarena Playhouse); *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Las Positas College); *Forever Plaid*, *The Taffetas* (Pacific Coast Repertory); *1776* (Piedmont High School); *Pitch Perfect*, *Dogfight*, *Footloose*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Legally Blonde* (Alameda High School); *Young Frankenstein* (23 Elephants); *Legally Blonde*, *Avenue Q*, *RENT* (Tri-Valley Young Performers Academy); *Oklahoma!* (St. Timothy's Episcopal Church). Assistant MD/Associate Conductor: *Next to Normal* (Custom-Made Theater); *The Fantastiks* (Altarena Playhouse); *RENT* (Berkeley Playhouse). Vocal Direction: *The Honky Tonk Angels* (Altarena Playhouse). Special thanks to my #1 fans (my kids): Ellen, John, Mary, and Julia.

Rudy Guerrero* (*Tick, aka Mitzi*) won the SFBATCC award for Best Actor for his performance in *Priscilla* in 2017 and was nominated for a Broadway World Award for the same production. Previous Rhino performances include "Nugget /Frank / Nurse/Dalton" in *Equus*, "Wilson

Mizner” in *Road Show*, “Sam” in *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You?*; and “Man” in “Seven Palestinian Children.” Other theater credits include performances at 42nd St. Moon, Alcazar Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Central Works, Connecticut Repertory Theater, Foothill Music Theater, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Magic Theatre, Marin Shakespeare Company, Marin Theatre Company, Pacific Alliance Stage Company, Playwrights Foundation, SF Playhouse, TheatreWorks, Willows Theater Company, and Word for Word. Rudy has a BFA in Musical Theater from the Boston Conservatory and a MFA in Acting from the American Conservatory Theater. www.rudyguerrero.com

Kim Larsen (*Bernadette*) is excited to be a member of the Priscilla cast once again, especially considering the songs are from his gay bar days in college! He last appeared for The Rhino in *Road Show* by Stephen Sondheim. He’s been very active in the Bay Area theater scene for over 25 years and is a board member of Theatre Rhinoceros as well as being the publisher of GayPocket San Francisco Guide.

AeJay Mitchell (*Choreographer*) was nominated for a Best Choreography Award by the Bay Area Critics Circle Awards for his work on *Priscilla* in 2017. More recently he directed the World Premiere of Kheven LaGrone’s *The Legend of Pink* for Theatre Rhino. AeJay made his stage debut with BACCE playing the lead role of Sutter in *Bootycandy* at BRAVA!. Bay Area theatre credits include: Actor 4/Another Black Man in *We Are Proud To Present...* (San Jose Stage Company); Kemi in *Rose in America* (Alter Theatre Ensemble); Miss Roj/Kid/Narrator in *Colored Museum*, E-Mem in *X-Tigone*, and Borraccio in *Much Ado About Nothing* (African American Shakespeare Theatre Company); Gary Coleman in *Avenue Q* (NCTC); Gibbs in *Dogfight* (SF Playhouse); Tobias Twitch in *Something for the Boys* (42nd Street Moon); C.C. White in *Dreamgirls* (Broadway by the Bay); Scarecrow in *The Wiz*, Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man* and Rusty Charlie in *Guys and Dolls* (Berkeley Playhouse); and Jonathan Harker in *Dracula* (Inferno Theatre).

Charles Peoples III * (*Adam/Felicia*) is thrilled to perform with Theatre Rhino once again! Charles was nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Award by Broadway World for his performance in *Priscilla* in 2017. He recently played Ruby in the World Premiere of John Fisher’s *Transitions* at Theatre Rhino. Charles is a performance artist who explores visual storytelling to raise awareness, demand social justice, and cultivate self-love. He received his BA in Musical Theater from Sarah Lawrence College (’12) and is currently working on his debut album. You can find him performing original works and other pieces for his YouTube Channel regularly. Additional theater credits include Adam in *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* and the title role *The Legend of Pink*, both at Theatre Rhino, Collins in *Rent*, and Neil in *The Story*. www.CharlesPeoplesIII.com

**The Actors appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

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 Newsom, 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:

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SYNOPSIS:

The Musical follows two drag queens and a transsexual (Tick, Adam, and Bernadette), who buy a run-down old bus (they call Priscilla) and set out on a road trip across the Australian Outback when one of them, Tick, is invited by his ex-wife to perform his drag show at her far-away resort. However, Tick is hesitant to tell his friends, Bernadette (a former performing icon who's best days are behind her) and Adam (a rambunctious young troublemaker), his own personal reasons for taking the trip. During their journey, the trio encounters an array of Australian citizens, some of who aren't receptive to their lifestyle, including incidents of homo and transphobia, while widening comfort zones, finding new horizons, and strengthening their own friendship.

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Coming up at Theatre Rhinoceros - 40th Anniversary Season

Oedipus at Palm Springs (Regional Premiere)

by The Five Lesbian Brothers

Directed by Kathryn Wood - star and co-director of last season's hit *Gertrude Stein and a Companion*, Kathryn Wood returns to direct this hysterical and shocking comedy by the masters of lesbian wit.

July 12 – 22, 2018

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

www.therhino.org

Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical has a book by Australian film director-writer Stephan Elliott and Allan Scott, using well-known pop songs as its score. Adapted from Elliott's 1994 Oscar-winning film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.

Directed by John Fisher; Musical Direction by Dan Feyer; Choreography by AeJay Mitchell

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A Theatre Rhinoceros production at Gateway Theatre in SF.

15 seconds:

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30 seconds:

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1 minute:

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Theatre Rhinoceros – 2018 - 2019 – 41st Season Announcement

For our 41st season as the longest-running LGBT anywhere, Theatre Rhinoceros presents three musicals, two new works, and a Broadway thriller as we take you on a journey of hope and excitement.

All Rhino shows are presented at our home the Gateway Theatre in San Francisco except *Sister Act*, which will be at a bigger theatre TBA because it's going to be a spectacle!

[Subscription prices the same as last year.]

World Premiere Commission

VOICES FROM THE EDGE

Conceived and Directed by Rhodessa Jones

September 7 – 22, 2018

An exciting new work of theatre exploring issues facing women of color who are incarcerated or living with HIV. This exciting new work by the masterful Rhodessa Jones is an original commission developed by Theatre Rhinoceros and Cultural Odyssey/The Medea Project.

Musical Bio About Queer Icon Peter Allen

THE BOY FROM OZ

Music and Lyrics by Peter Allen and Others

Book by Martin Sherman and Nick Enright

October 26 – November 18, 2018

In the wake of *Priscilla*, the Rhino returns to Australia for this raucous musical biography of the most famous gay man from down under, Peter Allen. From “I Go to Rio” and “Arthur’s Theme” to “Don’t Cry Out Loud” and “I Honestly Love You”, the hits just keep coming in this story of the brilliant song-writer entertainer.

One Night Only!

MEGABYTES

Written and Directed by Morris Bobrow

December 31, 2018 – 8:00 pm

Our New Year’s Eve Spectacular returns! The hit show about the pleasures (and pains!) of tech.

World Premiere

ACTION HERO

By John Fisher

March 22 - April 14, 2019

The world's biggest action hero Thom Snooze is about to come bursting out of the closet. He'll do anything to promote his new film. But is this the right move? Everyone in his life says no, but his instincts say, "You go, girl!"

The Classic Thriller

DEATHTRAP

By Ira Levin

May 17 – June 2, 2019

Playwright Sidney Bruhl needs a hit, desperately. Is he willing to kill to get it? Will his wife help him? How far will their nerve take them? And what will handsome Cliff's reaction be when he finds out?

San Francisco Premiere

SISTER ACT

Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Glenn Slater

Book by Bill and Cheri Steinkellner

Additional book material by Douglas Carter Beane

May 31 – July 7, 2019 – Theatre TBA

The famous Whoopi Goldberg movie that became the hit musical now gets the Rhino twist when a drag queen singer has to go into hiding as a nun! But she's not the only nun in drag! Not in our production.

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