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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **August 17, 2018**

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

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/events/244535743053492/>

*Theatre Rhinoceros presents...*

## **DEAD AND BREATHING**

by Chisa Hutchinson

A Bay Area Premier

**September 6-22, 2018**

*14 Performances only.*

**OPENING NIGHT: September 6, 2018 8pm – Champagne Reception to follow**

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

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

**Running time: 90 minutes (no intermission)**

Theatre Rhinoceros will present the Bay Area premier of Chisa Hutchinson's *Dead and Breathing* for 14 performances.

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

Cast: Shirley Smallwood (Carolyn Whitlock), CeCe Suazo (Veronika)

Team: Jacqueline Dennis (Costume Designer), Lawrence Dillon (Video), Sarah Gasser (Assistant Director), Steven Ho (Photography), AeJay Mitchell (Director), Isaac Traister (Stage Manager), Bert van Aalsburg (Scenic Designer), David Wilson (Graphics)

The Story: Cranky old Carolyn Whitlock has been in hospice for far too long and just wants to die already. But she'll have to work harder than she ever has in her privileged life to convince her oversharing and very Christian nurse to help her end it. Through surprising humor and persistent questioning, *Dead and Breathing* investigates morality, mortality, and the intense tug-of-war between the right to die with dignity and the idea of life as a gift.

**Performance Dates: September 6-22, 2018**

**Individual performance dates are:**

**Thursday, Sept. 6 8pm (Opening Night – Champagne Reception to follow)**

Friday, Sept. 7 8pm  
Saturday, Sept. 8 3pm  
Saturday, Sept. 8 8pm

Wednesday, Sept. 12 8pm  
Thursday, Sept. 13 8pm  
Friday, Sept. 14 8pm  
Saturday, Sept. 15 3pm  
Saturday, Sept. 15 8pm

Wednesday, Sept. 19 8pm  
Thursday, Sept. 20 8pm  
Friday, Sept. 21 8pm  
Saturday, Sept. 22 3pm  
Saturday, Sept. 22 8pm

**To arrange an interview with director AeJay Mitchell** or either of the actors or for additional info, contact **John Fisher** [info@therhino.org](mailto:info@therhino.org) **415-552-4100**

### **Selected Bios:**

**THE PLAYWRIGHT: CHISA HUTCHINSON** (B.A. Vassar College; M.F.A. NYU - Tisch School of the Arts) has happily presented her plays *Dirt Rich*, *She Like Girls*, *This Is Not the Play*, *Sex on Sunday*, *Tunde's Trumpet*, *The Subject*, *Mama's Gonna Buy You*, *Somebody's Daughter*, *Alondra Was Here*, and *Dead and Breathing* at such venues as the Lark Play Development Center, SummerStage, Atlantic Theater Company, Working Man's Clothes Productions, the BE Company, Partial Comfort Productions, Mad Dog Theater Company, the Wild Project, Rattlestick Theater, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the South Orange Performing Arts Center, the Contemporary American Theater Festival, and the Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey. She has been a Dramatists Guild Fellow, a Lark Fellow, a Resident at the William Inge Center for the Arts, a New York NeoFuturist and a staff writer for the Blue Man Group, and is currently a fourth-year member of New Dramatists. Chisa has won a GLAAD Award, the John Golden Award for Excellence in Playwriting, a Lilly Award, a New York Innovative Theatre Award, the Paul Green Award, a Helen Merrill Award, the Lanford Wilson Award, and has been a finalist for the highly coveted PoNY Fellowship. A recent foray into screenwriting won her Best Narrative Short at the Sonoma International Film Festival. Most recently, she was a Humanitas Fellow and Resident Playwright at Second Stage Theater in NYC. To learn more, visit [www.chisahutchinson.com](http://www.chisahutchinson.com).

**THE DIRECTOR: AEJAY MITCHELL** 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).

**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:**

WHAT: ***Theatre Rhinoceros i presents...***

**Dead and Breathing**

**By Chisa Hutchinson | Directed by AeJay Mitchell**

WHEN: **Thursday, Sept. 6 8pm (Opening Night – Champagne Reception to follow)**

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

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

***Dead and Breathing*, by Chisa Hutchinson and Directed by AeJay Mitchell.** Theatre Rhinoceros will present the Bay Area premier of *Dead and Breathing*, a play about living, dying, and who gets to make the choices.

### **15 seconds:**

**Theatre Rhinoceros presents *Dead and Breathing*, by Chisa Hutchinson and Directed by AeJay Mitchell.**

Hutchinson's play looks at living and dying, a sick woman and her hospice nurse, and the choices they make about how to live and how to die.

***Dead and Breathing* plays Wednesday through Saturday, September 6-22 at 8pm; and Saturdays at 3pm. 14 performances only at The Gateway Theater - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) in San Francisco. More information at [www.TheRhino.org](http://www.TheRhino.org)**

Tickets are \$10-\$40

### **30 seconds:**

**Theatre Rhinoceros presents *Dead and Breathing*, by Chisa Hutchinson and Directed by AeJay Mitchell.**

Cranky old Carolyn Whitlock has been in hospice for far too long and just wants to die already. But she'll have to work harder than she ever has in her privileged life to convince her oversharing and very Christian nurse to help her end it. Hutchinson's play looks at living and dying, a sick woman and her hospice nurse, and the choices they make about how to live and how to die.

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### **1 minute:**

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