

THEATRE RHINOCEROS *PUBLIC RELATIONS* – E MAIL – jtally@therhino.org
Tel. Cell. 510-506-4924 (*DO NOT PUBLISH THIS #*)
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2021
For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:

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

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2903120399937029>

Theatre Rhinoceros presents:
PILLOW TALK
A World Premiere Commission
Written by Kheven LaGrone
Directed by Tanika Baptiste

A Live On-Line Streaming Production
June 11-20, 2021*
Limited Engagement - 2 Weeks Only! – 5 Live Performances.
On-Demand recording available on June 20.
Preview: Friday, June 11 at 8:00 pm.
Opening Night: Saturday, June 12 at 8:00 pm (*On-Line Reception to follow*)

***Previously announced for other dates – altered due to COVID-19.**

Broadcast Live on Zoom
www.TheRhino.org

SYNOPSIS:

In 1990s West Oakland, Baby Boy regularly waits for an older man, Chuck, to drive up. Baby Boy climbs into the car and gives Chuck what he needs. But can Chuck give Baby Boy what he needs? And will Baby Boy accept it? Find out in this exciting African-American queer play by local playwright Kheven LaGrone (The Rhino's 2017 hit *The Legend of Pink.*)

Shows are live-streamed at **www.TheRhino.org**. Tickets are sliding scale **\$0 - \$25** and available at www.TheRhino.org.

Creative Team: Marissa L. Ampon (Stage Manager), **Devin A. Cunningham** (Baby Boy), **John Fisher** (Producer), **Maya Herbsman** (Intimacy Coach), **Jim McCunn** (Programs), **Wesley Murphy** (Video/Music), **RaMond Thomas**

(Chuck), **Wilfred Paloma** (Choreographer), **Rebecca Redmond** (Costumes), **Joe Tally** (Producer), and **Christine U'Ren** (Graphics/Ads)

Performance Dates: June 11-20, 2021 - Opening Night: June 12, 2021 8pm

Individual performance dates are:

Friday, June 11, 8pm (Preview)

Saturday, June 12, 8pm (Opening Night)

Friday, June 18, 8pm

Saturday, June 19, 8pm

Sunday, June 20, 3pm

Sunday, June 20, 3pm-Midnight On-Demand recording

To arrange an interview with the playwright, director or actors or for additional info, contact **Joe Tally**, jtally@therhino.org

BIOS:

Kheven LaGrone (Playwright) is a Bay Area native whose writing has appeared in *Transition Magazine*, *Media Ethics*, *Journal of African American Men*, and *The Journal of Human and Civil Rights*. His play, *The Legend of Pink*, was produced by Theatre Rhinoceros in the fall, 2017. An advocate for the Bay Area homeless community, his essays have appeared in *Street Spirit* and *San Francisco Bayview*. Mr. LaGrone has also edited a collection of scholarly essays on Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. He has curated a number of art exhibits in San Francisco, New York, and Atlanta, including "I Am San Francisco: (Re)Collecting the Stories of Native Black San Franciscans," "I Am America: Black Genealogy Through the Eyes of an Artist," "Coloring Outside the Lines: Black Cartoonists as Social Commentators," and "BABA: Black Artists' Expressions of Father. Mr. LaGrone earned his M.A. in Communications from Emerson College and is the author of several one-act plays and solo shows, some of which have been made into videos.

Tanika Baptiste (Director) Tanika Baptiste is an award winning actor/singer based in San Diego and the Bay Area and excited to collaborate with Theatre Rhino for the second time. Most recent directorial credits include RACHEL (South Bay Musical Theatre) At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen (Theatre Rhinoceros) Black Flag (Common Ground Theatre) The DesTROYers- Trojan Women adaptation (Assistant Director/Co-Adaptor/Costume Designer Southwestern College) 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 February 2021. She is a proud member of Actors Equity. Thank you John, Joe and Rhino family. Love to my family and friends. tanikbaptiste.com

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. Theatre Rhinoceros is unsurpassed in COVID-19 production having presented over 100 live presentations so far and five plays on radio.

Calendar Editors:

WHAT: *Theatre Rhinoceros presents Pillow Talk*

Written by Kheven LaGrone | Directed by Tanika Baptiste

SYNOPSIS:

In 1990s West Oakland, Baby Boy regularly waits for an older man, Chuck, to drive up. Baby Boy climbs into the car and gives Chuck what he needs. But can Chuck give Baby Boy what he needs? And will Baby Boy accept it? Find out in this exciting African-American queer play by local playwright Kheven LaGrone (The Rhino's 2018 hit *The Legend of Pink*.)

WHEN:

Performance Dates: June 11-20, 2021 - Opening Night: June 5, 2021 8pm

Individual performance dates are:

Friday, June 11, 8pm (Preview)

Saturday, June 12, 8pm (Opening Night)

Friday, June 18, 8pm

Saturday, June 19, 8pm

Sunday, June 20, 3pm

Sunday, June 20, 3pm-Midnight On-Demand recording

TIX: Tickets are sliding scale, \$0 - \$25 and available at www.therhino.org

WHERE: Live stream broadcast via Zoom

WEBPAGE: www.TheRhino.org

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2903120399937029>

PRESS INFO: For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:
<http://therhino.org/press-room/>

Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for

Pillow Talk

Written by Kheven LaGrone

Directed by Tanika Baptiste

A World Premiere Commission

A Live On-Line Streaming Production

June 11-20 - Limited Engagement - 3 Weeks Only! – 7 performances

15 seconds:

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to the final show of its 2020-2021 Season – live and on-line.

In 1990s West Oakland, Baby Boy regularly waits for an older man, Chuck, to drive up. Baby Boy climbs into the car and gives Chuck what he needs. But can Chuck give Baby Boy what he needs? And, will Baby Boy accept it?

A world premier commission by an incisive Oakland Playwright.

***Pillow Talk* plays June 11-20, live and on-line.**

TheRhino.org. Visit TheRhino.org for more information and tickets.

30 seconds:

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to the second show of its 2020-2021 season – live and on-line.

On the streets of 1990s West Oakland, Baby Boy regularly waits for an older man, Chuck, to drive up. Baby Boy climbs into the car and gives Chuck what he needs. But can Chuck give Baby Boy what he needs? And, will Baby Boy accept it? A world premier commission by an incisive Oakland Playwright, presented by the world's longest running LGBTQ theatre, *Pillow Talk* depicts street hustling colliding with African-American upward mobility.

***Pillow Talk* plays June 11-20, live and on-line.**

TheRhino.org. Visit TheRhino.org for more information and tickets.

1 minute:

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to the second show of its 2020-2021 season – live and on-line.

On the streets of 1990s West Oakland, Baby Boy, brash, confident, and vulnerable, regularly waits for an older man, Chuck, to drive up. Chuck is a self-assured suit-and-tie-professional who has worked hard for his success. When Baby Boy climbs into Chuck's car, he gives Chuck what he needs. But can Chuck give Baby Boy what he needs? And, will Baby Boy accept it? A world

premier commission by an incisive Oakland Playwright, presented by the world's longest running LGBTQ theatre, *Pillow Talk* depicts street hustling colliding with African-American upwardly mobility. Find out all about it in this exciting African-American queer play by local playwright Kheven LaGrone (The Rhino's 2018 hit *The Legend of Pink*.)

***Pillow Talk* plays June 11-20, live and on-line.**

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