



For Immediate Release: Theatre

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

Theatre Rhinoceros Presents

A Guide for the Homesick

Queer, alone, together: Ken Urban's heart-wrenching 2017 play sees SF premiere

February 23 - March 19, 2023

January 8, 2023, San Francisco - In this electrifyingly intimate, two-actor drama, a young aid worker goes back to a shabby Amsterdam hotel room with a fellow American, after spending a year in East Africa. Over beers, and with increasing tensions of every kind, the two strangers confess their shared fear that they betrayed the friends who needed them most. Every beat of dialogue and action is fraught, feverish even, blending past and present, always on the verge of release, or maybe collapse. Both actors are each tasked with portraying two fully developed characters, occupying separate realities of time, space, and memory, adding layers of turmoil, disorientation, and tragedy to a story that is sure to keep audiences holding their breath and white-knuckling their seats.

Although the pains of isolation and unbelonging are nothing new to many members of the LGBTQ+ community at home and overseas, these despairing feelings seem to have been globalized and magnified ten-fold over the course of the past few years. Indeed *A Guide for the Homesick* at Theatre Rhinoceros, first pitched by producer Joe Tally to director Alan S. Quismorio in 2019, is yet another production in the long line of Bay Area stage concepts that managed to survive the interruption of COVID-19, emerging out of its contextual wake with an unexpected new relevance and urgency.

"While it speaks on mental health and the persecution of LGBTQ+ folx in Uganda, [the play] is really about how we are responsible for each other," says Quismorio, a fixture in the San Francisco Bay Area theatre and gay advocacy scene bringing decades of professional experience to The Rhino. "The protagonists Jeremy and Teddy realize that they, in their own ways, lacked the ability to broaden their conscientiousness in time to activate, and now here they are, alone together - feeling alone together - in a hotel room bandaging their remorse."

As for a path forward through this personal and collective despair? Quismorio quotes "the great modern sophist Jillian Michaels: 'A bad day for your ego is a great day for your soul.'"

A Guide for the Homesick premiered at Huntington Theatre in Boston in 2017 and ran at Trafalgar Studios in London's West End in 2018; in its San Francisco premiere, it is directed by Alan S. Quismorio, produced by Joe Tally, and performed by local actors Ian Brady, in the roles of JEREMY/ED, and Jordan Covington, in the roles of TEDDY/NICHOLAS, at Theatre Rhinoceros, the longest-running LGBTQ+ theatre in the world.

Calendar Editors

- What: **A Guide for the Homesick**
- When: February 23-24, 2023 (preview performances)
February 25 - March 19, 2023 (Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 8 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: \$25 regular/ \$12.50 for students, seniors, & veterans
- Info / Res: https://therhino.audience1st.com/store/8?show_id=95/ or
<https://fb.me/e/38B0DLAJJ>

In **Ken Urban**'s electrifyingly intimate drama *A Guide for the Homesick*, a young aid worker goes back to a shabby Amsterdam hotel room with a fellow American, after spending a year in East Africa. Over beers, and with increasing tensions of every kind, the two strangers confess their shared fear that they betrayed the friends who needed them most. Overlapping tragedies unfold in this feverishly close setting, begging for connection and forgiveness between these two men who cling to each other alone, together. In its San Francisco premiere at Theatre Rhinoceros, *A Guide for the Homesick* is directed by **Alan S. Quismorio**, produced by **Joe Tally**, and performed by actors **Ian Brady** and **Jordan Covington**. The production team is composed of **Isaac Traister**, **Colin Johnson**, and **Wesley Murphy**.

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

The Artists

Ken Urban is an award-winning playwright whose work for the stage and screen engages the pressing political issues of our time, while avoiding simple didacticism and the false comfort of cynicism. As a playwright, his work includes *A Guide for the Homesick*, *The Remains*, *Sense of an Ending*, and *The Happy Sad*. He is the Senior Lecturer and Head of Dramatic Writing in the Music and Theater Arts program at MIT.

Alan S. Quismorio is a Co-Artistic Director of The Chikahan Company, a Filipinx American theatre company based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has also served in Artistic Director roles for the Alchemy Program for Emerging Playwrights at the Jon Sims Center, Asian American Theater Company, and Bindlestiff Studio. His early experiences in San Francisco were with Asian AIDS Foundation's theatre outreach program, Love Like This, and as an original member of GAPA Theatre. An alumnus of Crowded Fire Theatre, he appeared in their productions of *49 Miles*, *Slaughter City*, and *One Big Lie*. As a director, his works include *Dooley* (Alchemy Program & New Conservatory Theatre), *Thunder Above*, *Deeps Below* (Bindlestiff Studio), and Theatre Rhino's inaugural pop-up theatre production of *The Underpants Godot*. He was last seen in Theatre Rhino's world premiere of Boni B. Alvarez's *Driven*.

Joe Tally is the Head Librarian at American Conservatory Theatre and was Theatre Rhinoceros' Director of Development from 2016 thru 2022.

Ian Brady (he/him) is a proud queer Pennsylvanian graciously based in Berkeley, CA. Recent Bay Area credits include *Panto at the Presidio*, *Blood at the Root* (Custom Made Theatre Co.), *Today I Live* (3Girls Theatre) & *Macbeth* (Berkeley Shakespeare Company). He portrays "Jeremy/Ed" in *A Guide for the Homesick*.

Jordan Covington is a native Bay Area actor where his credits range from stage to on screen. Some local stage credits include *Perfect* (Playground-SF), *Spell #7* (Lower Bottom Playaz), and *Music of Mothers* (3Girls Theatre). He portrays "Teddy/Nicholas" in *A Guide for the Homesick*.

Isaac Traister is Stage Manager for *A Guide for the Homesick*.

Colin Johnson is Lighting Designer for *A Guide for the Homesick*.

Wesley Murphy is Sound Designer for *A Guide for the Homesick*.

Theatre Rhinoceros was founded in San Francisco 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. Over the years Theatre Rhinoceros has received many awards of recognition including: Theatre Rhinoceros Day in the City Proclamation from Mayor Gavin Newsom, 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.

Public Service Announcements / Radio

15 seconds

Theatre Rhinoceros presents *A Guide for the Homesick*.

Written by award-winning playwright Ken Urban and directed by Alan S. Quismorio, *A Guide for the Homesick* is a story of betrayal, connection, and alone-ness between two strangers in an Amsterdam hotel room. *A Guide for the Homesick* opens February 25, 2023 and runs through March 19 at Theatre Rhinoceros, 4229 18th St. in San Francisco. Previews February 23 and 24. Visit TheRhino.org for more details.

30 seconds

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1 minute

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