

Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle & Ovation Award Winner
Guillermo Cienfuegos helms Pacific Resident Theatre's reimagining of
Eugene Ionesco's
“Rhinoceros”



EXTENDED through October 15, 2017 (No performances September 15, 16, & 17)
8pm Fridays & Saturdays, 3pm on Sundays
at 703 Venice Blvd. in Venice, CA 90291

Venice, CA (Revised September 8, 2017) - Pacific Resident Theatre topically reimagines Eugene Ionesco's comic masterpiece. In a small provincial town outside of Paris, the citizens discover how quickly one's sense of humanity can be eroded when facing the dangers of a herd mentality. A timely and brilliant indictment of impending fascism created by a master of Avant-Garde.

“The play is a wild, hilarious farce - with a lot of bite. I think of it as Kafka meets Monty Python. Ultimately, a warning about how gradually authoritarian and totalitarian mindsets can infiltrate, grow, transform and conquer entire communities...even the whole world. It traces and points out the different stages of this phenomenon as a caution that one must reject joining the herd and always hold on to their individual humanity” - Guillermo Cienfuegos; Director

Rhinoceros was written as a response to and criticism of the sudden upsurge of Communism, Fascism, and Nazism during events preceding World War II. It explores mob mentality and conformity. Ionesco was inspired to write this piece as he watched the rise of the fascist Iron Guard in Romania, saying, “I don't know if you have noticed it, but when people no longer share your opinions, when you can no longer make yourself understood by them, one has the impression of being confronted with monsters—rhinos, for example. They have that mixture of candor and ferocity. They would kill you with the best of consciences.”

Eugene Ionesco (Nov 26, 1909, Slatina, Romania - March 28, 1994, Paris, France) is an internationally renowned playwright and absurdist master. His work profoundly altered the face of modern drama. He wrote more than twenty plays, as well as stories, memoirs, theoretical essays and a novel. Ionesco's first one-act “antiplay,” *The Bald Soprano* (1950), inspired a revolution in dramatic techniques and helped inaugurate the “Theatre of the Absurd.” He followed it with other one-act plays in which illogical events create an atmosphere both comic and grotesque, including *The Lesson* (1951), *The Chairs* (1952), and *The New Tenant* (1955). His most famous full-length play, *Rhinoceros* (1959), concerns a provincial French town in which all the citizens are metamorphosing into rhinoceroses. Other plays include *Exit the King* (1962) and *A Stroll in the Air* (1963).

Guillermo Cienfuegos (Director) helmed the **Stage Raw award-winning Dutch Masters** as well as the multi-award-winning PRT hit productions *Safe at Home: An Evening With Orson Bean*, *The Homecoming*, and *Henry V*, for which he won the **Ovation** and **LADCC Awards for Best Director**. His productions have been named **Critic's Choice by the LA Times**, and appeared on numerous ‘**Best of the Year**’ lists. In addition, Cienfuegos has directed seven World Premieres for Pacific Resident Theatre, including Keith Stevenson's **Ovation-Award-nominated** *Out There on Fried Meat Ridge Rd* (Currently running in London's West End), *A Fried Meat Christmas*, and *The Unfryable Meatness of Being*, Wendy Johnson's *Concealing Judy Holliday* and Vince Melocchi's *Welcome to Santa*. After a successful run at PRT, his production of Vince Melocchi's *Julia* (which was nominated for **three LA Weekly Theatre Awards**, including Best Director) transferred to New York's 59E59 Theatre, Off Broadway. *Lions*, his first collaboration with Melocchi, was nominated for an **Ovation Award** and later published by Samuel French.

Pacific Resident Theatre is nationally recognized as one of the top regional theaters on the West Coast. The company presents works of the highest quality, in order to entertain, inform and educate its multicultural community. In addition to the company's commitment to rediscover the rarely performed classics, PRT is focused on fostering and developing new works through the collaboration of an artistic ensemble influenced by societal relevance, past, present and future. Pacific Resident Theatre promotes the theatre arts by providing opportunities for artists and craftsmen to develop and enrich their skills.

Rhinoceros runs at 8pm Fridays & Saturdays, 3pm on Sundays (No performances September 15, 16, & 17) through October 15, 2017. Pacific Resident Theatre is located at 703 Venice Blvd. in Venice, CA 90291. Tickets are \$25 - \$34 and can be purchased online at <http://www.pacificresidenttheatre.com> or by calling (310) 822-8392.

Our Cast: Sarah Brooke, Peter Elbling, Alex Fernandez, Brad Greenquist, Robert Lesser, Jeff Lorch, Kendrah McKay, Keith Stevenson, Melissa Weber Bales, Melinda West, Carole Weyers, and Sarah Zinsser

Our Production Team: Produced by Marilyn Fox, Rachel Berney Needleman, and Sara Newman-Martins for Pacific Resident Theatre. David Mauer (Set Design), Justin Preston (Lighting Designer), Chris Moscatiello (Sound Design), Christine Cover Ferro (Costume Design), and Myrna Gawryn (Choreographer)

Calendar Listing Information:

What: “Rhinoceros”

Playwright: Eugene Ionesco

Directed by: Guillermo Cienfuegos

Produced by: Marilyn Fox, Rachel Berney Needleman, and Sara Newman-Martins

Where:

Pacific Resident Theatre

703 Venice Blvd.

Venice, CA 90291

(Parking is free in the lot behind the theater and on the street)

When:

Opened: 8pm on Saturday, July 15, 2017

Schedule: 8pm Fridays & Saturdays, 3pm on Sundays (No performances September 15, 16, & 17)

Closing: October 15, 2017

How:

For reservations call (310) 822-8392 or online at <http://www.pacificresidenttheatre.com>

How Much: \$25 - \$34

Seniors & Students \$3 off on Thurs, & Fri; Student rush \$12

Description: In a small provincial town outside of Paris, the citizens discover how quickly one’s sense of humanity can be eroded when facing the dangers of a herd mentality. A timely and brilliant indictment of impending fascism created by a master of Avant-Garde.

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