



For Immediate Release: Theatre

Contact: John Fisher, Executive Artistic Director

(917) 553-7165 (do not publish this number) or jofish94117@yahoo.com

Cast & director available for interviews, high-res pics available for download at <http://therhino.org/press-room>

Theatre Rhinoceros and SAFEHouse

present

Doodler

John Fisher, the unsolved Castro murders, and the art of doing it (almost) all himself

EXTENDED!

April 12 – May 2

At SAFEhouse, 145 Eddy Street, San Francisco, 94102

(Please note new venue.)

March 31, 2025, San Francisco – After sellout houses and glowing reviews, DOODLER extends with new dates and a new venue. Don't miss the show the critics have called "chilling," "gripping," a "masterpiece," "a joy to watch," "compelling," "witty," and "very enjoyable,"* and audiences have heralded as "super energetic and interesting," "athletic," "great," and a "fantastic story and performance."** DOODLER tells the tale of the "Doodler," who terrorized San Francisco in the 1970s. All of his victims were gay men. He picked them up in the Castro and Polk Gulch neighborhoods, had sex with them in the Outsidelands, and then stabbed them to death. When he met each man he presented him with something, something that charmed him. This is the story of a gay man who is determined to find the Doodler and revenge the death of one of his victims.

Fifty years later, the case is still open, and the yet unidentified "Doodler" is the subject of John Fisher's latest one-man show.

In a unique "take" on the on the one-man show format, for the four weeks of *Doodler's* performance run, John Fisher will truly be a one-man show - running his own lights and sound from the stage, house managing, even selling concessions and merchandise, while enacting a complex, true San Francisco story with a still-beating heart, for the Doodler case was recently re-opened.

Doodler was presented as a two-part E.S.P. (Essential Serviced Project) performance on Zoom and Facebook Live during the Pandemic. It was a production of Theatre Rhinoceros. *Doodler* was developed as a live performance piece and presented in a workshop production at The Tank in New York City in January 2025. It originally played at Theatre Rhinoceros in February and March of 2025.

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: **Doodler**
- When: April 11, 2025 (preview performance)
April 12, 2025 (re-opening)
April 17 – May 2, 2025: Check listing for show dates and show times
- Dates and
Times: April 11 @ 700pm
April 12 @ 700pm
April 17 @ 700pm
April 19 @ 300pm
April 26 @ 100pm
April 27 @ 200pm
May 1 @ 700pm
May 2 @ 700pm
- Where: SAFEhouse, 145 Eddy St., San Francisco, CA 94102
(Powell Street MUNI/BART Station; All Market Street Buses and Muni lines)
Please note change of venue; performances ARE NOT AT THEATRE
RHINOCEROS
- Tickets: \$20 regular/ \$10.00 for students, seniors, veterans, TBA members, artists,
community
- Reservations: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1306860016489?aff=oddtcreator>
- Press: <https://www.therhino.org/press-room>

In 1974-1975, about two years before the inception of Theatre Rhinoceros itself, a serial killer known as “The Doodler” was responsible for multiple deaths in the Ocean Beach and Golden Gate Park area of San Francisco. All of his victims were gay men, according to the latest official update from the San Francisco Police Department on January 24, 2023. Fifty years later, the case is still open, and the yet unidentified “Doodler” is the subject of John Fisher’s latest one-man show, the fourth show of Rhino’s 46th season - a complex, true San Francisco story with a still-beating heart.

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

The Artist

JOHN FISHER (Playwright/Director/Actor) recently completed a successful NYC Off-Broadway run of his show *Medea: The Musical* at the Actor’s Temple, after an initial run at Green Room 42 in NYC. Also recently, he enjoyed a six-month run of his solo-show *A History of World War II* at The Marsh, preceded by two runs of the show in Manhattan (United Solo/Theatre Row – Best Actor Award - and Pangea Performance Space) and another in Los Angeles (the Broadwater.) He is a two-time winner of the Will

Glickman Award, as well as being a recipient of the GLAAD Media Award, an NEA Project Grant and ten Critics' Circle Awards (most recently for Best Production for *Cabaret* in 2024.) His plays include the award-winning *Action Hero*, *Shakespeare Goes to War*, *To Sleep and Dream*, *Combat!* and *Medea, the Musical*. Previous COVID-19 performances include *Murder in Hawaii*, *Shark!* and *A Tourist in London*. John's COVID-19 plays *A Tourist in Hawaii* and *A Tourist in London* were revived online at The Marsh. He is frequent performer of his solo work at Pangea NYC, The Tank NYC and the LGBTQ Center in Manhattan. John has worked at Golden Thread, the American Conservatory Theatre, Yale, and Berkeley Rep, as well as at the HBO Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen. www.JohnLathamFisher.com.

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SAFEhouse (Saving Arts from Extinction) for the Performing Arts is an artist's cooperative with a special focus on contemporary dance and provides creative space for a diverse range of Bay Area artists through residencies, events, skill-building and leadership. Our work is dedicated to promoting arts education and building a vibrant and inclusive San Francisco arts community.

*Review pull-quotes taken from below coverage.

**Audience reactions taken from audience survey forms.

Doodler Reviews/Press

"Fisher's commanding presence and talent are quite engaging in this chilling and compelling narrative. With its blend of historical intrigue and theatrical tension, *Doodler* is a gripping production that is well worth experiencing—if you don't mind looking over your shoulder at every sound you hear upon leaving the theatre."

Chuck Loudon

Stage and Cinema

"John Fisher Unleashes Solo Masterpiece on Gay Injustice... John Fisher has written, teched, designed, and performed one of his great Essential Services Projects, transferring from video to live stage at The Rhino in The Castro. Who would want to miss Fisher at his best, climbing the rafters, peddling his bike furiously, and tracking down a gay murderer? ... In a series of witty encounters, Fisher encounters a bullying police detective, some gay heroes, and rampant disregard for gay lives. He's funny, tragic, hectic, and moving by turns. Fisher, a master manipulator, is totally in charge of his art. Keep your eyes on him for every moment; he's a quicksilver actor in total control of his body and his material. A joy to watch."

Barry Horwitz

Theatrus

“Very impressive! Very enjoyable!”

Charles Kruger

Theatre Storm

“John Fisher Resurrects SF Doodler Serial Killer Cold Case”

Charles Lewis III

SFGate/SF Chronicle

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/theatre-rhino-s-john-fisher-resurrects-sf-20149119.php>

“Two SF Crime Stories”

Jim Gladstone

Bay Area Reporter

<https://www.ebar.com/story/337579/redirect/>

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Public Service Announcements / Radio

15 seconds

John Fisher’s hit one-man show *Doodler* extends!

After sellout houses and glowing reviews, DOODLER extends with new dates and a new venue. Don’t miss the show the critics have called “chilling,” “gripping,” a “masterpiece,” “a joy to watch,” “compelling,” “witty,” and “very enjoyable,”* and audiences have heralded as “super energetic and interesting,” “athletic,” “great,” and a “fantastic story and performance.”

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30 seconds

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1 minute

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