

THEATRE RHINOCEROS PUBLIC RELATIONS – E-MAIL – jtally@therhino.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 10, 2022

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

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

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/events/637533950851410>

Theatre Rhinoceros presents the live, in-person West Coast Premiere:

HOW BLACK MOTHERS SAY I LOVE YOU

Written by TREY ANTHONY

Directed by TANIKA BAPTISTE

A Live In-Person Production

March 16-April 3, 2022

Limited Engagement – 3 Weeks Only! – 12 Performances

Previews: Wednesday, March 16; Thursday, March 17; and Friday, March 18 at 8PM

Opening Night: Saturday, March 19 at 8PM (Reception to follow)

**WHERE: Theatre Rhinoceros, 4229 18th St. in San Francisco
Tickets at <http://www.TheRhino.org>**

PLEASE NOTE: For COVID Safety reasons there will be limited seating for these performances. Proof of vaccination and booster will be required for admission, and masks must be worn throughout the show.

SYNOPSIS:

Claudette travels to visit her dying mother, Daphne, in Brooklyn. But that doesn't stop her anger and abandonment issues from bubbling up. It doesn't stop Daphne from voicing her opinions on how Claudette lives her life, either. With Daphne, Claudette, and another daughter, Valerie, all under one roof again, each family member is forced to confront her emotions while there's still time.

**“Anthony has delivered another important play about the experiences of black women.”
—*The Star***

"Sweet, touching and funny, ample in its raw emotion, *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* can't help but work its way into your heart." -- *Ottawa Tonight*

"Anthony plumbs this generational trauma to create a story of poignant truth about racism, colonialism, and their effect on the family... Trey Anthony is a national treasure." -- *Mooney on Theatre*

"[Anthony] is especially adept at switching from the serious to the comic in a few lines, and the audience reacts audibly to certain revelations as well as to the play's moments of intensity and humour." - *NOW Magazine*

Cast: Carla Banu ("Daphne"), Monique Hightower-Gaskin ("Cloe"), Elizabeth Jones ("Claudette"), Keldamuzik ("Valerie")

Creative Team: Sebastian Attardo (Scenic Construction), Tanika Baptiste (Director), John Fisher (Producer), Wesley Murphy (Sound Design), Daria Perkova (Costume Design), Seafus Chatmon (Scenic Design), Joe Tally (Producer), Vince Thomas (Photographer), Isaac Traister (Stage Manager), Christine U'Ren (Graphics/Ads).

BIOS:

TREY ANTHONY (Playwright) is a British-born Canadian playwright, actor, and producer. Born in London, England to Jamaican parents, Trey arrived in Canada at 12 years old with her mother. She is a professional speaker, lifestyle coach, producer, author, and award-winning playwright, but she's also "your girl" who tells it how it is. Through art, humor, and the power of a clear message, she strives to give Black women the no-nonsense tools to take control of their lives and thrive! Her sold-out hit play, *'da Kink in My Hair*, grossed millions and broke box office records across Canada, the United States, and England after it premiered in 2001. It was named one of the top ten plays in Canadian theatrical history and received 4 NAACP Theatre awards. In 2007, Trey adapted *'da Kink in My Hair* for the small screen, making her the first African Canadian woman to create, write, and produce a primetime television show on a major Canadian network. Since then she has written for the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), Lionsgate, Will Packer Media, The Comedy Network, and CTV. *How Black Mothers Say I Love You*, premiered in 2017. It was the first play to be featured on *The Globe and Mail's* Bestsellers list. It has now been optioned as a feature film by Conquering Lion Productions.

TANIKA BAPTISTE (Director) is absolutely elated to direct her fifth 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*, and *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen* (all three at 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-19 Production, presenting over 100 individual Zoom performances of over 80 plays during 2020-21.

Calendar Editors:

WHAT:

Theatre Rhinoceros presents:

HOW BLACK MOTHERS SAY I LOVE YOU

Written by **TREY ANTHONY** | Directed by **TANIKA BAPTISTE**

WHAT:

Performance Dates March 16-April 3, 2022

Individual performance dates:

Wednesday, March 16 8PM (Preview)

Thursday, March 17 8PM (Preview)

Friday, March 18 8PM (Preview)

Saturday, March 19 8PM (OPENING NIGHT)

Sunday, March 20, 3PM

Thursday, March 24 8PM

Friday, March 25 8PM

Saturday, March 26 8PM

Sunday, March 27 3PM

Thursday, March 31 8PM

Friday, April 1 8PM

Saturday, April 2 8PM

Sunday, April 3 3PM (Closing performance)

SYNOPSIS:

Claudette travels to visit her dying mother, Daphne, in Brooklyn, but that doesn't stop her anger and abandonment issues from bubbling up. It doesn't stop Daphne from voicing her opinions on how Claudette lives her life, either. With Daphne, Claudette, and another daughter, Valerie, all under one roof again, each family member is forced to confront her emotions while there's still time.

WHERE:

Theatre Rhinoceros, 4229 18th St. in San Francisco

Tickets available to purchase at <http://www.TheRhino.org>

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Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for

How Black Mothers Say I Love You

Written by Trey Anthony

Directed by Tanika Baptiste

A Live In-Person production

March 16-April 2, 2022

Limited Engagement – 3 Weeks only! – 12 Performances

15 seconds:

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to see a West Coast Premier

Claudette, now in her late thirties, travels to visit her dying mother, Daphne, in Brooklyn, but that doesn't stop her anger and abandonment issues from bubbling up. It doesn't stop Daphne from voicing her opinions on how Claudette lives her life, either. *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* plays March 16-April 3, in-person, at Theatre Rhinoceros, 4229 18th St. in San Francisco.

30 seconds:

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to see a West Coast Premier

Claudette, now in her late thirties, travels to visit her dying mother, Daphne, in Brooklyn, but that doesn't stop her anger and abandonment issues from bubbling up. It doesn't stop Daphne from voicing her opinions on how Claudette lives her life, either. With Daphne, Claudette, and another daughter, Valerie, all under one roof again, each family member is forced to confront her emotions while there's still time. Penned by one of Canada's hottest playwrights, Trey Anthony, *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* plays March 16-April 3, in-person, at Theatre Rhinoceros, 4229 18th St. in San Francisco.

1 minute:

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to see a West Coast Premier

Claudette, now in her late thirties, travels to visit her dying mother, Daphne, in Brooklyn, but that doesn't stop her anger and abandonment issues from bubbling up. It doesn't stop Daphne from voicing her opinions on how Claudette lives her life, either. With Daphne, Claudette, and another daughter, Valerie, all under one roof again, each family member is forced to confront her emotions while there's still time. Canadian playwright Trey Anthony has had her work produced on stage, television and film, and is the recipient of numerous awards, including Best Playwright from the NAACP. *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* makes its West Coast Premiere March 16-April 3, in-person, at Theatre Rhinoceros, 4229 18th St. in San Francisco.