

THEATRE RHINOCEROS PRESENTS

THE REVIEW

Women are competitive. Women want to win.

Written by
Donnetta Lavinia Grays
Directed by
Tanika Baptiste

Live stream! January 22 – 31, 2021

tickets: theRhino.org

From the Director

Women are complex. What I love most about this piece is how messy and irresponsible these women are. They are flawed. They are grace and spectacle. Mysterious and straight to the point. There is an immediacy to Gray's characters that I believe we all can relate to. We all have needs and desires which will inadvertently force us to confront our limitations, be they self-imposed or the realities that come with life. Women are competitive. Women want to win. That is certainly the case in the age of theatre-making during Covid-19. After my first readthrough of Gray's masterful piece I thought, "How do we transpose this into the Zoom atmosphere? Will it make sense?" Powerfully presented by Duarte, Deutsche, London and Rich, *The Review* reminds us all what it means to have agency and resilience during a crisis. How to channel your inner warrior to fight for what you believe in. Each generation proving itself valid. It has been a genuine pleasure to work with all the brilliant artists associated with our production. Thank you, Theatre Rhinoceros, cast and crew for your tremendous professionalism, teamwork and artistry. Dear audience, see yourself in these complex, competitive and ferocious women. Win.

All the best,

Tanika Baptiste

Director, *The Review*, or *How to Eat Your Opposition*

From the Executive Artistic Director

A few years ago, Joe Tally found this terrific play on The New Play Exchange, a place for playwrights to post their work, even if they have an agent, to get around the agent stonewall that prevents so many scripts from being read in this country. Recently, the terrific Tanika Baptiste directed a reading of another play for us and I was amazed at the finesse and artistry she brought to the Zoom format. So here we are, finally presenting this great play about relationships, race, creativity, art, but mostly concerned with the power of women. We welcome you back to Zoom and hope you enjoy this fascinating journey where we see how criticism, especially from strangers, hurts, and how this hurting has become an obsession in America, both for the perpetrators and the recipients.

Enjoy the show!

John Fisher

Theatre Rhinoceros

and

Honorary Producers

Tom Horn and the Bob A. Ross Foundation

Ray Mulliner and the James C. Hormel Living Trust

present

THE REVIEW, OR HOW TO EAT YOUR OPPOSITION

By Donnetta Lavinia Grays

Directed by Tanika Baptiste

Stage Manager/Prop Designer Kimberly Harvey-Scott

Costume Designer Rebecca Redmond

Sound and Video Designer Wesley Allen Murphy

Secret Keeper Sculpture House Full of Black Women

Brochure/Graphics/Ad Christine U'Ren

Display Window Simulcast Eric Johnson, Craig Souza

Box Office Joe Tally

Promo Video/Photography Tanika Baptiste

Program James McCunn

Lighting/Sound Consultant Lawrence Dillon

Technical Advisor George Rosenthal

Moving statues created by Tamar Kvesitadze based on the characters in the novel *Ali & Nino*

Special thanks to Daren A.C. Carollo, Ray Mulliner, Aviva Kanoff, Shin Aoki, Eric Johnson, Craig Souza, Stephanie Niemann, Folsom Lake College for allowing us to borrow costumes, Tanika's parents and all her family, and Afro-Urban Society.

THE REVIEW, OR HOW TO EAT YOUR OPPOSITION is approximately two hours and fifteen minutes in length and is performed without intermission.

First Theatre Rhinoceros Performance: Friday, January 22, 2021 as a live stream presentation broadcast from Spark Arts in San Francisco.

THE REVIEW, OR HOW TO EAT YOUR OPPOSITION is presented by special arrangement with its author.

Theatre Rhinoceros' production of *THE REVIEW, OR HOW TO EAT YOUR OPPOSITION* 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, The Bob A. Ross Foundation and the James C. Hormel Living Trust.

THE REVIEW, OR HOW TO EAT YOUR OPPOSITION was previously developed with WP Theater's Pipeline Festival, Pure Theater Company, the claque, terraNova Collective, Coyote REP, and TOSOS.

THE REVIEW, OR HOW TO EAT YOUR OPPOSITION was a Finalist at the National Playwrights Conference, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, 2013.

Cast

APRIL DEUTSCHLE DANA

L. DUARTE NAOMI

CI'ERA LONDON KERRI

MARCIE RICH GRETCHEN

SETTING

New York City

TIME

BEFORE

Fall 2001

Spring 2003

Fall 2003

Fall 2004

AFTER

Theatre Rhinoceros

John Fisher (Executive Artistic Director), Joe Tally (Development Director)

Board of Directors, Theatre Rhinoceros

Catherine Brannigan (Member), Laurence Dillon (Member), Josh Dunsby (President), Kim Larsen (Vice-President/Development Chair), Jeremy Laurin (Member), Jim McCunn (Finance Chair), Ely Orquiza (Member), Stan Stone (Member)

BIOS

TANIKA BAPTISTE (Director), recently named the *Broadway World* "San Francisco 2019 Person to Watch - Female," is an award-winning actor/singer originally from San Diego and currently based in both San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area. Her most recent directorial credits include *The desTROyErs* (Old Globe Theatre - Powers New Voices Festival), *Rachel* (South Bay Musical Theatre), *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* (Theatre Rhinoceros), *Black Flag* (Common Ground Theatre and Poway Unified School District), *The DesTROyErs* (Assistant Director/Co-Adaptor/Costume Designer - Southwestern College), and *Fires in the Mirror* (Trinity Theatre Company.) Tanika served as the Artistic Director for the first inaugural Artists 4 Black Lives Festival at Balboa Park, San Diego, CA this past Juneteenth. She is slated to direct Program B of the Plays by Young Writers Festival in February 2021. Tanika is a proud member of Actors Equity. Love to my family and friends.

@tanikabaptiste; tanikbaptiste.com

APRIL DEUTSCHLE (Dana) is excited and honored to be a part of this project and working with some of her favorite people again! Most recently, she was seen as Anya in *The Cherry Orchard* at Town Hall Theater, as well as Bay Area Musicals' *Gypsy* (Geraldine/Louise U/S), *Hairspray* as a Civil Rights dancing teenager, and riding the bus in *Violet*. April had the pleasure of being in the award-winning Ray of Light's all-female production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Other credits include Jo in *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (Town Hall), Everest in *Everest Calling* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Popeye Jackson in *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, and Trixie in *The Rocky Horror Show*. April holds a BFA in Acting from the Academy of Art University.

L. DUARTE (they/them) (Naomi) is a Bay Area actor, writer and director, who has had the pleasure of working with Theatre Rhino in *King Lear* and *The Normal Heart*, as well as directing staged readings. Recent projects include: the recently released, award-winning movie *On A Whim*, *Seven* with CCCT, *Real Women Have Curves* with SF Playhouse, *Particle of Dread* with Anton's Well, *Helen!* with Theatre of Yugen, and *Into the Beautiful North* and *The King of Cuba* with Central Works. They have also worked with Willows Theatre Co, Berkeley Rep, Crowded Fire, Playwrights Foundation, Playground, Bay Area Children's Theatre and various others. Duarte is a graduate of UCLA (BA), UCSC (MA), and has trained with A.C.T. and Shakespeare & Co. Catch Duarte on Season 2 of www.thenorthpoleshow.com. Later this year, Duarte will direct Edward Albee's *The Occupant* at the Shelton Theatre, and is slated for production in the movies *Dead in Love*, written by Nicole De Meneses and *Bad Decisions*, written by Christian Chahin. Duarte's writing will be featured throughout the US in conjunction with the organization In Full Color, where they have been selected as a touring troupe member. For a more comprehensive look at their work or to stay updated with current Duarte projects please see below:

<https://www.sfcasting.com/leticiaduarte>, IG: @boujeechola, Represented by Talent Plus/Los Latinos

DONNETTA LAVINIA GRAYS (Playwright) was raised in Columbia, South Carolina and is a Brooklyn based Playwright. Her plays include *Where We Stand* (World Premiere Co-production - WP Theater and Baltimore Centerstage, O'Neill Center National Playwrights Conference Semifinalist), *Last Night and the Night Before* (National Theater Conference Barrie and Bernice Stavis Playwright Award, World Premiere - Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Kilroys List, Colorado New Play Summit, National New Play Network New Play Showcase, Todd McNerney National Playwriting Contest Winner, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center National Playwrights Conference Semifinalist), *Laid to Rest* (Playwrights Realm Writing Fellow Finalist, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center National Playwrights Conference Finalist, Kilroys List - Honorable Mention, Ground Floor at Berkeley Rep,

2017 Space on Ryder Farm Creative Residency), *The Review, or How to Eat Your Opposition* (2018 WP Pipeline Festival, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center National Playwrights Conference Finalist), *The New Normal* and *The Cowboy is Dying*. Donnetta is the inaugural recipient of the Doric Wilson Independent Playwright Award. She is also a Space on Ryder Farm Working Farm Resident, Time Warner Foundation WP Playwrights Lab, Civilians R&D Group, an Actors Studio Playwright/Directors Unit, and terraNova Collective Groundbreakers Playwright group alumna. Her work has been read or developed by New Harmony Project, Berkeley Rep, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, The Labyrinth Theater Company, New York Theater Workshop, Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Portland Stage Company, Pure Theatre Company, [the claque], Naked Angels, Classical Theater of Harlem, Slant Theater Project, terraNova Collective, Theatre 4 the People, TOSOS, The Group Lab and Coyote REP. Donnetta is currently under commission from Steppenwolf, The Public Theater's Mobile Unit, The Denver Center for the Performing Arts, WP Theater and Theaterworks USA. For television she has been staffed on Spectrum Original/Liongate's *Manhunt* and is currently staffed on *Y: The Last Man* for FX Network/Color Force. Proud member of WGA and The Dramatist Guild of America.

KIMBERLY HARVEY-SCOTT (Stage Manager) was born and raised in urban Miami, Florida. Kimberly's passion for eclectic dance began at age eight. Her career started and excelled with Diamano Coura West African Dance Company in 2006. With this experience behind her, she has been able to spread her message and volunteer her time and talent to Berkeley High students since 2008, as stage manager, counselor, and teacher of movement and choreography. Kimberly was a guest artist and apprentice with Chinyakere Dance Ensemble, Nimley Napla Pan African Dance Company, Mix'd Ingredients, and Oriki Theater. She also has choreographed for the Gurus of Dance. As a well-seasoned undergraduate of the Dance and Performance Studies major, with a minor in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, she studied performance as a mode of critical inquiry, creative expression, and public engagement.

CI'ERA LONDON (Kerri) uses the art of entertainment to heal, uplift, and inspire. London is an actress, published model, writer, storyteller, entrepreneur, and social justice activist for People of African Diaspora. She studied Acting in Film at the Academy of Art University. London received a fellowship to study sketch comedy acting at The Lobster Theater Project, has made appearances on Netflix, Amazon Prime, Diva Talk Tonight TV show; was a co-host on WeXL Represent; served as a 2019 model for Yerba Buena Center of the Arts; and organized and hosted Oakland's Annual Comedy Festival.

WESLEY ALLEN MURPHY (Sound and Video Designer) is excited to be working with Theatre Rhinoceros for the first time. Wesley is a professional multi-instrumentalist who has played in various bands in Northern California specializing in 5-string banjo and bass guitar. In 2014 he went on a national tour with singer-songwriter Brianna Lea Pruett. He has recorded at Bob Weir's TRI Studios in San Rafael, Canyon Records in Arizona, and Daytrotter Studios in Chicago. He has been nominated for two Emmy awards, including Sound Design for his original score in Folsom Lake College's *Alice in Wonderland*.

REBECCA REDMOND (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be working with Theater Rhinoceros on this exciting production during these exciting times. Rebecca earned her MFA in costume design from UC Davis and currently teaches at Folsom Lake College. Other Bay Area design credits include *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (Shotgun Players), *Old Times* (TheatreFIRST), *Three Sisters* (Porchlight Theater), *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Rabbit Hole* (Town Hall Theater).

MARCIE RICH (Gretchen) is most pleased to be working with Director Tanika Baptiste and Theatre Rhinoceros for the first time. Marcie was lately seen playing Papillon in the Actors Space's production of *Rhinoceros*, and Argan in Actors Ensemble of Berkeley's production of Moliere's *Imaginary Invalid*.

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, most of them free.

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Essential Services Projects - ESP
Conceived and Performed by John Fisher
 Live Every Thursday @ 8:00pm
 Free

Rhino Reading Series Curated by Joe Tally
 First Tuesday of Every Month @ 7:00pm
 Free

Spring Fling Fund Raiser

Coming in April!

May Headliner

Coming in May!

All of these programs are broadcast live and available on-line. Check TheRhino.org for additional information and free recordings of many earlier broadcasts.

Please make a 2021 donation to Theatre Rhino and keep queer theatre alive and safe! www.TheRhino.org.

