

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

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 Moran
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

Special thanks to Aviva Kanoff, Shin Aoki, Eric Johnson, Craig Souza, Stephanie Niemann, Baruch Porrás 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 presentation broadcast from Spark Arts in San Francisco.

Alligator Mouth, Tadpole Ass is presented by special arrangement with its author. The play was commissioned as a World Premiere by Theatre Rhinoceros

Theatre Rhinoceros' production of *Alligator Mouth, Tadpole Ass* is made possible by generous support in the form of a SPUN Grant from San Francisco Grants for the arts.

This production was made possible by generous donations from Tom Horn and The Bob A. Ross Foundation.

Cast

Jake Reitz.....Evander/Chelley
Armando ReyHank/Mercedes

Time: 1986 / 1983 / 1969

Place: Greenwich Village, NYC

Theatre Rhinoceros

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BIOS

J. JULIAN CHRISTOPHER (Playwright) (a.k.a. C. Julian Jiménez) is a Queer, Puerto Rican and Dominican playwright. He holds an MFA in Acting from The New School for Drama. Playwriting awards include: New Dramatist Residency (Class of 2025), 2019/2020 Rita Goldberg Playwrights' Workshop Fellow at The Lark, 2017 & 2018 Pipeline Theatre Company PlayLab, 2018 LaGuardia Community College's LGBTQ History Project Grant, 2015 Queens Arts Council Grant, 2009 Public Theater Emerging Writers Group, and 2014 Best New Work Motif Award. Productions include: *Man Boobs* (Pride Films & Plays, 2011), *Nico was a Fashion Model* (Counter-Productions, 2013), *Animals Commit Suicide* (First Floor Theater, 2015), *Locusts Have No King* (INTAR, 2016), and *Bundle of Sticks* (INTAR, 2020). He wrote the book for *LatinXoxo* at Joe's Pub in 2019. He is a co-producer and co-writer of the hit web series, *Bulk*, and an Associate Professor of Theatre at Queensborough Community College.

RACHEL GRACE REYES MORAN (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*.

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. Since March 2020, Theatre Rhinoceros has presented over 50 COVID-19 performances, all of them free.

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