

THEATRE RHINOCEROS PRESENTS

ALLIGATOR MOUTH, TADPOLE ASS

A world premiere commission by an incisive Latinx playwright

Written by
**J. Julian
Christopher**

Directed by
**Richard
Mosqueda**



Live stream! Dec 11 – 20, 2020 • tickets: theRhino.org

From the Artistic Director

Alligator Mouth, Tadpole Ass, though set in an earlier era, speaks to us now most potently. In a time of Shelter-in-Place, we're all thrown back on periods of deep reflection. Which often means thoughts of family. Evander's struggles to reconcile the past are many of our own struggles to understand where we are and where we come from. Fortunately, this is a play of acceptance. It passes through discussion to action to catharsis, and in that way is a mini gay *Oresteia*, the play I consider the first gay play. Acceptance of the past doesn't always mean reconciliation, but it does mean we are free to move forward and grow. I'd like to think that's where this play leaves Evander and family. A special thanks from me to the Julian for creating this richly moving text for Theatre Rhinoceros, Richard for so majestically realizing it, and Rachel, Armando and Jake for bringing it so vividly to life every night.

John Fisher

Author's Note

I wrote the original one-act version, *Alligator Mouth*, for Horse & Cart Theatre in Denver in 2014. Since then, my theatrical voice has changed quite a bit. What started as a realism play has now become a twistedly queer memory play. Steeped in Magical Realism this play tackles what happens to us when memories betray. When our emotions are heightened and we are desperate for affection we begin to question reality, especially when confronted with trauma. *Alligator Mouth, Tadpole Ass* examines how we cope with the world around us and the need to be comforted, even by those who have abandoned us. It has been an absolute pleasure to work on this play with Theatre Rhinoceros. They have become my West Coast theatrical home.

J. Julian Christopher

Director's Note

Thank you for choosing to spend your evening with us to enjoy the haunting and sexy play *Alligator Mouth, Tadpole Ass*. I am thrilled to introduce J. Julian Christopher's exciting, magical voice to Bay Area audiences.

This play was written early in Julian's career as a one-act play entitled *Alligator Mouth*. Two strangers meet on a fateful, magical evening and their paths collide as they learn to provide each other with companionship and intimacy. The early version was mysterious and complicated, but I was left wanting to know more about the characters - and so did Theatre Rhinoceros! Theatre Rhinoceros recently decided to produce a virtual staged reading of the play and then decided to commission Julian to write the full-length version of this tantalizing encounter. And somehow, Julian miraculously returned with an even more exciting play in two-weeks (yes, really).

Please know that this play is still in development and we are still learning about it as we watch the performances with you. Get comfortable, relax, and enjoy the ride!

Richard A. Mosqueda

Theatre Rhinoceros

and

Honorary Producers

Tom Horn and the Bob A. Ross Foundation

present

Alligator Mouth, Tadpole Ass

By J. Julian Christopher

Directed by Richard A. Mosqueda

Stage Manager Rachel Mogan

Lighting Consultant Grisel Torres

Sound Design..... Richard A. Mosqueda

Display Window Simulcast Eric Johnson, Craig Souza

Brochure/Graphics/Ads Christine U'Ren

Promo Photography/Box Office Joe Tally

Program.....James McCunn

Technical Advisor George Rosenthal

Tarot Advisor Kristee Ono

Special thanks to Aviva Kanoff, Shin Aoki, Eric Johnson, Craig Souza, Stephanie Niemann, Baruch Porras Hernandez Wonder Dave for loaning scenic elements, Grisel Torres for loaning lighting instruments, Brandon Rivera, Hector Zavala, Dan Domingues, and Adam Basco-Mahieddine for contributing their acting talents to develop the play, and the Lark Theater for hosting and producing the first ever developmental reading of the commission.

Alligator Mouth, Tadpole Ass is approximately seventy-five minutes in length and is performed without intermission.

First Theatre Rhinoceros Performance: Friday, December 11, 2020 as a live stream

RACHEL GRACE REYES MOGAN (Stage Manager) is a Bay Area native Stage Manager as well as Resident Artist with Crowded Fire. Recent Crowded Fire credits include *Church*, directed by Mina Morita, *Transfers*, with Ken Savage, as well as *Inked Baby*, directed by Lisa Marie Rollins. Other Bay Area credits include Stage Managing and Assistant Stage Managing with Cutting Ball Theater (*Ondine*, *A Dreamplay*, *Hedda Gabler*), Campo Santo Theater (*Ethos De Masquerade*, *Candlestick*), and Custom Made Theatre Co. (*Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies*).

RICHARD A. MOSQUEDA (Director) is a queer, Latinx director based in San Francisco. Recent credits include: Baruch Porras Hernandez's *Love in the Time of Piñatas* (Epic Party Theatre), *Outspoken* (New Conservatory Theatre Center, YouthAware), and *All My Friends Are Depressed! With Tiny Baruch!* (Epic Party Theatre). Richard recently served as SDCF Observer for the Pulitzer Prize Finalist *Soft Power* at Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles. Richard is the Founder and Lead Producer of Epic Party Theatre. BFA: Theatre School at DePaul University. SDC Associate.

JAKE REITZ (Evander/Chelley) is a recent graduate of the University of Kansas where he received his B.A. in Theatre Performance. There he appeared in *A Man of No Importance*, *Urinetown*, *Perfect Arrangement*, *She Kills Monsters*, and *Anon(ymous)*. Jakob has also worked with The Kansas City Public Theatre, The Kansas Repertory Theatre, and Prairie Fire Children's Theatre. Jakob is represented by Exposure Model and Talent Agency in Kansas City, MO. With Exposure he has booked work with Bark Productions, AV Productions, Barkley Productions, for clients such as SkillPath, Dictionary.com, AmBetter Health Insurance, and Dairy Queen. Instagram: @JakobReitz"

ARMANDO REY (Hank/Mercedes) is excited to be making his comeback to the San Francisco "stage" and to be performing with Theatre Rhino. In San Francisco, Armando has performed at Brava Theater (*12 Angry Men* - Juror #3), Thick House (*Theater Cloud Tectonics* - Anibal), AlterTheater (*Two Sisters and a Piano* - Lt. Portuondo), as Juan Julian in 6th Street Playhouse's *Anna in the Tropics* (nominated for Best Play at Sonoma County Theatre Awards), and *Bless Me, Ultima* with Teatro Vision in San Jose. In Los Angeles, Armando has performed at The Fountain Theatre (*Runaway Home*), Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, Casa 0101, Frida Kahlo Theater, Teatro de las Americas and Short+Sweet Latino Theatre Festival. In Canada, he appeared at the Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg in *Night of the Iguana*, a co-production with Rubicon Theatre Company. Armando performed Guillermo Reyes' *Men on the Verge of a His-panic Breakdown*, a one man show, in LA and Ashland, OR. Armando was the voice for Henry Rios in Michael Nava's *Lay Your Sleeping Head* (Best Actor Award from the L.A. Shorts Awards.) He received a Best Actor Nomination from the North Hollywood Cinefest Film Festival for his work on the film *Diablo* (Gabriel). Armando was named one of the 25 most influential people in the L.A. LGBT Community by *Adelante Magazine*.

2020 – 2021 Theatre Rhinoceros Donors

HERO

\$100,000 and above

Hewlett Foundation

EXECUTIVE

PRODUCER

\$50,000 - \$99,000

Grants for the Arts

PRODUCER

\$10,000 - \$49,000

James Hormel

Thomas Horn

PayPal

SF Arts Commission

ASSOCIATE

PRODUCER

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Horizon's Foundation

SPONSOR

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Kedar Adour

Robert Dockendorff

Joshua Dunsby

Vincent Greene

Sandra Hess

Ira Kurlander

John Lum

Jim McCunn

Ken Prag

Craig Souza

DIRECTOR

\$500 - \$999

Anthony Aguirre

Bill Beckerman

William Bombria

Catherine Brannigan

Lawrence Dillon

Ephrem Chan

Rudy Guerrero

Olof Hansen

Adrienne Hirt &

Jeffrey Rodman

Erwin Kelly

Thomas Kocon

Susan Ledford

Tom O'Brien

John Richardson

Henry Rosenthal

Michael Stokes

Angie Zener

Mike Zimmerman

LEADING ROLE

\$250 - \$499

Chuck Bailey

Millard Billings

Jim Boin

Richard Galbraith

Ken Goodreau

Darryl V Jones

Gregory Kelly

Richard Maggi

Edmond Mireault

Ken Odom

Patricia Parsons

Cecil Sherrod

Nancy Spangler &

Eric Wildgrupe

Steve Susoyev

David Tuckerman

SUPPORTING ROLE

\$100 - \$249

Yves Averous

Terry Baum

Sharon Burningham

Erin Clarke

Marilyn Dunn

Adrian Elfenbaum

Christina Fischer

Ron Fisher

William Fowkes

Yukie Fujimoto

Leonard Gabriele

Brendalynn Goodall

Eleanor S Hansen

George Haymont

Kate Mattson

Jerry Metzker

Richard Nancarrow

Rebecca Nestle

Tam Ongjoco

Cherilyn Oshiro

Grant Paul

Judi Price

Ora Prochovnick

Daniel Scheie

Michael Sears

J Donald Seaver

Gae Shulman

Randy Solomon

Mary Strauss

Gary Stroud &

Anaya Rose

Kaathy Struss

Vince Thomas

Andrew Utiger

Peggy Wallace

Mark Wong

UNDERSTUDY

\$25 - \$99

Daniel Bao

Chas Belov

Barbara Boone

Sandy Carvalho

Juan Chen Olsen

Paul Colfer

Paul Conroy

Donna Davis

David Davison

Maxine Fisher

Jean Follmer

Tina Frechman

Lucy Friedland

James Gazaway

Eric Gibb

John Gooding

Kelly Hall

Nancy Hinds

Lisa Indrieri

Arya Kamangar

Stephanie Kelly

Mike Klayman

Steve Kohler

Keith Koller

Richard Koprowski

Christopher

Kuckenbaker

Hanh Le

Henry Lesser

Denise Mauldin

Thomas McMahon

Patricia Morin

Judi Price

Sandra Schlechter

Carol Scholz

Eric Shearin

Rashmi Shukla

Natalia Shunmugan

Joseph Sigman

Katherine Strauss

Mary Strauss

Jeffry Taylor

Kenny Tuckerman

Daniel Vieira

Joanne Winter