



THEATRE RHINOCEROS

GLAAD MEDIA AWARD WINNER

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The Two-Character Play By Tennessee Williams

Comedy - Drama

Production Company:

Theatre Rhinoceros

Title:

The Two-Character Play

By Tennessee Williams

Creative Team:

Alexandra Creighton, John Fisher, Colin Johnson, Gilbert Johnson.
Kai Morrison, Keshuv Prasad, Ryan Tasker, Kent Taylor, Christine
U'Ren, Jimmy Whelan, and David Wilson

Venue:

Eureka Theatre

215 Jackson Street (between Front and Battery; Embarcadero
BART)

San Francisco, CA 94111

Previews:

Wed., January 4 – Friday, January 6, 2012

(No Press at Previews Please)

Opening Night:

Sat., January 7, 2011 @ 800 PM (Reception to follow)

Performances:

Sun., January 8 – Sun., January 15

Tues. - Sat. @ 800 PM

Sundays @ 300 PM

Box Office:

www.TheRhino.org or (800) 838-3006

TIX:

\$10 - \$25 (First two previews are “pay what you wish”)

Press:

Visit our website at www.TheRhino.org or contact John Fisher, at
(415) 552-4100

Publicity pictures are available for download on our website — www.TheRhino.org

The Two-Character Play is Tennessee Williams’ heartbreaking backstage saga of a brother and sister and the secrets that make them cling to one another and eventually tear them apart. Williams’ own favorite play, *The Two-Character Play* brings together all the themes of his career in one final comic drama which celebrates both life and a life in the theatre. It’s Tennessee Williams as you’ve never seen him. *The Two-Character Play* is his scintillating study of sex,

madness, theatre and the ghosts that haunt all artists. Williams called *The Two-Character Play* his favorite work, his most auto-biographical and his most terrifying.

The characters in this play, Felice and Clare are two actors on tour, they are also brother and sister. They find themselves deserted by their acting troupe in a decrepit "state theatre in an state unknown". Faced (perhaps) by an audience expecting a performance, they enact *The Two-Character Play* – an illusion within an illusion, an “out cry” from isolation, panic, and fear. *The Two-Character Play* has a concurrent double plot with the convention of a play within a play scenario. The characters of Clare and Felice are psychologically damaged from witnessing the traumatic murder/suicide of their parents. They have remained recluses in the family home since the incident and are attempting to make hesitant contact with the outside world. As the actors dip in and out of performance, improvising parts not memorized or not yet written, it becomes increasingly difficult to differentiate the actors from the characters and reality from illusion. "I think it is my most beautiful play since *Streetcar*," Tennessee Williams said, "and I've never stopped working on it....It is a *cri de coeur*, but then all creative work, all life, in a sense is a *cri de coeur*."

Thomas Lanier "Tennessee" Williams III (March 26, 1911 – February 25, 1983) was an American writer who worked principally as a playwright in the American theater. He also wrote short stories, novels, poetry, essays, screenplays and a volume of memoirs. His professional career lasted from the mid 1930s until his death in 1983, and saw the creation of many plays that are regarded as classics of the American stage. Williams adapted much of his best known work for the cinema.

Williams received virtually all of the top theatrical awards for his works of drama, including a Tony Award for best play for *The Rose Tattoo* (1951) and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1948) and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955). In 1980 he was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter and is today acknowledged as one of the most accomplished playwrights in the history of English speaking theater.

Theater scholar Charlotte Canning, of the University of Texas at Austin where William's archives are located, has said, "There is no more influential 20th-century American playwright than Tennessee Williams... He inspired future generations of writers as diverse as Suzan-Lori Parks, Tony Kushner, David Mamet and John Waters, and his plays remain among the most produced in the world."

John Fisher (Writer/Director) Fisher's plays include *The Joy of Gay Sex*, which was produced Off-Broadway, and *Medea: The Musical*, which was produced on HBO. Recent projects include *Ishi: The Last of the Yahi* at Theatre Rhino and *Red Scare on Sunset* at ACT. John is a two-time winner of the Will Glickman Playwright Award, and a recipient of the NEA Grant, a GLAAD Media Award, two *L.A. Weekly* Awards, a Garland Award, two Cable Car Awards, a *San*

Francisco Bay Guardian Goldie Award, and five Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Awards. John holds a Ph.D. in Dramatic Art from the University of California, Berkeley and has taught at UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz and at the Yale School of Drama. Recent work includes *SexRev: The Jose Sarria Experience*, a Theatre Rhino production at CounterPULSE.

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.