

**THEATRE RHINOCEROS PUBLIC RELATIONS – E-MAIL –** [jtally@therhino.org](mailto:jtally@therhino.org)

Tel. Cell. 510-506-4924 *(DO NOT PUBLISH THIS #)*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 14, 2021**

For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:

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

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1201985850301807/>

*Theatre Rhinoceros presents a live, in-person production:*

## **AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN**

**Written by TERRY GUEST**

**Directed by TANIKA BAPTISTE**

*A Live In-Person Production*

**October 28 – November 14, 2021**

**Limited Engagement – 3 Weeks Only! – 12 Performances**

**Previews: Thursday, October 28 and Friday, October 29 at 8PM**

**Opening Night: Saturday, October 30 at 8PM (Reception to follow)**

**WHERE: Spark Arts 4229 18<sup>th</sup> St. in San Francisco**

**Tickets at <http://www.TheRhino.org>**

**PLEASE NOTE: For COVID Safety reasons there will be extremely limited seating for these performances.**

### **SYNOPSIS:**

Courtney Berringers would like to welcome you to her wake! But—make no mistake—this ain't your grandma's funeral. *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* is a one-act play about Blackness, southern queerness, and the fine art of drag. From African Gods and Goddesses to Trina and Whitney Houston, *At the Wake* thoughtfully uses storytelling, drama and drag to explore identity, illness, and the narratives we construct for ourselves. Come party at the wake. Bring your own heels!

*At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* will be performed by **Devin Cunningham** and **Mario Mazzetti**.

**Creative Team:** **Tanika Baptiste** (Director), **John Fisher** (Producer), **Wesley Murphy** (Sound Design), **Rebecca Redmond** (Costume Design), **Seafus Smith** (Set Design), **Joe Tally** (Producer), **Isaac Traister** (Stage Manager), **Christine U'Ren** (Graphics/Ads).

## **BIOS:**

**TERRY GUEST** (Playwright) is a Chicago based playwright, actor and teaching artist. Other works include: *A Ghost in Satin* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *The Magnolia Ballet* (2022-23 Rolling World Premiere), *Marie Antionette and the Magical Negros*, *The Madness of Mary Todd* (currently in development with Goodman Theatre), *Andy Warhol Presents: The Cocaine Play*, and *Ghost Town* (Chicago Children's Theatre). Follow along on instagram @terryexplainsitall or at [www.terrycquest.com](http://www.terrycquest.com)

**TANIKA BAPTISTE** (Director) is absolutely elated to direct her fourth production with Theatre Rhinoceros. Originally from San Diego, CA she has worked as a Director, Producer, Actor and Vocalist in both the San Francisco Bay Area and SD. Her most recent Bay Area directorial credits include *Pillow Talk*, *The Review or How to Eat Your Opposition* (Theatre Rhino) and *Rachel* (SBMT). SD credits: *Clybourne Park* (Character Physics), *The desTROyERS* (Old Globe Theatre-Powers New Voices Festival), and *Fires in the Mirror* (Trinity Theatre Company). She has performed and/or directed with La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego REP, Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Ground Floor, Marin Shakespeare Company, The Old Globe, American Conservatory Theatre, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre and Diversionary 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. Theatre Rhinoceros is unsurpassed in COVID Production, presenting over 100 individual Zoom performances of over 80 plays during 2020-21.

## **Calendar Editors:**

### **WHAT:**

*Theatre Rhinoceros presents:*

**AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN**

Written by **TERRY GUEST** | Directed by **TANIKA BAPTISTE**

### **WHAT:**

**Performance Dates October 28-November 14, 2021**

**Individual performance dates:**

**Thursday, October 28 8PM (Preview)**

**Friday, October 29 8PM (Preview)**

**Saturday, October 30 8PM (OPENING NIGHT)**

**Sunday, October 31, 3PM**

**Thursday, November 4 8PM**

**Friday, November 5 8PM**

**Saturday, November 6 8PM**

**Sunday, November 7 3PM**  
**Thursday, November 11 8PM**  
**Friday, November 12 8PM**  
**Saturday, November 13 8PM**  
**Sunday, November 14 3PM (Closing performance)**

**SYNOPSIS:**

Courtney Berringers would like to welcome you to her wake! But—make no mistake—this ain't your grandma's funeral. *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* is a one-act play about Blackness, southern queerness, and the fine art of drag. From African Gods and Goddesses to Trina and Whitney Houston, *At the Wake* thoughtfully uses storytelling, drama and drag to explore identity, illness, and the narratives we construct for ourselves. Come party at the wake. Bring your own heels!

WHERE: Spark Arts, 4229 18<sup>th</sup> St. in San Francisco  
Tickets available to purchase at <http://www.TheRhino.org>

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FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1201985850301807/>

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

**Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for**

**At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen**  
**Written by Terry Guest**  
**Directed by Tanika Baptiste**

**A Live In-Person production**  
**October 28-November 14, 2021**  
**Limited Engagement – 3 Weeks only! – 12 Performances**

**15 seconds:**

**Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to the first show of its new season – live and in-person.**

Courtney Berringers would like to welcome you to her wake! But—make no mistake—this ain't your grandma's funeral. A West-Coast premier by an exciting new playwright!  
*At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* plays October 28-November 14, our first post-pandemic live production, at Spark Arts in The Castro.

**30 seconds:****Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to the first show of its new season – live and in-person.**

Courtney Berringers would like to welcome you to her wake! But—make no mistake—this ain't your grandma's funeral. This West Coast premiere is a play about Blackness, southern queerness, and the fine art of drag. Playwright Terry Guest is an exciting new voice exploring the lives of queer people of color. *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* plays October 28-November 14, our first post-pandemic live production, at Spark Arts in The Castro.

**1 minute:****Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to the first show of its new season – live and in-person.**

Courtney Berringers would like to welcome you to her wake! But—make no mistake—this ain't your grandma's funeral. This West Coast premiere is a play about Blackness, southern queerness, and the fine art of drag. From *African Gods and Goddesses* to *Trina and Whitney Houston*, playwright Terry Guest thoughtfully uses storytelling, drama and drag to explore identity, illness, and the narratives we construct for ourselves. Come party at the wake. Bring your own heels! *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* plays October 28-November 14, our first post-pandemic live production, at Spark Arts in The Castro.