

## Department of Theatre

2009-2010 Season

*A Streetcar Named Desire*, by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Dennis McLernon

October 7-10 7:30pm, October 11 2:00pm

The Sirote Theatre

*Eurydice*, by Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Karla Koskinen

November 11-14 & 18-21 7:30pm, November 22 2:00pm

The Odess Theatre

*Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, by August Wilson

Directed by Cheryl Hall

February 10-13 7:30pm, February 14 2:00pm

The Sirote Theatre

*How I Learned To Drive*, by Paula Vogel

Directed by Dustin Cañez

March 3-6, March 10-12 7:30pm, March 13 2:00pm

The Odess Theatre

*The Miser*, by Moliere

Directed by Dennis McLernon

April 21-24 7:30pm, April 25 2:00pm

The Sirote Theatre

For Individual Tickets please call ASC Box Office  
975-2787

## Alabama Shakespeare Festival & Theatre UAB

Present:

*Camp Shakespeare Extreme: In Birmingham*

Teen Summer Shakespeare Intensive

UAB Alys Stephens Center

Grades 7-12

June 15-19 9 am – 4 pm

\$200 Workshop Fee

Instructors from UAB staff will lead this intensive camp for students who are prepared to dig deeper into Shakespeare's world and his text, explore complex characters and discover new levels of theatrical expression.

For Information Contact Greta Lambert at 334/271-5393 or Meg Lewis at 334/271-5326. Camp information online at [www.asf.net](http://www.asf.net)

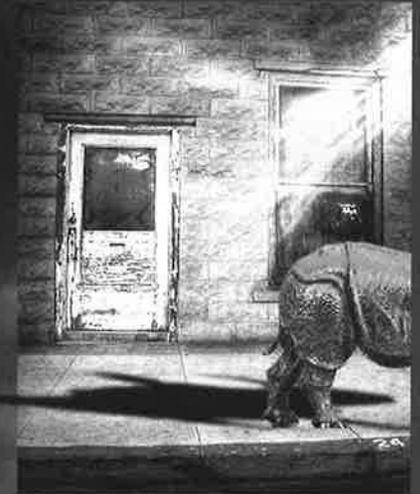
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

## Department of Theatre

at the Sirote Theatre

in the Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center

2008-09 SEASON



UAB  
Department of Theatre  
Presents

# rhinoceros

by eugene ionesco

directed by will york

## OVATION UAB

### (Sponsored by Theatre Advisory Committee)

Opening nights at Theatre UAB are OVATION UAB nights. OVATION UAB sponsors a box dinner and conversation with the director and designers before the show, as well as a post-performance party with the cast and crew.

Join us! You will be able to invite your friends to enjoy a tasty meal before the plays, be already parked and ready to settle back for an evening of live theatre.

OVATION UAB has the mission to support and sponsor the students working backstage and performing in Theatre UAB. Membership dues, ranging from \$10 - \$2500, are used to off-set the costs required of each student to participate in the productions.

To become a member of OVATION UAB, please pick up a brochure in the lobby outside the theatre and complete the form. Follow mailing directions listed in the brochure.

**Help us support our rising stars!**

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT OVATION UAB MEMBERS

#### Founding Members

Russell Drummond, Col. Daniel D. Hall,  
Patty McDonald, Carol Odess,  
Chandler S. Smith, Jane Paris Smith,  
BBS Martha Moore Sykes Fund

#### 2008-2009 Members

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Brouwer,  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Carlisle, Louise Cecil,  
Mel Christian, Glen Conn, Melanie A. Crane,  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dawson,  
Linda DeRocher, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Erdreich,  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Freeman, Pat Fresk,  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Glaze,  
Darlene Gray, Dr. and Mrs. Ward Haarbauer,  
S. David Herring,  
Patty McDonald, Carol Odess,  
Herb Patterson, W. B. Philips,  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rentschler,  
Dr. and Mrs. John Smith,  
Martha Moore Sykes,  
Dr. John Van Sant, Joyce Whitten and Will York



## The Kennedy Center

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival-

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sponsored in part by

Stephen and Christine Schwarzman  
The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund  
U.S. Department of Education  
The National Committee for the Performing Arts  
Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2009.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

## Theatre UAB Production Staff

Production Manager.....Kelly Allison  
Technical Director.....Ed Zuckerman\*  
Costume Studio Supervisor.....Elizabeth Ayres Pollard  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Program Manager.....Mel Christian  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Stage Electrics Director.....Sarah Jordan  
Properties Master.....Phillip Anderson\*  
Scenic Studio Foreman/Master Carpenter.....Lee Adlaf  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Assistant Costume Studio Supervisor.....Sharon Morgan  
Scenic Studio Assistants.....Atom Bennett\*, Jordan Bohl\*, Kirstie Crumly,  
Britta McCaffrey  
Lighting Assistants.....Tim Craig\*, Kate Jolly, Jonathon Offutt\*,  
Connor Strickland  
Costume Assistants.....Sarah Brandt\*, Kristina Howard\*, Megan King\*,  
Alix Moses, Amanda Murrah\*, Kendra Peine\*,  
Properties Assistants.....Brenton Bellomy\*, Dustin Canez\*,  
Natalie Kinsaul, Rachel Landress  
Media Relations.....Shannon Thomason  
House Manager.....Jerry Sims  
Associate House Manager.....Ed Rosendahl



## **Theatre UAB Advisory Committee**

Russell S. Drummond  
Dr. Ward Haarbauer  
Jonathan Harrison  
Patty McDonald  
Bob Rentschler  
Nancy Rentschler  
Holly Tourney  
Pierre Tourney  
Joyce Whitten, Chair  
Chalethia Williams

The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Department of Theatre  
and  
Patty McDonald and W.B. Philips, Jr.  
present

# Rhinoceros

By Eugene Ionesco

Translated by Derek Prouse

*Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.*

Stage Manager  
**Joey Kiker\***

Costume/Make-Up Design  
**Elizabeth Ayers Pollard**

Lighting/EFX Design  
**Ed Zuckerman\***

Audio Design  
**Kelly Allison**

Scenic Design  
**Cliff Simon**

Voice Coach  
**Marlene Johnson\***

**Directed by  
Will York\***

**Opening Night: Wednesday, April 22, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**

*Please note that Strobe lights will be used in this production.*

\*Member of Psi Beta Cast, Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honorary.

This production is funded in part by The UAB Cultural Activities Committee

## CAST

Berenger.....Jon Prensner\*  
The Old Gentleman.....Muhammad Al-Kahlout  
The Housewife.....Elena Ray  
Jean.....Benoît Johnson\*  
The Waitress.....Catie Cole  
The Logician.....Brenton Bellomy  
The Grocer's Wife.....Julie Gafnea  
The Café Proprietor.....Jereme Lewis\*  
Daisy.....Emilie Soffe\*  
Dudard.....Matthew Sanford  
Botard.....Daniel Norwood  
Mr. Papillon.....Daniel Martin\*  
Mrs. Boeuf.....Whitney Rooks  
Firemen.....Brenton Bellomy, Jereme Lewis\*

## Synopsis of Scenes

### Act One

**Scene One:** A square in a small French provincial town. Midday on a Sunday in Summer

**Scene Two:** The office of a firm of law publications. The following morning.

### Act Two

**Scene One:** Jean's Room. The Afternoon of the same day.

**Scene Two:** Berenger's room. A few days later

*The play will be performed with one fifteen minute intermission.*

## Dramaturgical Notes

by Jordan Reeves

Although heralded as one of the greatest Romanian playwrights, Eugene Ionesco (1909-1994) lived most of his life in France and wrote drama in French. Ionesco holds a special place in the post-World-War-II avant-garde movement known as Theatre of the Absurd. The dramatic trend he started with his first play, *The Bald Soprano* (1948), emphasizes the "absurdity of human existence by employing disjointed, repetitious, and meaningless dialogue, purposeless and confusing situations, and plots that lack realistic or logical development" (The Free Dictionary, online). Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* (1959) demonstrates all of these characteristics but also adds a significant dose of social criticism and political awareness.

On January 25, 1960, *Rhinoceros* premiered at the Odéon in Paris under the direction of famous actor-director Jean Louis Barrault. Shortly after that it was produced in London under the direction of Orson Welles, starring Lawrence Olivier in the part of Berenger. The peculiar collaboration between these two powerful creative forces inspired Austin Pendleton's full length play *Orson's Shadow*. At first, *Rhinoceros* was not well-received., but it gained world fame with its Broadway production, starring Zero Mostel and Eli Wallach. In 1974, the play was made into a film by famous Broadway director Tom O'Horgan, with Zero Mostel as Jean and Gene Wilder as Berenger.

*Continued on next page.*

## Theatre UAB Faculty

Kelly Allison, Professor.....Head of Design and Production  
Jack Cannon\*, Assistant Professor.....Acting/Intro to Theatre  
Ward Haarbauer .....Professor Emeritus  
Cheryl Hall\*, Assistant Professor.....Intro to Theatre  
Ron Hubbard, Associate Professor.....Movement  
Karma Ibsen.....Professor Emeritia  
Marlene Johnson\*, Assistant Professor.....Acting/Voice  
Karla Koskinen, Associate Professor.....Acting/Directing  
Dennis McLernon, Associate Professor.....Head of Performance  
Elizabeth Ayres Pollard, Assistant Professor.....Costume Technology  
Kimberly Schnormeier, Associate Professor/Associate Chair.....Costume Design  
Lee Shackelford\*, Assistant Professor..... Playwriting  
Cliff Simon, Associate Professor.....Scene Design  
Vessela Warner, Assistant Professor.....Theatre History  
Will York\*, Professor..... Chair  
Ed Zuckerman\*, Associate Professor.....Technical Director

### Adjunct Faculty

Bethe Ensey.....Acting, Intro to Theatre  
Martha Haarbauer.....Acting  
Charlotte Lantz.....Dance  
Billie Sheldon.....Administrative Associate

### **Dramaturgical Notes, *continued***

by Jordan Reeves

*Rhinoceros* undoubtedly reflects Ionesco's personal experience and worldview. The writer struggled through his childhood, trying to understand his place in a broken bicultural family. For the rest of his life, Ionesco was seeking to reconcile his "conflicting cultural and linguistic natures"—the Romanian and French one—which ultimately made him see the world as estranged, kaleidoscopic, and absurd (Matei Calinescu, *East European Politics and Societies: Ionesco and Rhinoceros*). At age of 13, Ionesco moved to Romania, where his father was able to provide him with a good education. During the 16 years he spent in Romania, Ionesco witnessed the rise of Fascism and the succumbing of local people, including his father, to this inhumane ideology sustained by a primitive and bureaucratic state. The writer solidified his political and social positions which heavily influenced his later works, including *Rhinoceros*.

Our production invites the viewers to engage in self-investigation of their own political and moral beliefs as they watch Berenger's conflict with a unifying, menacing, and ludicrous social environment.

(For more information on the play, visit Dramaturgy Page at: <http://theatre.hum.uab.edu/shows/08-09/rhinoceros.htm>)

**Special Thanks to:** David E. Crutcher

## Staff for this Production

Cutter/Draper.....Sharon Morgan  
Assistant Stage Managers.....Taylor Campbell\*, Megan King\*  
Dramaturge.....Jordan Reeves\*  
Audio Design Assistant.....Lindsay Allen\*  
Scenic Design Assistant.....Kate Jolly  
Lighting Design Assistant.....Kirstie Crumly  
Master Properties Artisan.....Jonathon Offutt\*  
Scenery Construction.....Catie Cole, Danecia Farmer, Jared Funderburg,  
Sharita Hawkins, Noah Holcomb, Kate Jolly,  
Natalie Kinsaul, Peter Krothapalli, Rachel Landress,  
Zachary Latham, Shaun Matthews, Britta McCaffrey,  
James Murrell, Daniel Norwood, Patrick Peek,  
Elena Ray, Whitney Rooks, Emilie Soffe\*, Zack Steele,  
Marci Turner-Holcombe, Mallorie Yance  
Scenic Artists.....Jordan Bohl\*, Taylor Campbell\*, Kirstie Crumly,  
Kate Jolly, Rachel Landress, Cristal Laraé,  
Jonathon Offutt\*, Reid Patton  
Scenery/Properties Running Crew.....Denecia Farmer, Haley Zuckerman  
Lighting Crew.....Atom Bennett\*, Jordan Bohl\*, Sarah Brandt\*,  
Tim Craig\*, Kristina Howard\*, Anissa Jones,  
Kendra Peine\*, William Rainer\*, Olivia Standridge\*,  
Connor Strickland, Caitlin Suggs\*, Stephen Webb\*  
Costume/Craft Construction.....Allison Bramer, Jasmine Cunningham,  
Heather Consuegra, Hillary Evans, Casey Hicks,  
Alana Jordan, Megan King\*, Cristal Laraé,  
Cody Moore, Kristina Pearce, Chelsi Stancil,  
Marci Turner-Holcombe, Haley Zuckerman  
Dressers.....Trista Baker, Lauren Bowling  
Properties Construction .....Brett Matthew Blaylock, Benoît Johnson\*,  
Natalie Kinsaul, Cristal Laraé, Roderick Williams  
Light Board Operator.....Kirstie Crumly  
Audio Board Operator.....Jared Funderburg  
Cover/Poster Design.....Cliff Simon