

SWITCH
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PRESENTS



RHINOCEROS

BY EUGÈNE IONESCO

Jan. 22nd – Feb. 1st, 2026

PSI Theatre at the Durham Arts Council



Switch Theatre Company presents



RHINOCEROS
BY EUGÈNE IONESCO

With

Phillip Andrew Solano Alexa Griffin John-Paul Middlesworth

Dylan Atwood Gus Hummings Archil Megrelishvili

Ali Patalano Jayden Peszko Lydia Sayers

Bryan Squires Lola Ureña

Sound Design

Brooks Fredrickson

Lighting Design

MacKenzie Ulibarri

Costume Design

Lydia Houston

Fight/Intimacy Director

Lily Kays

Props Design

Taylor Bugge

Technical Director

John Paul
Middlesworth

Choreographer

Rohn Wayne

*Assistant Director/
Stage Manager*

Lindsay Womack

Lead Ombudsman

Catherine Coan

Director

Adam Traylor

“Rhinoceros” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com.

This project was supported by the Durham Arts Council’s annual arts fund and the NC Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.

The use of recording devices is prohibited.

A Note from the Director

The world of this production of Rhinoceros lives in a Neo-Jazz Age. It borrows the look, rhythm, and confidence of the 1920s while quietly reflecting the speed and anxiety of today. It is a world that feels modern, stylish, and self-assured, even as its foundations begin to wobble.

The original Jazz Age was a period of rapid change. Technology advanced faster than people could fully absorb. Social roles shifted. Old systems were questioned and replaced with little pause for reflection. It was an era of boldness, optimism, excess, and deep unease. It was also a moment when the desire for order, clarity, and strength began to harden into something more dangerous. We recognize those same tensions in the present day, and that overlap became the lens for this production.

In this world, appearances matter. Personas are polished. Conversations are quick. Confidence is valued over facts. People move with purpose, even when they are unsure of where they are headed. Logic is prized but rarely examined. Being part of the moment feels safer than standing apart.

This is a place that rewards certainty, momentum, and agreement. It looks good. It sounds convincing. And somewhere beyond the music and the laughter, something rigid and absolute is waiting.

Thank you for choosing to join us. You will not be alone.
-Adam Traylor

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Cast (in order of appearance)

The Grocer's Wife.....	ALI PATALANO
The Waitress.....	LOLA UREÑA
The Housewife.....	LYDIA SAYERS
Berenger.....	PHILLIP ANDREW SOLANO
Jean.....	JOHN PAUL MIDDLESWORTH
The Grocer.....	BRYAN SQUIRES
The Old Gentleman.....	DYLAN ATWOOD
The Logician.....	ARCHIL MEGRELISHVILI
The Café Proprietor.....	GUS HUMMINGS
Daisy.....	ALEXA GRIFFIN
Dudard.....	JAYDEN PESZKO
Botard.....	GUS HUMMINGS
Mr. Papillon.....	DYLAN ATWOOD
Mrs. Boeuf.....	LOLA UREÑA
Fireman.....	BRYAN SQUIRES

Scenes

Act 1

Scene 1: A square in a small French provincial town. Midday on a Sunday in summer.

Scene 2: The office of a firm of law publications. The following morning.

Fifteen-minute intermission

Act 2

Scene 1: Jean's apartment, the same afternoon.

Scene 2: Berenger's room, a few days later.



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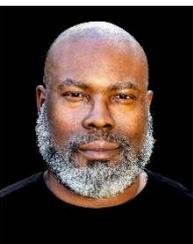
Who's Who in the Cast



Dylan Atwood (Mr. Papillon, Old Gentleman) is excited to be doing *Rhinoceros* with this cast and crew! Previous work includes Roderigo in *Othello* with STC, Gomez Addams in *The Addams Family*, and Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*. Dylan has performed in Goldsboro, Smithfield, Fayetteville, Benson, and always loves coming back to Durham!



Alexa Griffin (Daisy) is delighted to join STC's production of *Rhinoceros*. She recently performed in the Orange County Historical Society's dramatization of the *Third Provincial Congress*. In addition to dancing with the Little River Cloggers, she is the co-founder and director of Feather in a Cap Theatre Company, a Christian nonprofit. Alexa is also a hair and makeup artist at EnV salon. She cherishes time with loved ones including her twelve darling animals. Alexa is thankful for God and her husband, and thanks STC for the opportunity. She adores the character Daisy and hopes to captivate audiences with this performance.



Gus Hummings (Botard, Café Proprietor) fell in love with theater, volunteering as a stage hand at the Winston-Salem Little Theatre. In high school he received awards for drama, starring in *Godspell* and acting and

directing a student production of *Fences* by August Wilson. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he starred in the Student Television production of *General College*. Recently, Mr. Hummings appeared as Dr. Dana Baldwin in *Forged in Fire: The Story of Apex* and Ollie Ford in the Raleigh Little Theatre Production of *Morning After Grace*.



Archil Megrelishvili (Logician) is very excited to be a part of *Rhinoceros* as the Logician, since *Rhinoceros* was the first play he was a part of 8 years ago at Colgate University where he studied Theater!

After *Rhinoceros* he mostly played Romeo in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, and Romeo in Melody Bates' *Romeo & Juliet & Zombies*, as well as every male role in multiple different iterations of Chekhov's *The Seagull*. More recently he was in Theater in the Park's productions of *Hamlet* and *Inherit the Wind*. When he is not acting, he loves playing chess and reading sci-fi novels!



John Paul Middlesworth (Jean) is a founding member of STC and was in their production of *The Tempest* in 2023. He has been with The Durham Savoyards since 2018 and will join the cast of *Princess Ida* this March. He is also active with The Prime Time Players of Chapel Hill, co-writing and directing a murder mystery for the group last December.



Ali Patalano (Grocer's Wife, female u/s) is a junior studying as a dramatic art major at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A few of Ali's previous performances include Nina in *The Seagull*, Raelynn in *John Proctor is the Villain*, and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Ali hopes to pursue a career in performance or theater education and is really excited to be working with STC for the first time in this production! Instagram: @a.l.i._k.a.t



Jayden Peszko (Dudard) is a junior dramatic arts major at UNC Chapel Hill. In his time at UNC, Jayden has been on and off the stage with Playmakers Repertory Company, LAB! Theatre, KTC, the Carolina Bluegrass band and his band Horizon. He is excited to be working with STC for this production of *Rhinoceros* and is thankful for his cast and crew!



Lydia Sayers (Housewife) is thrilled to be a part of her first performance at STC! Prior to her graduation from Rochester Institute of Technology with a BFA in Film and Animation in 2025, she has performed with RIT Players as Lysander (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Jackie (*Mauritius*), Lloyd Allen (*The New Albion Radio Hour*), and Josephine (*Big Fish*). She wants to thank the *Rhinoceros* team for all their hard work to put this incredible show together, as well as

her wonderful family for their encouragement and support!



Phillip Andrew Solano (Berenger) is excited to be a part of his first production with STC. Phillip's first show was *The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs* at Raleigh Little Theatre in 2022. Since then, he has been studying various acting methods, taking classes at Raleigh Little Theatre and Burning Coal, as well as beginning his directing career, directing his first short play at Raleigh Little Theatre's New Voices Program: Culminating Event. His credits include *Misery* and *Akeelah and the Bee* at Raleigh Little Theatre, *Inherit the Wind* with Theatre in the Park, and *UnNamed* with Burning Coal. Phillip aspires to be a professional actor so that he can tell stories that bring joy and inspiration. He would like to thank the cast and crew for their kindness and dedication, you for supporting live theatre, and his family and friends for all of their love, support, and occasional ridicule.



Bryan Squires (Grocer, Fireman) returns to the stage for his second time with STC following 2025's *Shakespeare in the Parks: Othello*. Since entering the industry in 2024 with training at the Raleigh Little Theater, Bryan has appeared in a number of audio dramas and as the narrator for Hillsborough's *Third Provincial Congress* recreation. A North Carolina native and UNC alumni, Bryan lives in Raleigh with his wife Allison and his two cats and dog.



Lola Ureña (Mrs. Boeuf, Waitress) is thrilled to be returning to the stage after a long hiatus. She attended East Carolina University's School of Theatre and Dance where she studied the Meisner acting technique. Most recently she made her Raleigh Little Theatre debut as Elizabeth Sawyer in *Witch*. Previously, she has worked closely with Burning Coal Theatre Company and Theater Delta. She would like to extend gratitude to her loving partner, Mike, for his unending support. Enjoy the show!



Adam Traylor (Director) is a veteran stage director with nearly two decades of experience across professional, collegiate, and community theatre. His work spans farce, classics, absurdist, and contemporary drama, with recent directing credits including *Revolution* with RedBird Theater Company. Past highlights include *Deathtrap*, *Top Girls*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and multiple original adaptations. Adam is the founder of BackStage Cyber, a consultancy helping arts organizations secure their digital infrastructure, and the creator of The Laden Stage, a platform fostering collaboration and storytelling across the local theatre community.



Lindsey Womack (Assistant Director, Stage Manager) is excited to be working with Adam Traylor and the STC Production team as Assistant Director and Stage Manager for *Rhinoceros*. Recent assistant directing credits include *A Christmas Carol*, directed by Tim Seib, and *Silent Sky*, directed by Tracy Bersley, with Center Theater Company. Previous performances include Puff in *Revolution* with RedBird Theater Company and Ensemble in *A Christmas Carol* with Center Theater Company.



Rohn Wayne (Choreographer) was born in Germany with the troops of the US but raised in the Carolinas in the mountains to the West. While new to traditional methods in writing, Rohn Wayne is, at heart, a storyteller. The last two decades have been committed to producing dance works in the genres of contemporary and hip-hop styles under the pseudonym, Black Irish, and the BIRD. While most of the language spoken in dance is visual, physical and ephemeral, the focused styles of contemporary and hip hop have thrust him into understanding and analyzing what is happening in the world and the evolution of language in real time. That cross section of environmental curiosity and narrative absurdism is what keeps pulling him back to the theatre and he's grateful to have his second residency with STC.



Lily Kays (Fight/Intimacy Director) is an Intimacy and Fight Director based out of North Carolina. They have been working in both fields since 2019 and are certified by the Society of American Fight Directors in Unarmed, Knife and Single-Sword combat, as well as workshops and training with IPEC, OPEN Intimacy and TIE for intimacy work. Her work was recently shown in *You Can't Take It with You* (PlayMakers Repertory Company), *Frankenstein* (Blue Box Theater Company) and *The Verge* (UNC Theatre Department) as well as short films *The Farm* (Columbia University and *Libations and Brina* (Adynaton Productions).



Brooks Frederickson (Sound Design, Composer) writes patient music that is grounded in long lines of slowly evolving textures with understated rhythmic drive. Brooks has worked with leading new music ensembles Sō Percussion, the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), and JACK Quartet. Interested in the interaction of movement and sound, he has also collaborated with choreographer Stefanie Batten Bland and the American Ballet Theater Studio Company, choreographer Katherine Helen Fisher, and multi-media artist Julie Rooney. Recent recording projects include his first full length album *Small Works* released through New Amsterdam Records' Windmill Series, his piece *Undertoad* on Bearthoven's release *Trios*. As an advocate for education and community, Brooks has taught students at every level from K-12 in private, group, and classroom settings. Brooks holds degrees in composition

from Duke University (PhD), NYU Steinhardt (MM), and Butler University (BM).



Lydia Henry Houston (Costume Designer) Rhinoceros is her second project with STC. *Othello*, her first in the summer of 2025. She has costumed several productions with the North Carolina Central University Theatre and

Dance Department since 2023. In Fall 2024 she encountered her largest cast with NCCU's production of *The Producers*. She is an avid Sewist with 40+ years sewing and Costuming experience. Graduating with a Degree in Fashion from Bauder College in 2014, Lydia earned The Craftsmanship Award in the Annual Bauder Black Tie Fashion Show. She has designed and sewn costumes for The African American Dance Ensemble, led by Baba Chuck Davis; Collage Dance Company; Suah African Dance Theatre; Hillside High School Dance Dept; NCCU Dance Dept; and several choreographers. Lydia was wardrobe assistant with Cirque du Soliel's *Amaluna* in Atlanta, GA and Miami, FL. She has been a Movie Wardrobe Assistant for a DeVan Clan Production in GA and True Dreams Production in NC. She currently operates ExtremelyLydia Sewing Company. Her motto is "You Design It, I'll Make It." She is also pursuing her dream of offering sewing education to enthusiastic students with Seed Sewers Inc. organization.

Taylor Bugge (Props Designer) is a Carrboro based prop maker and public librarian. She earned her BA in Theatre from Mary Baldwin University and served multiple productions in various roles for Deep Dish Theater, Manbites Dog, and The Carrboro Arts Center. Following a break from theater to focus on earning an MLIS from UNC-Greensboro, she's working her way back into the local theater scene with recent credits for *The Treasurer* and *A Doll's House Part 2*. Favorite past shows include *44 Plays for 44 Presidents*, *Oh! What a Lovely War*, and several *10x10 in the Triangles*.



MacKenzie Ulibarri (Lighting Design)

is grateful to join the STC team for *Rhinoceros*. Born and raised in Fayetteville, she has been passionate about lighting and how it can shape the storytelling experience since interning at Cape Fear Regional Theater when she was 16. In 2022 she graduated from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Theater. Today she is the office manager and resident lighting designer at the Gilbert Theater in Fayetteville. Lighting at the Gilbert: *A Christmas Story*, *Cabaret*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Stop Kiss*, and *Misery*; *At Birth* (OdysseyStage). Directing: Lilith in *Pisces* (Meredith College 2022), *About Rain* (Gilbert Theater's Playfest 2025).

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