



# **RHINOCEROS**

## **EUGÈNE IONESCO**

**Directed by Katherine Johnson**

**November 3-18, 2017**

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Presents

# RHINOCEROS

by Eugène Ionesco

Director

Katherine Johnson

Producer

Michael Rebekah Fleischman

Stage Manager

Isabella Anastasia Leigh

Assistant Director

Elliott Puckette

Sound Designer/Composer

Claire Kannapell

Set Designer

Coleman

Properties Designer

Michelle Dayton

Lighting Designer

Tom Littrell

Dramaturg

Michael Y. Bennett

Choreographer

Loryn Jonelis

Rhinoceros Head Constructor

Abigail Graf

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The Bartell Theatre on the Drury Stage  
Madison, Wisconsin

November 3rd - 18th, 2017

Running Time is 2 hours and 30 minutes  
with a 15 minute intermission

Please turn off all cell phones and other electronics

Photography and video/audio recording of this production are strictly prohibited.

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Rhinoceros is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, New York.

## CAST OF *RHINOCEROS*

Berenger.....	Stacey Garbarski
Jean.....	Nick Kaprelian
Daisy.....	Stephanie Drahozal
Dudard.....	Zachary Shea
Botard/Grocer.....	Matthew Korda
The Logician.....	Steven E. Smith
Old Gentleman.....	Carl Cawthorne
Mrs. Boeuf.....	Lauren Rusch
Mr. Papillon.....	Rosy Bayuk
Housewife.....	Sunny Schomaker
Proprietor/Little Old Woman.....	Ashley Gordon
Little Old Man/Waitress/Fireman.....	Arwen Sadler
Grocer's Wife.....	Robyn Norton

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....	Katherine Johnson
Assistant Director.....	Elliott Puckette
Stage Manager.....	Isabella Anastasia Leigh
Scenic Designer.....	Coleman
Properties Designer.....	Michelle Dayton
Lighting Designer.....	Tom Littrell
Sound Designer/Composer.....	Claire Kannapell
Mask Design.....	PaperPetShop
Dramaturg.....	Michael Y. Bennett
Sound Technician.....	Elliott Puckette
Scenic Artists.....	Teresa Sarkela, Erin S. Baal, Michael Rebekah Fleischman
Painters.....	Elliott Puckette, Seamus Fleischman, Jude Fleischman, Isabel Rodin
Lighting Assistants.....	Perry Sadler, Jon Miner, C. John Shimniok, Stephanie Drahozal, Zach Shea
Costume Team.....	Michael Rebekah Fleischman, Abigal Graf, Elliott Puckette, Isabella Anastasia Leigh
Set Execution.....	Nick Miller, Josette Belant, Teresa Sarkela, Erin S. Baal, Michael Rebekah Fleischman, Isabella Anastasia Leigh, Katherine Johnson, Elliott Puckette
Producer.....	Michael Rebekah Fleischman
Performance Photography.....	Jon Miner
Videographer.....	Luke Kokinos
Poster Design.....	Katherine Johnson

## SPECIAL THANKS

This production was made possible with the special contributions of so many people. A special thanks is in order for these individuals and organizations.

CTM, Madison Arts Production Center, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Full Compass, Mercury Players Theatre, Madison Theatre Guild, StageQ, The Gerald A Bartell Community Theatre Foundation and Kirk Stantis, The Madstage Podcast, The Isthmus, Madison Community Foundation, Electronic Theatre Controls, Suzan Kurry, Buzz Kemper, Phil Koenig, Marie Schulte, C. John Shinnick, Zoe Fleischman



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I first read *Rhinoceros*, I was drawn to the transition at the heart of the play. In the course of a few days, the characters adjust from one reality to another, morals reversed, the unthinkable normalized. This is a play about the relationship between people and ideas; how we approach them, spread them, and adopt them. The personal relationships between these people shift as they struggle to adjust to the things happening around them.

I love that the show is larger than life, and I've fallen for the characters, their humor, their problems, and their arguments. Everything is so personal, so relatable, and yet the stakes are so very high. When I picked up the play for the second time, in November of last year, the rhetoric of the characters didn't feel fantastical. It felt overwhelmingly familiar. They speak in clichés, looping familiar arguments. The fantastic is a device, cleverly designed by a thoughtful playwright. While the play almost certainly draws on Ionesco's own life, he wrote it for the future more than for the past. The unreal element shows how quickly the unreal can become real, and truth is constantly in question. With a little rationalization, the reality we construct can be rearranged.

The threat in this world is real, and so are the people. They are funny and dangerous, sympathetic and temperamental, and human. As Berenger says: "Good men make good *Rhinoceroses*."

Katherine Johnson - 2017

## DRAMATURG'S NOTE

Eugene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* is a farcical romp. Long considered a prime example of the "Theatre of the Absurd," the play has traditionally been seen as a bleak indictment of humanity and its future. However, the "absurd" label has started to erode in theatre scholarship, and with it, so, too, have the dark elements of this play. What is left is a comedic masterpiece that relies on metaphor and satire to examine a range of human fallacies. That is not to say that *Rhinoceros* did not find some inspiration from the horrors and madness of WWII and the Holocaust. However, premiering a decade and a half after the end of WWII, Ionesco realized that acerbic comedy is often more biting and makes a greater and longer-lasting impact. In short, you should laugh away, but make sure you vigilantly tend to the faults exposed in the play. In this day and age of fake news and low-effort thinking, one must combat such facile logic at every turn, lest the spread of rhinocertitis will return.

Michael Y. Bennett - 2017

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Rosy Bayuk** (Mr. Papillon) thanks the cast and crew of *Rhinoceros* for this wonderful theatre experience, and thanks the audience for coming out to support us! Muchas smoochas to Ken. XO

**Michael Y. Bennett** (Dramaturg) is Associate Professor of English and affiliated faculty in Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He is the author or editor of eleven books in the field of theatre studies. In addition to serving on the Advisory Boards of Comparative Drama and the Journal of American Drama and Theatre, he is the Series Editor of *New Perspective in Edward Albee Studies*. In 2014, he was a UW System Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities, and he received the 2015 UW-Whitewater Outstanding Research Award. In Summer 2019, he will be a Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, where he will be working on his current book, *The Problems of Viewing Performance*.

**Carl Cawthorne** (Old Gentleman) is delighted to appear again on the Drury Stage in this wonderful example of the theatre of the absurd. He first saw Ionesco's one-acts, *The Bald Soprano* and *The Lesson* in Paris back in 1975 and has wanted to explore this theatrical form on stage ever since. More recently he has played Tobias in *A Delicate Balance*, the Old Man in *Prelude to a Kiss*, Tarleton in *Misalliance*, and Gonzalo in *The Tempest*. Much love to family and friends for all your kind support.

**Coleman** (Set Designer) mostly works as an actor, or director, or playwright, or ... hell. If it's theatre he'll do whatever it takes. That's why he's also designed a number of Bartell shows, including: Madison Theatre Guild (*All My Sons*, *A Christmas Twist*, *Secret of the Old Queen*, *The Nance*), Strollers Theatre (*Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Rhinoceros*). His two act dramady, *A Contest of Wills*, will premiere at Broom Street this June. And this February, Coleman will direct the Strollers production of *Arborophila*. Thanks to Erin and Teresa for stepping up.

**Michelle Dayton** (Property Designer) is happy to join this creative team to bring *Rhinoceros* to the stage. Past Strollers Theatre prop designs: *Steel Magnolias* and *Prelude to a Kiss*. Last project was stage managing Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*. Michelle is grateful to be a part of the rich history of local theatre here at the Bartell and with Strollers Theatre. In addition, she is thankful to have family and friends who support her in her love of theatre.

**Stephanie Drahozal** (Daisy) is delighted to make her Strollers Theatre debut with this wonderful company. She directed *Rhinoceros* in high school, and it has been so fun to revisit it! She has previously been seen in *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Oklahoma!*, *Big Fish*, & many other shows with groups in the area. Stephanie holds a BA in Theatre from Washington University in St. Louis. In her free time, she enjoys knitting and hanging out with her cat, Cordelia. Thanks so much to family, friends, and the incredible cast of *Rhinoceros*. Enjoy the show!

**Michael Rebekah Fleischman** (Producer)... It took a small village to put this show together, and Michael is grateful for the immense creativity, passion, and hard work from the cast, crew, and numerous volunteers. Recent credits with Strollers include appearing as Annelle in *Steel Magnolias*, and producing *Prelude to a Kiss*. She will be directing Strollers's upcoming production of *The Winter's Tale*. Love & thanks to her family, the Fitchburg police department, Elliott's red argyle sweater, and all dogs everywhere.

**Stacey Garbarski** (Berenger) graduated from Edgewood College in 2016 with a Theatre Performance degree. Her past year in summary: a performance of *The 800th Annual Salvation Swing Off* at New York Fringe Festival that led to a positive review in the New York Times, a broken ankle requiring twelve pieces of hardware while doing two productions, and she and her partner welcoming a fiery puppy and another whimsical rabbit into their family. She thanks her friends, family and Zach for all their help, love, and care that allows her to do what she loves and occasionally sleep. Enjoy

**Ashley Gordon** (Proprietor/Little Old Woman) is thrilled to be making her theatrical debut with Strollers Theatre in Rhinoceros. A native of Detroit, Michigan, her other hobbies include swing dancing, trivia, and French conversation groups. Ashley would especially like to thank the cast for such a wonderful introduction to the world of theatre, Mom, Dad, the Gordon gang, and special thanks to Benjamin for getting her involved.

**Abigail Graf** (Costume Team/Rhino Head Constructor) is delighted to be working on her second show with Strollers, after costuming *Prelude to a Kiss* last winter. Other design credits include *Returning Home* with Wilder Theater, *A Diamond Never Lies* with Madison College, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Monona Grove High School. She would like to thank her friends and family for continuing to be the greatest, her rhino head assembly team extraordinaire for their enthusiastic craft skills, and the multi-talented cast, design team, and crew of this strange, important, and completely rhinocerotic show.

**Claire Kannapell** (Sound Designer) loves all things music and is so excited to have the opportunity to bring her compositions to Rhinoceros. Previously, Claire worked as co-composer of the scene change music for *August: Osage County*. She also plays double bass in the jazz group Barley Wine and the bluegrass group Long Lost Family Band. Big thanks to Ben and coffee for inspiring me and keeping me motivated.

**Nick Kaprelian** (Jean) is excited to make his Strollers debut in this timely and thoughtful production. He has worked with many other theatre companies in the Madison area. Recent shows include *Dumpster Flower* (Paul), *Clybourne Park* (Karl/Steve), *Bonedance* (Corpse Bride) and *The Grapes of Wrath* (Pa).

**Matthew Korda** (Grocer/Botard) is very excited to be working with this cast and production crew on a fantastic piece of theatre that is very relevant to the current political climate. Please sit back and enjoy the ride, keeping your hands and feet inside the theatre at all times.

**Isabella Anastasia Leigh** (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be a part of *Rhinoceros* - her first show with Strollers. She is a director and stage manager studying Theatre and Gender & Women's Studies at UW-Madison. Recent stage managing, directing, and assistant directing credits include: *Non-Refundable in Queer Shorts 2.1* (StageQ), *Love's Labour's Lost* (ALATT), *A Christmas Carol* (CTM), *The Grapes of Wrath* (Madison College), and *The Tempest* (MTG). Lots of love to Libby the kitty.

**Tom Littrell** (Lighting Designer) is happy to be lighting another show for Strollers and happy to be working with this great director, cast, and crew! He has lit shows for Four Seasons Theatre, Forward Theater, Music Theatre of Madison, Madison Theatre Guild, Mercury Players, OUT!Cast/StageQ, and UW's University Theatre. He works at Electronic Theatre Controls. In a sordid past life, he toured with concert performers such as David Bowie, Genesis, Paul McCartney, and Led Zepplin. As always, love to Stacey for her support.

**Robyn Norton** (Grocer's Wife) is new to the Madison stage, and wishes to thank Katherine, Elliott, and Isa, for giving her the opportunity to be in Rhinoceros. Previously, she appeared in Wisconsin Rapids Community Theater production and was most recently in a one-act performance in Nashville, Tenn., Back-alley bar. Photography, spoiling grandbabies, and making bad puns are her other hobbies.

**Elliott Puckette** (Assistant Director) is delighted to be working with Strollers again. Over the last two years, Elliott has been active in the Madison theater community as a director (*Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Love/Sick*) assistant director (*August: Osage County*), actor (*Dumpster Flower*, *Love's Labour's Lost*) and stage manager (*Hamm in Love and War*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Arlington*). In her spare time, Elliott likes analyzing texts and pretending she knows French.

**Lauren Rusch** (Mrs. Boeuf) is very excited to make her Strollers debut in *Rhinoceros*. She was recently on stage in *Perfect Arrangement* and *Queer Shorts* (both StageQ), and behind the scenes stage managing *Casa Valentina* (StageQ) and making mountains of food props for *August: Osage County* (Mercury Players Theater). Thanks to B & D for their constant support, and to all my fellow rhinos for a great show!

**Arwen Sadler** (Waitress/Fireman/Little Old Man) is very excited to be making their debut with Strollers Theatre in *Rhinoceros*. Currently in a gap year, Arwen plans on attending Olin College of Engineering in the fall of 2018 as an undecided major. They also enjoy painting, drawing, and ridiculously complicated board games. Arwen has previously appeared on stage at Broom Street Theater in *Gepetto* and in various productions at Young Shakespeare Players. They'd like to thank the cast and crew for making the show such a fun experience.

**Teresa Sarkela** (Scenic Artist) paints, designs, and may be nocturnal. Most recent work has been seen at sea (*HMS Pinafore* with Madison Savoyards), on land (*Madagascar* with Children's Theatre of Madison), and soon-to-be some aeronautic adventure to round it all out... hopefully.

**Sunny Schomaker** (Housewife) makes her triumphant return to the Madison stage after a period of exile in the Deep South. Previously seen in *Macbeth* (Madison Shakespeare Company) and *The Tempest* (Madison Theatre Guild), she has also been known to write comedy (Broken Dart Players) and tragedy (her dissertation). She thanks Pierre Bourdieu and Mary Tyler Moore for their assistance.

**Zachary Shea** (Dudard)... "Well of all things! It's Zach, acting on stage. The same Zach I saw stage managing MTGs From *Awkward Spaces*." "No, stage manager Zach is in all blacks. That Zach is an amateur writer." "I was almost certain it was Zach the actor." "It couldn't have been, Zach hasn't been seen acting since college, where he performed in such productions as *Peter Pan* and *Alceste*." "But nevertheless he wants to thank the cast and crew for being a joy to work with, that you can't deny."

**Steven E. Smith** (The Logician) is making his Strollers debut with this absurd show. He has thoroughly enjoyed performing the role of "The Logician" and collaborating with all the fine folks involved with this production. Theatre is a big part of his life and he has been fortunate to have taken part in several shows with various performance groups. A few of his favorite previous roles include Willy Wonka, Petruchio, and Felix Ungar. You can catch him next playing Ebenezer Scrooge in Monroe's production of *A Christmas Carol*. Please, enjoy the show, for that would be logical!

**Katherine Johnson** (Director) has past work that includes co-directing *Nicholas Nickleby*, and directing 25 scenes from Shakespeare and Sid Caesar. She's had the pleasure of working with Strollers once before as an ASM. This project is a foray into new territory, and one she's incredibly proud of. She is indebted to the amazing designers and crew for everything you see and hear onstage, and to Michael for the existence of the show. She is grateful to Elliott, Isa, and to the intrepid cast for every ounce of themselves they poured into rehearsal. She could not ask for better people to create theatre with.

**Loryn Jonelis** (Choreographer) likes to wiggle his body around the dance floor. Enjoy the show!

## STROLLERS THEATRE ANNOUNCEMENT

### AUDITIONS!

#### Arborophilia

By Jacob M. Appel

Directed by Coleman

Monday, Nov 6th and Tuesday, Nov 7th

Details at [StrollersTheatre.org](http://StrollersTheatre.org)

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