



**For Immediate Release: Theatre**

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Cast & director available for interviews, high-res pics available for download at

<http://therhino.org/press-room>

Theatre Rhinoceros Presents

***All's Well that Ends Well***

Rhino's annual roving, queer Shakespeare tradition comes home to the Castro

May 23 - June 2, 2024

May 9, 2024, San Francisco - Things are (*gestures broadly*) a mess, and so is the world of topsy-turvy morals, jealous lovers, and highly questionable "pranks" in Shakespeare's socially problematic romance *All's Well that Ends Well*. What better group to revel in, and eventually make sense of, such a mess than a roving band of queer, gender non-conforming, and trans-generational theatre folks?

Director John Fisher's vision of the production, which starts inside Rhino's Castro theatre venue (representing the characters' home in France) and moves outside to a nearby park (representing their time abroad and at war in Italy), has been cast with what could be described as gender anarchy - protagonist Helena is played by a Black male actor (Omar Stewart), Bertram is played a white woman (Julie Lamb), and Fontana Butterfield does triple duty as both monarchs of the warring nations, as well as the assisting Widow to Helena's marital scheme. If Shakespeare is a mirror for human relationships through time, this prism of talent is sure to cast new light on current and evolving politics of race, age, and especially gender.

Audience members should note that *All's Well that Ends Well* includes an exterior performance portion that will require audience members to walk, at a moderate pace, a total of 8 blocks, with several pauses to observe scenes. This path is wheelchair accessible and only involves pedestrian-accessible sidewalks, crosswalks, and public areas. Please dress for late evening San Francisco weather. Accessibility questions or concerns can be directed to Crystal at [cliu@therhino.org](mailto:cliu@therhino.org).

*All's Well that Ends Well* starts May 23rd and is adapted and directed by Theatre Rhinoceros' Executive Artistic Director John Fisher, starring an ensemble of eight Bay Area actors. This production is made possible by support from The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc, Grants for the Arts, Horizons Foundation, The Geller-Sullivan Trust, The Bob Ross Foundation, Tom Horn, Ira Kurlander and Andy Guest, and the donors and supporters of Theatre Rhinoceros.

Theatre Rhinoceros was founded in 1977, and is the longest running LGBTQ+ 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.

## Calendar Editors

- What: **All's Well that Ends Well**
- When: May 23 & 24, 2024 (preview performances)  
May 25, 2024 (opening/press night)  
May 26 - June 2, 2024 (Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 7 PM;  
Sundays at 3 PM)
- Where: Theatre Rhinoceros, 4229 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Castro Street MUNI Station; F Market, 33 Stanyan, 24 Divisadero  
Streetcar and Bus Lines
- Tickets: \$35 regular/ \$17.50 for students, seniors, & veterans
- Info / Res: <https://therhino.audience1st.com/store/8>; <https://fb.me/e/1W2cyiXt1>

The world of topsy-turvy morals, jealous lovers, and highly questionable “pranks” in Shakespeare’s socially problematic romance *All’s Well that Ends Well* has its queer, gender non-conforming reckoning in Theatre Rhinoceros’ new indoor-outdoor Castro production. *All’s Well that Ends Well* is adapted and directed by John Fisher. The cast features Bay Area actors **Elio Amador**, **Fontana Butterfield**, **Michael DeMartini**, **John Fisher** (member, Actors’ Equity Association), **Sam Hattersley**, **Julie Lamb**, **Kara S. Poon**, and **Omar Stewart**. The creative team includes Lighting Design by **Colin Johnson**. Audience members should note that *All’s Well that Ends Well* includes an exterior performance portion that will require audience members to walk, at a moderate pace, a total of 8 blocks, with several pauses to observe scenes. This path is wheelchair accessible and only involves pedestrian-accessible sidewalks, crosswalks, and public areas. Accessibility questions or concerns can be directed to Crystal at [cliu@therhino.org](mailto:cliu@therhino.org). Please dress for late evening San Francisco weather. The Production Stage Manager is **Quinn Todd**. The production is made possible with generous support from The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.

**Hi-res Digital Images Available for Download at:** <http://therhino.org/press-room>

## The Artists

**Elio Amador** (“Clown”) (he/they) is a queer Chicane actor based in the Bay Area. He was last seen in The 2023 *Fresh Baked Pears* One-Act Festival. They also performed in *The Emperor’s New Posts* for NCTC’s YouthAware program, and was seen last year in the Musical Cafe Fall Showcase. Last spring they completed actor training via ACT’s SF Semester program. Before that he was an understudy for Margaret/Verges in SF Shakes’ *Much Ado About Nothing*. He loves to explore various genres and stretch his comfort zone. They are grateful to everyone who has supported them in their creative journey.

**Fontana Butterfield** (“King/Duke/Widow”) - As a young queer actor in the early 90’s, Fontana found sanctuary at Theatre Rhino performing in *This Side of Butch* and *Jumping The Broom* among others. Theater credits include: *A Good Neighbor* at Z Space, Custom Made’s *Thrush and the Woodpecker*, *An Ideal Husband* at Marin Shakespeare Company, *One Man, Two Guvnors* at Berkeley Rep and South Coast Rep, and *The Miser*, *King Lear*, and *Three Musketeers* at Shotgun Players. Fontana’s improv

trio, *The Right Now*, tours across the country and her solo show, *Flower Child: Stories of a Hippy Childhood*, recently premiered at The Marsh Theater in San Francisco.

**Michael DeMartini** ("Countess") is extremely thrilled to finally move on up in the echelon of the Theatre Rhinoceros community - one day a "Madam," the next, a "Countess". He was last seen in the role of Madam Red Hook in the world premiere of *The Pride of Lions* by Roger Q. Mason.

**John Fisher\*** (Director, "Parolles") enjoyed an eight-month run of his show *A History of World War II* at The Marsh, after playing two successful runs of the show in Manhattan (United Solo Festival/Theatre Row – Best Actor Award - and Pangea Performance Venue) and another in Los Angeles (The Broadwater). He is a two-time winner of the Will Glickman Playwright Award, as well as being a recipient of the GLAAD Media Award, the Theatre Bay Area Award, two Cable Car Awards, The Bay Guardian Goldie Award, the BackStage West Garland Award, and seven Critics' Circle Awards. His plays include the award-winning *Action Hero*, *Shakespeare Goes to War*, *To Sleep and Dream*, *Combat!*, and *Medea, The Musical*, recently showcased in NYC and soon to open there Off-Broadway.

\*Actor is a member of Actors' Equity Association.

**Sam Hattersley** ("Lafeu") was previously seen with Theatre Rhinoceros in their production of *Pericles*. Previous credits include *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Julie Lamb** ("Bertram") loved performing from an early age and grew up dancing in full-length ballets and as part of a student-run dance group in college. Since then, she has taken numerous acting classes, most extensively with the Yat/Bentley Centre for Performance. A self-described Shakespeare super-fan, she made her acting debut last spring as Miranda in Inferno Theatre Company's production of *The Tempest*. Last fall, she continued her Shakespeare journey as Margaret in Bard Theater's *Much Ado About Nothing* and is thrilled to now delve into the complexities of *All's Well That Ends Well* with the wonderful cast at Theatre Rhinoceros!

**Kara S. Poon** ("Diana") is delighted to join Theatre Rhinoceros after last appearing as the quirky bellhop Melissa in *Reservations* (Ross Valley Players) and the femme fatale Ophelia in *Fortinbras* (Actors Ensemble of Berkeley). She studied Comparative Literature, and Theatre & Performance studies at UC Berkeley ('2020), as well as English Dramaturgy at the University of Cambridge. Her wide range of passions include makeup design, piano and saxophones, and exploring flavorful wines. Kara's array of experiences around the world, as well as her identity as a disabled artist, has informed her mission to tell stories in as universally accessible ways as possible.

**Omar Stewart** ("Helena"), a Michigan native, recently moved from Beijing, China, where he performed with an improv troupe. Now in San Francisco, he looks forward to immersing himself in the vibrant theater scene, bringing his unique background and passion for storytelling to the stage.

**Quinn Todd** (Stage Manager) has been in the Bay Area for 5 years. Quinn has worked in the queer drag nightlife scene since the beginning of the pandemic with dozens of drag artists like Mary Vice, Carnie Asada, and Mocha Falalatte as a resident show stage manager for shows such as Pillows, Carnies Playhouse, and Polly's Follies. The logistics and wrangling the performers together as well as setting stage for each person struck a burning passion for stage management and production logistics. They've been in theatre production for the last 2 years and have fine tuned their craft assisting behind the scenes to make each show come alive.

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### **Public Service Announcements / Radio**

#### 15 seconds

Theatre Rhinoceros presents *All's Well that Ends Well*.

Shakespeare's socially problematic romance has its queer, gender non-conforming reckoning in Theatre Rhinoceros' new indoor-outdoor Castro production. Audience members should note that *All's Well that Ends Well* includes an exterior performance portion that will require audience members to walk, at a moderate pace, a total of 8 blocks, with several pauses to observe scenes. *All's Well that Ends Well* opens May 25, 2024 and runs for two weeks only! through June 2 at Theatre Rhinoceros, 4229 18th St. in San Francisco. Previews May 23 & 24. Visit [TheRhino.org](http://TheRhino.org) for more details.

#### 30 seconds

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#### 1 minute

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The world of topsy-turvy morals, jealous lovers, and highly questionable "pranks" in Shakespeare's socially problematic romance *All's Well that Ends Well* has its queer, gender non-conforming reckoning in Theatre Rhinoceros' new indoor-outdoor Castro production. When Helena is spurned by her would-be husband Bertram, she stops at nothing to win his hand, and no one can stop her - not him, not his mother, not Helena's friends, nor the King of France herself. *All's Well that Ends Well* is adapted and directed by Theatre Rhinoceros' Executive Artistic Director John Fisher, and features Bay Area actors **Elio Amador, Fontana Butterfield, Michael DeMartini, John Fisher, Sam Hattersley, Julie Lamb, Kara S. Poon, and Omar Stewart**. Audience members should note that *All's Well that Ends Well* includes an exterior performance portion that will require audience members to walk, at a moderate pace, a total of 8 blocks, with several pauses to observe scenes. Made possible with generous support

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