

THEATRE RHINOCEROS

2008 GLAAD MEDIA AWARD WINNER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 25, 2008

JEFFREY HARTGRAVES

Died September 25, 2008

Death Notice

Who: Jeffrey Hartgraves
What: Playwright, Director, Actor
When: Died September 25, 2008
Where: At his home in San Francisco, CA
Years of life: 1961-2008
Memorial Service/Funeral: Time/Place will be announced on his website
www.JeffreyHartgraves.com
Press: John Fisher, at (415) 552-4100, ext 104

Pictures of Jeffrey available for download on our website — www.TheRhino.org or at
www.JeffreyHartgraves.com

Statement:

Jeffrey Hartgraves, a core artist of Theatre Rhinoceros, passed away on Thursday, September 25th. Jeffrey came to the Rhino in 2002 as a writer, director, actor and designer and contributed greatly to the success of the theatre over the past half decade. Jeffrey's play *Shark Bites*, about his on-going battle with cancer, was a runaway hit this past winter and his show *Veronica Klaus' Family Jewels* enjoyed three knock out runs at The Rhino. Jeffrey also directed the World Premiere of Jaeson Post's *Worse than Chocolate* and the American Premiere of Alan Bennett's *A Question of Attribution*. As an actor he starred, hysterically and dramatically as needed, in *Amnesia*, *Worse than Chocolate*, *Awe about Eve*, *An Englishman Abroad*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and *Medea: The Musical*. A benefit performance was given in Jeffrey's honor this past spring, which boasted the talents of Jeffrey's friends and compatriots in the theatre. The benefit was appropriately titled *The Butterfly Effect*, a perfect reflection of the way Jeffrey affected so much around him. Jeffrey also was a regular contributor to Theatre Rhinoceros fundraisers, appearing most recently at Levende Lounge on Tuesday night, September 23rd. Outside of The Rhino Jeffrey saw his work produced locally at O'Neill's Tao House, Exit Stage Left, the Eureka Theatre (*Carved in Stone*) and at theatres across the country as well as seeing his poetry, plays and prose published.

Jeffrey will be sorely missed by The Rhino family. He was a jocular and much loved presence at openings, parties and celebrations and a fiercely intelligent participant in the creation of theatre. The staff, board and artists of Theatre Rhinoceros join me in grieving this profound loss to our lives, our theatre and to the community of theatre in general.

At the request of Fritha Knudson, executor of Jeffrey's estate, donations in memory of Jeffrey's creative life can be made to Theatre Rhinoceros, which Ms. Knudsen described as "Jeffrey's mother ship. May he continue to inspire us and may he fly high.... and then rest in a deserved peace." Please check Jeffrey's website for further details as well as information on a health related beneficiary of donations as yet undetermined:
www.Jeffreyhartgraves.com.

John Fisher

Theatre Rhinoceros, America's longest running professional queer theatre, develops and produces works of theatre that enlighten, enrich, and explore both the ordinary and extraordinary aspects of our queer community.