

Theatre Rhinoceros in 2021

Keeping Queer Theatre Flourishing Online and In-Person!



Supervisor Rafael Mandelman and Mayor London Breed joined us in November for our first live production since shelter-in-place. What a journey it was to get there!

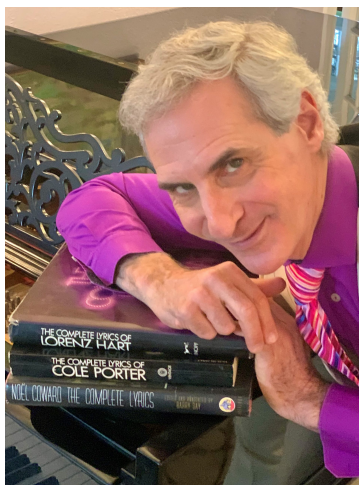


2021 began with an online production of *The Review, or How to Eat Your Opposition*, by Donnetta Lavinia Grays and directed by Tanika Baptiste. Jean Schiffman of the *SF Examiner* said, “Set in New York City in the few years after 9/11, [THE REVIEW] explores how people — in this case, women — interact emotionally, creatively, sexually and intellectually, and it’s full of elegantly articulated thoughts about, in particular, art”

Left, L. Duarte played an artist who uses art and sex to seduce a critic who wrote a negative review about her work.

Entertainer extraordinaire Mark Nadler (right) live-streamed to us from his lovely living room in New York to bring us *Gay As They Say*. He played and sang songs by Cole Porter, Noël Coward, Billy Strayhorn, and Larry Hart, revealing the provocative and oh-so-gay messages they hid in their lyrics.

(Heads up: Mark is coming back to Rhino in 2022, in person this time, to perform a new program focusing on gay theatricalists Moss Hart and Lorenz Hart!)



We ended the 2020-2021 Season with *Pillow Talk* by Kheven LaGrone (*The Legend of Pink*). Tanika Baptiste was back at the helm as director. "*Pillow Talk* shrewdly borrows the title of one of the whitest, least sincere movies of all time, in which Doris Day succumbs to Rock Hudson's glib machismo, for what looks to be a sharp, sensitive take on intimacy between Black men. Theatre Rhinoceros' new commission is written by Kheven LaGrone, who hails from Oakland and sets his play there in the 1990s." (Jim Gladstone, *Bay Area Reporter*).



Right, RaMond Thomas played an Oakland city official whose sexual fantasies contrasted sharply with his staid day-to-day life. He got to explore them with the street hustler, "Baby Boy."



We began our 2021-2022 Season performing in-person, in The Castro, presenting *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* by Terry Guest. Victor Cordell of *For All Events* said it "transcends the boundaries of its genre and can be broadly appreciated. It doesn't hurt that the play is an affective and effective character study of two people grappling with an inordinate number of life's challenges. And by the way, it's a very thoughtful play with generous doses of humor and pathos; well produced and directed; and acted with consummate charm and authenticity."

Left, Mario Mazzetti and Devin Cunningham played besties--sometimes lovers, sometimes rivals.

And through it all and between them all, there were readings and Essential Service Projects, sometimes streaming online, sometimes in-person. We stayed so busy that Lily Janiak of the SF Chronicle said,

"Whatever theatre looks like in 2021... we'll owe it in large part to companies like Theatre Rhinoceros, whose digital output has been tireless."

*And don't miss our final performance of 2021,
The Rhino Holiday Extravaganza!
December 30 @ 8PM back at The Gateway Theater
(215 Jackson St.)
Tickets at www.therhino.org*