FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 24, 2018

For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit: http://therhino.org/press-room/#pris2018

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/events/1988874324764308/
TRAILER: https://youtu.be/PMBp-mwKH2A

Theatre Rhinoceros presents…

THE RETURN OF LAST YEAR’S HIT
After a 2017 Sold-Out Run, An Encore Production of:
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
Music Direction by Mark Dietrich
Choreography by AeJay Mitchell

May 26 – June 30, 2018
Limited Engagement - 5 Weeks! - 23 Performances.

Opening Night: Thurs., May 31, 2018 - 8:00 pm (Reception to follow)
Gateway Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111
www.TheRhino.org

After last year’s (2017) sold-out run, and the most successful show in the 40 year history of Theatre Rhinoceros, we are thrilled to be presenting - BY POPULAR DEMAND - an encore production for 2017/2018 Season of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical. Priscilla 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, A FULL SIZE BUS - ON STAGE, and a hit parade of dance floor favorites, this wildly fresh and funny musical is a journey to the heart of FABULOUS.

SYNOPSIS:
The Musical follows two drag queens and a transsexual (Tick, Adam, and Bernadette), who buy a run-down old bus (they call 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 Gateway Theatre, 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111 – Embarcadero BART Tickets are $15 - $45 and available at https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3385582 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:

Suzy Jane Edwards (Ensemble); Rudy Guerrero* (Tick/Mitzi); John-Thomas Hanson (Ensemble); Morgan Lange (Ensemble); Kim Larsen (Bernadette); Grace Liu (Cynthia); Lisa McHenry (Diva); Caitlin Papp (Diva); Charles Peoples III* (Adam/Felicia); Phaedra Tillery (Diva); David Tuttle (Miss Understanding); Dee Wagner (Ensemble); Cameron Weston (Bob); Cameron Zener (Benji).

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

Tech Credits:

Stephanie Niemann (Stage Manager); Mark Dietrich (Music Director); John Fisher (Director/Producer); Fred Sharkey (Set Construction); James Goode (Sound Designer); Lawrence Helman (Publicist); Robert Horek (Costume Designer); Connor Hagen (Ass’t. Stage Manager); Gilbert Johnson (Set Designer); Sean Keehan (Lighting Designer); Glenn Krumholz (Milner); AeJay Mitchell (Choreographer)

Performance Dates: May 26 – June 30, 2018

Previews (4) Sat., May 26 - 3:00 pm (No Press at Previews Please)
Sat., May 26 - 8:00 pm
Sun., May 27 - 3:00 pm
Wed., May 30 - 8:00 pm

Opening Night: Thurs., May 31, 2018 – 8:00 pm (Reception to follow)

Perf. Dates & Times: Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. - 8:00 pm
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Individual performance dates are: May 26 – June 30, 2018

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June 13, 14, 15, 16 - Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. - 8:00 pm
June 16 - Sat. Matinee - 3:00 pm
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June 30 - Sat. - 8:00 pm (Closing Performance)

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

**The Critics raved about the 2017 Production.**

A glorious time at the theatre that will make what's happening in the real world just a little more bearable. - Andrea Chase - KillerMovieReviews.com

An infectious good time - Patrick Thomas - Twoontheaisel

Every so often there are good to great shows at the intimate Eureka Theatre. PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT the musical is one of the great ones earning a well-deserved standing ovation. - Kedar Adour – ForAll Events

As director of this Theatre Rhino extravaganza-gone-bonkers, John Fisher has left no corn un-shucked to ensure that gaudy glamour, high-stepping hilarity, and pun-packed playfulness rule the stage, this kaleidoscope of kitsch is truly magnificent. - Eddie Reynolds - Theatreeddys

Director John Fisher orchestrates an exemplary production that a small company shouldn’t be capable of. Everything works, from scenic design to lighting, from sound to musical direction. - Victor Cordell - ForAllEvents

"It’s revivifying to know that lavishly chintzy, gender-bending theater, the sort that celebrates humankind through tawdry puns, through a shared esprit de corps between cast and audience, can still thrive in San Francisco… Exuberant choreography! The Rhino detonates sartorial explosion after explosion!” - Lily Janiak, SF Chronicle

The sincerity, hilarity, and compassion of a production like this isn’t something you can practice; it’s just got to be there from day one. - Adam Brinklow – Edgemedianetwork.com

Theatre Rhino has gotten "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" up on its feet – and its high heels – with such an enthusiastic embrace that affection easily flows back from the audience. - Richard Dodds – Bay Area Reporter

As good as the London & B’way productions. - Richard Connema - Talkinbroadway.com
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. The 1st 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.

Selected Bios:

John Fisher (Director) Recent playwriting: A History of World War II (Winner Best Actor Award – United Solo Festival 2017, NYC, Encore Production 2018); Transitions (March 2018); 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 appeared as Lear in King Lear at Yerba Buena Gardens in 2017. His new play Lavender Scare deals with the FBI attack in gays in the 1950s. www.johnfisher.biz

Mark Dietrich (Music Director) makes his debut with Theatre Rhinoceros with Priscilla. Mark is a Computer Science professor, piano instructor, audition coach, and small business owner, having retired from the military in 2006 and from IT/tech in 2017. Music Direction credits: Man of La Mancha (Custom Made Theater); Oklahoma!, Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical, The Taffetas (Altarena Playhouse); How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Las Positas College); Forever Plaid, The Taffetas (Pacific Coast Repertory); 1776 (Piedmont High School); Pitch Perfect, Dogfight, Footloose, Guys & Dolls, Legally Blonde (Alameda High School); Young Frankenstein (23 Elephants); Legally Blonde, Avenue Q, RENT (Tri-Valley Young Performers Academy); Oklahoma! (St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church). Assistant MD/Associate Conductor: Next to Normal (Custom-Made Theater); The Fantastiks (Altarena Playhouse); RENT (Berkeley Playhouse). Vocal Direction: The Honky Tonk Angels (Altarena Playhouse). Special thanks to my #1 fans (my kids): Ellen, John, Mary, and Julia.

Rudy Guerrero* (Tick, aka Mitzi) won the SFBATCC award for Best Actor for his performance in Priscilla in 2017 and was nominated for a Broadway World Award for the same production. Previous Rhino performances include “Nugget / Frank / Nurse/Dalton” in Equus, “Wilson
Mizner” in Road Show, “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, 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. Rudy has a BFA in Musical Theater from the Boston Conservatory and a MFA in Acting from the American Conservatory Theatre. www.rudyguerrero.com

Kim Larsen (Bernadette) is excited to be a member of the Priscilla cast once again, especially considering the songs are from his gay bar days in college! He last appeared for The Rhino in Road Show by Stephen Sondheim. He’s been very active in the Bay Area theater scene for over 25 years and is a board member of Theatre Rhinoceros as well as being the publisher of GayPocket San Francisco Guide.

AeJay Mitchell (Choreographer) was nominated for a Best Choreography Award by the Bay Area Critics Circle Awards for his work on Priscilla in 2017. More recently he directed the World Premiere of Kheven LaGrone’s The Legend of Pink for Theatre Rhino. AeJay made 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 Borracio 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).

Charles Peoples III * (Adam/Felicia) is thrilled to perform with Theatre Rhino once again! Charles was nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Award by Broadway World for his performance in Priscilla in 2017. He recently played Ruby in the World Premiere of John Fisher’s Transitions at Theatre Rhino. Charles is a performance artist who explores visual storytelling to raise awareness, demand social justice, and cultivate self-love. He received his BA in Musical Theater from Sarah Lawrence College (*12) and is currently working on his debut album. You can find him performing original works and other pieces for his YouTube Channel regularly. Additional theater credits include Adam in Priscilla Queen of the Desert and the title role The Legend of Pink, both at Theatre Rhino, Collins in Rent, and Neil in The Story. www.CharlesPeoplesIll.com

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

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.

Calendar Editors:
WHAT:  
*Theatre Rhinoceros presents...*

**The Return of Last Year’s Hit**

**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

Music Direction by    Mark Dietrich

Choreography by    AeJay Mitchell

After last year’s (2017) sold-out run, and the most successful show in the 40 year history of Theatre Rhinoceros, we are thrilled to be presenting - BY POPULAR DEMAND - an encore production for our 2017/2018 Season of **Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical**.  

**Priscilla** 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, A FULL SIZE BUS - ON STAGE, and a hit parade of dance floor favorites, this wildly fresh and funny musical is a journey to the heart of FABULOUS. Priscilla is a TBA Award nominated production, a TBA Award Recommended Production, a BATCC Award winner and a Broadway World nominated production.

SYNOPSIS:
The Musical follows two drag queens and a transsexual (Tick, Adam, and Bernadette), who buy a run-down old bus (they call 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.

WHEN:  
May 26 – June 30, 2018

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Perf. Dates & Times:  
Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. - 8:00 pm
Sat. Matinees - 3:00 pm

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Coming up at Theatre Rhinoceros - 40th Anniversary Season

Oedipus at Palm Springs (Regional Premiere)
by The Five Lesbian Brothers
Directed by Kathryn Wood - star and co-director of last season’s hit Gertrude Stein and a Companion, Kathryn Wood returns to direct this hysterical and shocking comedy by the masters of lesbian wit.

July 12 – 22, 2018
Gateway Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) in San Francisco.
www.therhino.org
Public Service Announcements (PSA’s) for

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. Directed by John Fisher; Musical Direction by Dan Feyer; Choreography by AeJay Mitchell

A Theatre Rhinoceros production at Gateway Theatre in SF.

15 seconds:
Theatre Rhinoceros invites you come see Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical - Directed by John Fisher.
A heart-warming, uplifting comedic 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.

Priscilla, Queen of the Desert - The Musical plays May 26 – June 30
- 5 weeks only, at The Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) in San Francisco. Call 800- 838-3006 or visit TheRhino.org for more information.

30 seconds:
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1 minute:
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For our 41st season as the longest-running LGBT anywhere, Theatre Rhinoceros presents three musicals, two new works, and a Broadway thriller as we take you on a journey of hope and excitement.

All Rhino shows are presented at our home the Gateway Theatre in San Francisco except Sister Act, which will be at a bigger theatre TBA because it’s going to be a spectacle!

[Subscription prices the same as last year.]

World Premiere Commission

VOICES FROM THE EDGE
Conceived and Directed by Rhodessa Jones
September 7 – 22, 2018
An exciting new work of theatre exploring issues facing women of color who are incarcerated or living with HIV. This exciting new work by the masterful Rhodessa Jones is an original commission developed by Theatre Rhinoceros and Cultural Odyssey/The Medea Project.

Musical Bio About Queer Icon Peter Allen

THE BOY FROM OZ
Music and Lyrics by Peter Allen and Others
Book by Martin Sherman and Nick Enright
October 26 – November 18, 2018
In the wake of Priscilla, the Rhino returns to Australia for this raucous musical biography of the most famous gay man from down under, Peter Allen. From “I Go to Rio” and “Arthur’s Theme” to “Don’t Cry Out Loud” and “I Honestly Love You”, the hits just keep coming in this story of the brilliant song-writer entertainer.

One Night Only!

MEGABYTES
Written and Directed by Morris Bobrow
December 31, 2018 – 8:00 pm
Our New Year’s Eve Spectacular returns! The hit show about the pleasures (and pains!) of tech.
World Premiere

ACTION HERO
By John Fisher
March 22 - April 14, 2019
The world’s biggest action hero Thom Snooze is about to come bursting out of the closet. He’ll do anything to promote his new film. But is this the right move? Everyone in his life says no, but his instincts say, “You go, girl!”

The Classic Thriller

DEATHTRAP
By Ira Levin
May 17 – June 2, 2019
Playwright Sidney Bruhl needs a hit, desperately. Is he willing to kill to get it? Will his wife help him? How far will their nerve take them? And what will handsome Cliff’s reaction be when he finds out?

San Francisco Premiere

SISTER ACT
Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Glenn Slater
Book by Bill and Cheri Steinkellner
Additional book material by Douglas Carter Beane
May 31 – July 7, 2019 – Theatre TBA
The famous Whoopi Goldberg movie that became the hit musical now gets the Rhino twist when a drag queen singer has to go into hiding as a nun! But she’s not the only nun in drag! Not in our production.

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