

Kennedy Theatre

*2005-2006 Season
Media Release*



University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

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March 13, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAWAI‘I PREMIERE OF IONESCO’S CLASSIC ABSURDIST COMEDY - RHINOCEROS

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s Department of Theatre and Dance presents the Hawai‘i premiere of “Rhinoceros” by Eugene Ionesco. Directed by Glenn Cannon, “Rhinoceros” closes Kennedy Theatre’s mainstage season that features theatre and dance works never before seen in the Islands. Ionesco’s play is a funny yet savage commentary on the absurdity of the human condition, made tolerable by self-delusion. The script highlights the struggle for integrity, identity, and individual thought in a world seduced by brute force and mindlessness.

“Rhinoceros” will be performed on the Kennedy Theatre mainstage April 21, 22, 28, 29 at 8 p.m. and April 30 at 2 p.m. The April 29 performance will also be interpreted in American Sign Language. Free pre-show chats begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 and 29.

The canon of the penultimate Absurdist playwright, Ionesco, is a familiar arena for Director Cannon. In the past, he has directed both “The Chairs” and “The Lessons.” Cannon notes, “‘Rhinoceros’ is particularly appropriate to our current time.” He continues, “it is a comedy and an appealing story, but at its most serious, it is frightening.” Conformity and its concomitant horror is its center point; individuals become followers, submitting to those in power - in this case - rhinos. “Even the few who seek who seek to maintain independent thought and action inevitably join the masses,” shares Cannon. Ionesco’s well known aversion to political tyranny in favor of individual sovereignty colored his world view and his dramatic works. Ionesco labeled this play “a tragic farce.”

The production elements are particularly significant to this presentation of “Rhinoceros.”

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UHM faculty members Joe Dodd (set design), Sandra Finney (costume design) and Daniel Anteau (lighting design) will combine their artistry with director and cast to build Ionesco's world. "Rhinoceros" tells the story of a town whose population is slowly transformed in to rhinoceroses. The leading role of Berenger has been portrayed by such notable actors as Laurence Olivier and Eli Wallach. UHM student Chris Cappelletti will play Berenger in the Kennedy Theatre production.

Tickets for "Rhinoceros" are on sale now at www.etickethawaii.com (service charges apply). Remaining tickets go on sale at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office, charge-by-phone and outlets on Monday, April 10. Charge-by-phone at 956-7655 (voice/text) or charge-by-outlet phone at 944-2697 or purchase in person at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A \$2.00 per ticket service charge will be applied to all charge-by-phone, outlet and internet sales. Prices are \$15 regular, \$13 seniors, military, UH faculty/staff, \$10 students, \$4 UHM students with validated Spring 06 UHM photo ID. For more information or disability access, call the Kennedy Theatre Box Office at 956-7655 (voice/text).###

WHAT: **“Rhinoceros”**

PRESENTED BY: UHM Dept. of Theatre & Dance

WHEN: April 21, 22*, 28, 29*⁺ at 8pm
April 30 at 2pm

* free pre-show event at 7pm

⁺ Interpreted in American Sign Language

WHERE: UHM's Kennedy Theatre Mainstage

TICKET PRICES: \$15 regular, \$13 seniors, military, UH faculty/staff, \$10 students, \$4 UHM students w/ validated Spring 06 UHM ID

TICKET INFO: 956-7655 (voice/text) ###

