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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **April 15, 2017**

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

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

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/events/309486912803724/>

TRAILER: **Coming Soon**

Theatre Rhinoceros presents...

Priscilla Queen of the Desert - The Musical

Book by Stephan Elliott and Allan Scott

Based on the Latent Image/Specific Films Motion Picture

Distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc.

Directed by John Fisher

Musical Direction by Dan Feyer

Choreography by AeJay Mitchell

May 27 – July 1, 2017

Limited Engagement - 5 Weeks! - 30 Performances.

Opening Night: Thurs., June 1 2017- 8:00 pm (Reception to follow)

Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111

www.TheRhino.org

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical has a book by Australian film director-writer Stephan Elliott and Allan Scott, using well-known pop songs as its score. Adapted from Elliott's 1994 Oscar-winning film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, the musical is the heart-warming, uplifting adventure of three friends who hop aboard a battered old bus searching for love and friendship and end up finding more than they could have ever dreamed of. With a dazzling array of over-the-top costumes, extraordinary headdresses and a hit parade of dance floor favorites, this wildly fresh and funny musical is a journey to the heart of FABULOUS.

The Musical follows two drag queens and a transsexual (Tick, Adam, and Bernadette), who buy a run-down old bus (they call it Priscilla) and set out on a road trip across the Australian Outback when one of them, Tick, is invited by his ex-wife to perform his drag show at her far-away resort. However, Tick is hesitant to tell his friends, Bernadette (a former performing icon who's best days are behind her) and Adam (a rambunctious young troublemaker), his own personal reasons for taking the trip. During their journey, the trio encounters an array of Australian citizens, some of who aren't receptive to their lifestyle, including incidents of homo and transphobia, while widening comfort zones, finding new horizons, and strengthening their own friendship.

Shows are at **Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111**

– Embarcadero BART

Tickets are \$15 - \$40 and available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2915342> or 1-800-838-3006. (All Previews are pay-what-you-wish at the door.)

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical features Bay Area Actors:

Patrick Brewer (*Boy 1; Tad; Farrah Fawcett; Lars 2; Frank*); **Rudy Guerrero** * (*Tick/Mitzi*); **Darryl V. Jones** * (*Bernadette*); **Mary Kalita** (*Solo Diva; Marion*); **Stephen Kanaski** (*Miss Understanding; Boy 3; Lars 3*); **Kim Larsen** (*Ensemble; Pastor; Errol; Jimmy; Barman; Dingo*); **Crystal Liu** (*GIRL 1; Japanese Tourist; Cynthia; Tasmanian Devil*); **Derek Miller** (*Boy 2; Lars 1; Scottish Tourist*); **Charles Peoples III** (*Adam*); **Nicole Thordsen** (*Diva; Shirley; Kangaroo*); **Cameron Weston** (*Boy 3; Brian; Bob*); **Diogo Zavadzki** (*Boy 4; Lars 3; Jules; Kangaroo*)

* The Actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Tech Credits:

John Fisher (Director/Producer); **Dave Gardner** (Set Construction); **James Goode** (Sound Designer); **Lawrence Helman** (Publicist); **Robert Horek** (Costume Designer); **Gilbert Johnson** (Set Designer); **Sean Keehan** (Lighting Designer); **AeJay Mitchell** (Choreographer)

Performance Dates: May 27 – July 1, 2017

Previews (4)
Sat., May 27 - 3:00 pm
Sat., May 27 - 8:00 pm
Sun., May 28 - 3:00 pm
Wed., May 31 - 8:00 pm
(No Press at Previews Please)

Opening Night: Thurs., June 1, 2017 – 8:00 pm (Reception to follow)

Perf. Dates & Times:
Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. - 8:00 pm
Sat. Matinees - 3:00 pm
Tues. Perfs. - 7:00 pm (June 20 & June 27)

Individual performance dates are: May 27 – July 1, 2017

May 27, 2017 - Sat. - 3:00 pm (Preview)
May 27 - Sat. - 8:00 pm (Preview)
May 28 - Sun. - 3:00 pm (Preview)
May 31 - Wed. - 8:00 pm (Preview)

June 1, 2017 - Thurs. – 8:00 pm (Opening Night – Reception to follow
(*Featuring Free Ice Cream from Humphry Slocombe*)

June 2, 3 - Fri., Sat. - 8:00 pm
June 3 - Sat. Matinee - 3:00 pm
June 7, 8, 9, 10 - Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. - 8:00 pm
June 10 - Sat. Matinee - 3:00 pm
June 14, 15, 16, 17 - Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. - 8:00 pm
June 17 - Sat. Matinee - 3:00 pm
June 20 - Tues - 7:00 pm
June 21, 22, 23, 24 - Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. - 8:00 pm
June 24 - Sat. Matinee - 3:00 pm
June 27 - Tues - 7:00 pm

June 28, 29, 30 - Wed., Thurs., Fri., - 8:00 pm
July 1 - Sat. Matinee - 3:00 pm
July 1 - Sat. - 8:00 pm (Closing Performance)

Breaking News:

Humphry Slocombe - San Francisco's Award-Winning Ice Cream purveyor creates a limited-edition ice cream flavor to celebrate Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical. The Tim Tam Slam (Blue Bottle Vietnamese Coffee Ice Cream, Chocolate Chips, and Crushed Tim Tam Cookies) will be available at both Humphry Slocombe locations June 1 - 4, 2017 (2790 Harrison St. and 1 Ferry Building, SF). Free Ice Cream will be served opening night Thurs. June 1, 2017.

Cast Members from Priscilla Queen of the Desert – The Musical will be making personal appearance during June 2017. Dates and store locations to be announced.

The creative dep't. at **Humphry Slocombe** based this *limited engagement flavor* **The Tim Tam Slam** on the wildly popular Australian biscuit (cookie) the Tim Tam. Tim Tams have been a part of Australian tea time since 1964 and we love them as is, but like the ladies riding Priscilla across the desert outback, our favorite way to enjoy them is far more creative. Simply bite off opposite corners of the cookie, and use it like a straw for hot coffee or tea. Once the cookie is filled with coffee, pop the whole thing in your mouth! **The Tim Tam Slam.**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21roNtt7JNE>

Fun Facts about Priscilla Queen of the Desert

- The musical was produced by on Broadway by Bette Midler.
- Priscilla -The Musical won a Tony Award -Best Costume Design -Tim Chappel & [Lizzy Gardiner](#).
- The Film had the World Premiere at the Castro Theatre in SF in 1994 as part of the SF Int'l. Film Festival. First time the director saw the film with an audience. A. Legendary screening.
- Australian costume designer [Lizzy Gardiner](#) wore a dress made of 254 expired American Express Gold cards to the 67th Academy Awards on March 27, 1995, where she won an Oscar for Best Costume Design. The gown had originally been conceived for the film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* along with many other outlandish costumes such as one made solely out of pink flip flops, but American Express had forbidden it. In SF the dress was part of a Hollywood Costume Exhibit at a Macy's Passport show. The dress was lost in shipment through Fed Ex and was found days later at a plumbing supply shop in Daly City and returned to Macy's. The dress was auctioned off for charity in 1999 for \$12,650, with the proceeds going to AmfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research.

To arrange an interview with director John Fisher or any of the actors or for additional info, contact Lawrence Helman - 415- 661-1260 lhelman@sbcglobal.net

Selected Bios:

John Fisher (Director) Recent playwriting: *Flim-Flam* (March 2017); *Shakespeare Goes to War* (nominated for six 2016 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards) and *To Sleep and Dream* (2014 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award Winner for Best Script.) He directed and acted in the TBA Award Recommended Productions of *Breaking the Code* (nominated for five 2016 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards) and *Equus*. In 2016 John received two

nominations from the BATCC as Best Leading Actor for his performances in *Shakespeare Goes to War* and *Breaking the Code*. John is the only two-time winner of the Will Glickman Playwrighting Award for *Medea: The Musical* and *Combat!* His plays have been performed in NY, LA and across the country. John will appear as Lear in *Lear!* In July 2017 and at the United Solo Festival in Manhattan in his one man show *A History of World War II*.

www.johnfisher.biz

Daniel Feyer (Music Director) is music director of American Conservatory Theater's *A Christmas Carol*, and resident accompanist for A.C.T.'s MFA acting program, including *Rocky Horror* at the new Strand Theater. Other theater credits include off-Broadway's *Evil Dead: The Musical*, *The Underclassman*, *Working*, *With Glee*, and *Illyria*; 11 seasons at the Weston Playhouse in VT, seven shows with Meadow Brook Theatre in Michigan, and *Tarzan* upcoming at the Berkeley Playhouse. A SF native and Princeton graduate, Dan is also a puzzle writer and editor and seven-time winner of the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament.

Rudy Guerrero* (*Tick, aka Mitzi*) Previous Rhino performances include: "Nugget/Frank/Nurse/Dalton" in *Equus*, "Sam" in *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You?*; and "Man" in *Seven Palestinian Children*. Other theater credits include performances at 42nd St. Moon, Alcazar Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Central Works, Connecticut Repertory Theater, Foothill Music Theater (winner of the Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Award for his Principal Performance as the "Leading Player" in *Pippin*), Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Magic Theatre, Marin Shakespeare Company, Marin Theatre Company, Pacific Alliance Stage Company, Playwrights Foundation, SF Playhouse, TheatreWorks, Willows Theater Company, and Word for Word. TV credits include the principal role in the Emmy Award-Winning Tele-Play, *Secrets*. Rudy has an MFA in Acting from American Conservatory Theater and a BFA in Musical Theater from the Boston Conservatory.

www.rudyguerrero.com

Darryl V. Jones* (Bernadette) is an Actor, Director and Professor. Jones has performed principle roles at theatres such as Ford's Theatre, Arena Stage, The Old Globe and The Kennedy Center. He appeared as Alemu in the Theatre Rhino's *The Call* in 2016. His directing includes the critically acclaimed Rhino production of *The Brothers Size*, *Gem of the Ocean* (Sacramento Theatre Co.), *Spunk* (Lorraine Hansberry Theatre) and *A View from the Bridge* (Source Theatre) winning the Washington, DC Theatre Lobby Award for Outstanding Direction. A professor at Cal State East Bay, Jones teaches Acting, Musical Theatre and Directing.

AeJay Mitchell (Choreographer) was recently seen making his stage debut with BACCE playing the lead role of Sutter in *Bootycandy* at BRAVA!. Bay Area theatre credits Include: Actor 4/Another Black Man in *We Are Proud To Present...* (San Jose Stage Company); Kemi in *Rose in America* (Alter Theatre Ensemble); Miss Roj/Kid/Narrator in *Colored Museum*, E-Mem in *X-Tigone*, and Borraccio in *Much Ado About Nothing* (African American Shakespeare Theatre Company); Gary Coleman in *Avenue Q* (NCTC); Gibbs in *Dogfight* (SF Playhouse); Tobias Twitch in *Something for the Boys* (42nd Street Moon); C.C. White in *Dreamgirls* (Broadway by the Bay); Scarecrow in *The Wiz*, Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man* and Rusty Charlie in *Guys and Dolls* (Berkeley Playhouse); and Jonathan Harker in *Dracula* (Inferno Theatre).

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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 Newsome, 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.

Calendar Editors:

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WHEN: **May 27 – July 1, 2017**
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TRAILER: [Coming Soon](#)

PRESS INFO: For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:
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Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for

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A Theatre Rhinoceros production at Eureka Theatre in SF.

15 seconds:

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Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical plays **May 27 – July 1, 2017**

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1 minute:

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Upcoming shows in Theatre Rhinoceros –39th Anniversary Season

A whole new season of LGBT plays all performed at our new home The Eureka Theatre 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111 in beautiful Downtown San Francisco!

Special Event

LEAR! - July 7- 9, 2017

A **Free Outdoor Adventure** in Yerba Buena Gardens
by William Shakespeare / Adapted and Directed by John Fisher
July 7, 8 (Fri., & Sat.) - 8:00 pm, July 9 (Sun.) - 3:00 pm, 2017
A Co-Production of the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival.

Yerba Buena Gardens

750 Howard St, San Francisco, 94103 (*Between 3rd & 4th Sts. in SF*)

<https://ybgfestival.org/event/lear-day-1/>

www.therhino.org

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