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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 9, 2016

For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:

<http://www.therhino.org/press.htm>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/608829199271296/>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1zPhKILe00&feature=youtu.be>

**DUE TO CRITICAL ACCLAIM, AND POPULAR DEMAND...  
THEATRE RHINO'S PRODUCTION OF  
Noël Coward's *Present Laughter* \*  
IS EXTENDED 2 ADDITIONAL WEEKS (12 performances)  
JUNE 21 – JULY 2, 2016**

**The Critics have spoken:**

*"The broad physical company & campy gay jokes leap up at every turn"* – B. Horwitz - Theatrestorm

*"Over-the-top farcical gaiety in a high energy fashion"* V. Cordell – Forallevants.com

*"Fisher plays Noël Coward's flair for the dramatic in this superb comedic tour de force."*

*"John Fisher is outstanding as Garry Essendine." Connema, 'Talkin' Broadway*

*"Fisher and Company spin gold with Coward's scandalous farce."* S. Murray – Forallevants.com

*"Expertly present with terrific acting." Rink, SF Bay Times*

*"I loved the show." Vince, V Media*

*Theatre Rhinoceros presents...*

Noël Coward's *Present Laughter* \*

EXTENDED 2 ADDITIONAL WEEKS (12 performances)

JUNE 21 – JULY 2, 2016

– *Limited Engagement - 12 Additional Performances - 2 Weeks!*

Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111

[www.TheRhino.org](http://www.TheRhino.org)

*\*Part 2 of Theatre Rhino's Noël Coward Celebration*

Performance Dates: JUNE 21 – JULY 2, 2016

Perf. Dates & Times: Wed. - Thurs. Fri. - Sat. - 8:00 pm; Sat. Matinees - 3:00 pm;  
2 Tues. shows: Tues. June 21 and June 28, 2016 - 7:00 pm

Noël Coward's *Present Laughter* - Part 2 of Theatre Rhino's Noël Coward Celebration, the Theatre Rhinoceros premiere will extend the run thru Sat. July 2, 2016 - an additional 12 performances only! Shows are at Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111– Embarcadero BART.

Tickets are \$10 - \$30 and available at <http://www.therhino.org/buy.htm> or 1-800- 838-3006

**Additional performance dates are:**

June 21 - Tues. 7:00 pm  
June 22, 23, 24, 25 - Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat - 8:00 pm  
June 25 - Sat. - matinee 3:00 pm  
June 28 - Tues. 7:00 pm  
June 29, 30, July 1, 2 - Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat - 8:00 pm  
July 2 - Sat. - matinee 3:00 pm

Noël Coward's *Present Laughter* - features Bay Area actors: **Carlos Barrera** (Henry), **Tina D'Elia** (Liz), **Adrienne Dolan** (Daphne), **Ryan Engstrom** (Fred), **Amanda Farbstein** (Joanna), **John Fisher** (Garry & show director), **Adrienne Krug** (Erikson/Saltburn), **Marvin Peterle Rocha** (Rolland), **Adam Simpson** (Morris), **Kathryn Wood** (Monica).

**Tech Credits:**

**Gilbert Johnson** (Set design); **Sean Keehan** (Lighting design); **David Draper** (Costume design); **Treacy Corrigan** (Dialect coach), **David Wilson** (Graphics/Photography).

Noël Coward's *Present Laughter* is directed by the Glickman and Critics' Circle Award-winning **John Fisher**.

**To arrange an interview with director John Fisher, or any of the actors or for additional info, contact Lawrence Helman at 415/ 661-1260 or e mail [lhelman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lhelman@sbcglobal.net)**

**Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*** is one of Coward's most personal and wittiest comedies. This semi-autobiographical comedy follows a self-obsessed actor in the midst of a mid-life crisis who freely indulges his considerable appetite for wine, women and sleeping late. At the center of his own universe sits matinee idol Garry Essendine: suave, hedonistic and too old, says his wife, to be having numerous affairs. His line in harmless, infatuated lovers is largely tolerated but playing closer to home is not. Just before he escapes on tour to Africa the full extent of his misdemeanors is discovered. And all hell breaks loose. **Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*** premiered in 1942 during WW2 just as such privileged lives were threatened with fundamental social change.

**Selected Bios:**

**John Fisher (Garry/Director)** is a playwright, director, and actor. Recent play writing credits include his play *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) as well as his direction of and acting in the Theatre Bay Area Award-winning production of Alan Bennett's *The Habit of Art* and the TBA Recommended Production of *Breaking the Code* (nominated for five 2016 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards). John also acted in both *Shakespeare Goes to War* and *Breaking the Code* and was nominated as Best Leading Actor of 2016 for both performances. In the 2014-15 season John directed the West Coast Premiere of David Mamet's *The Anarchist*.

**Sir Noël Peirce Coward** (Dec. 16, 1899 - March 26 1973) was an English playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, known for his wit, flamboyance, and what *Time* magazine called "a sense of personal style, a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise". Born in Teddington, southwest London, Coward attended a dance academy in London as a child, making his professional stage début at the age of eleven. As a teenager he was introduced into the high society in which most of his plays would be set. Coward achieved enduring success as a playwright, publishing more than 50 plays from his teens onwards. Many of his works, such as *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, *Design for Living*, *Present Laughter* and *Blithe Spirit*, have remained in the regular theatre repertoire. He composed hundreds of songs, in addition to well over a dozen musical theatre works (including the operetta *Bitter Sweet* and comic revues), poetry, several volumes of short stories, the novel *Pomp and Circumstance*, and a three-volume autobiography. Coward's stage and film acting and directing career spanned six decades, during which he starred in many of his own works. At the outbreak of the Second World War Coward volunteered for war work, running the British propaganda office in Paris. He also worked with the Secret Service, seeking to use his influence to persuade the American public and government to help Britain. Coward won an Academy Honorary Award in 1943 for his naval film drama, *In Which We Serve*, and was knighted in 1969. In the 1950s he achieved fresh success as a cabaret performer, performing his own songs, such as "Mad Dogs and Englishmen", "London Pride" and "I Went to a Marvellous Party". His plays and songs achieved new popularity in the 1960s and 1970s, and his work and style continue to influence popular culture. Coward did not publicly acknowledge his homosexuality, but it was discussed candidly after his death by biographers including Graham Payn, his long-time partner, and in Coward's diaries and letters, published posthumously. The former Albery Theatre (originally the New Theatre) in London was renamed the Noël Coward Theatre in his honor in 2006.

**Theatre Rhinoceros** - founded in 1977 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 Newsome, 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: **Noël Coward's *Present Laughter* \***  
**EXTENDED 2 ADDITIONAL WEEKS (12 performances)**  
**JUNE 21 – JULY 2, 2016**

**Noël Coward's *Present Laughter* \***  
***\*Part 2 of Theatre Rhino's Coward Celebration***

WHEN: **JUNE 21 – JULY 2, 2016**

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TIX: Tickets are \$10 - \$30 and available at <http://www.therhino.org/buy.htm>  
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WHERE: **Eureka Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111**

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**Public Service Announcements for  
Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*  
A Theatre Rhinoceros production at  
Eureka Theatre in SF: JUNE 21 – JULY 2, 2016**

**15 seconds:**

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to party with the master of wit Noël Coward. *Present Laughter* is one of Coward's most personal and wittiest comedies. *Present Laughter* is extended 2 additional weeks JUNE 21 – JULY 2, 2016 at The Eureka Theatre in San Francisco. Call 800- 838-3006 or visit [TheRhino.org](http://TheRhino.org) for more information.

**30 seconds:**

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**1 minute:**

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to party with the master of wit Noël Coward. *Present Laughter* is one of Coward's most personal and wittiest comedies.

This semi-autobiographical comedy follows a self-obsessed actor in the midst of a mid-life crisis who freely indulges his considerable appetite for wine, women and sleeping late. *Present Laughter* premiered in 1942 during the Second World War just as the upper classes were threatened with fundamental social change.

*Present Laughter* is extended 2 additional weeks JUNE 21 – JULY 2, 2016 at The Eureka Theatre in San Francisco. *Present Laughter* is the second installment of Theatre Rhino's Noël Coward Celebration. You won't want to miss this hysterical production of one of Coward's masterpieces. Call 800- 838-3006 or visit [TheRhino.org](http://TheRhino.org) for more information.

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