

CENTER STAGE 2024-2025 SEASON

Lower Columbia College Department of Drama Presents

Rhinoceros



by Eugene
Ionesco

Translated by
Derek Prouse

directed by
Elizabeth Richard

Performance Dates:

November 15, 16, 21, 23
at 7:30 p.m.;

November 17 at 2 p.m.;

November 22 at 11 a.m.

*Director ~ Elizabeth Richard
Scenic & Sound Design ~ Robert Cochran
Costume Design ~ Quinn Perry
Lighting Design ~ Joe Griffith
Graphic Design ~ Maya Muller*

Time & Place

Act I

Scene One: Noon on a Sunday in a square in a small French provincial town.

Scene Two: The following morning in the office of a law firm publication.

Act II

The afternoon of the same day in Jean's room.

Act III

A few days later in Berenger's room.

There will be one 10 minute intermission

Director's Notes*

Dusseldorf, Germany, October 1959: Eugene Ionesco's strange, new play premiered. Rhinoceroses charged through a provincial town, townspeople turned into rhinoceroses, and a whole society quickly transformed from human to beast, with only one man standing to assert his humanity at the end of the play. *Rhinoceros* received a 10-minute standing ovation. Sixty-five years later, it remains a play for our time, serving as both a warning and a goad to a nation in political crisis.

As a university student, Ionesco saw the rise of Fascism in Bucharest and explained that the message of *Rhinoceros* was an attack on Romanians who became caught up in the "ideological contagion" of Fascist organizations and leaders. Under intense economic and political pressure from the Depression, many Romanians found themselves drawn to fascist movements that blended devotion to the Romanian fatherland with antisemitism and a belief in the redemptive power of violence. Ultimately an alliance was formed with Nazi Germany, Italy, and other Axis powers. Ionesco witnessed personally how extreme fascist groups attracted people from all walks of life. Like the characters in his play, some distracted by petty concerns, succumb out of sheer incomprehension of what is happening around them. Others are drawn to the energy and even beauty of the newly transmogrified beasts. Others surrender gratefully, welcoming a sense of belonging to what they see as "the great universal family" rather than being isolated by their "difference".

As Ionesco recalled, a friend or acquaintance would say to him, "I don't agree with them [the fascists] to be sure, but on certain points, nevertheless, I must admit, for example, the Jews...". To Ionesco, such a statement foreshadowed transformation, and the person would soon "become a Nazi. He was caught in the mechanism, he accepted everything, he became a rhinoceros."

Using techniques of Theater of the Absurd such as repetition, illogical dialogue, and characters doing or saying the same things over and over without really learning from them, Ionesco challenges our perceptions. We laugh at his characters and marvel at their stubborn "logic" that leads them to collaborate with dangerous beasts. In the end, only our everyman, Berenger, holds on to his humanity, finding himself alone in a strange new world.

*Adapted from "A Play for our Time: Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*".

The Waitress
The Housewife
Berenger
Jean
The Grocer
The Old Gentleman
The Logician
The Cafe Proprietor
Daisy
Dudard
Botard
Mr. Papillon
Mrs. Boeuf
A Fireman

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Costume Crew
Light-Board Operator
Properties
RCA Lead Stage Technician
Backstage Running Crew
Scenic Construction

Rhino & Edible Prop Design
Rhino Construction

Lobby Display
House Management
Ushering

Cast

Anna Farnham
Dorian Brickert
Bran Micheletto*
Lucas Boursaw
Bergen Whitney
Paul Rawlins
Luis Everardo Perez-Venegas
Victor Royce
Olivia Blunt*
Jordan Ramshaw
Paul Rawlins
Logan Clark
Dorian Brickert
Bergen Whitney

Crew

Remy Vivieros*
Quinn Hemrick
The Cast
Jacob Burleson
Remy Vivieros*, Quinn Hemrick
Francisco Santana
The Cast
Olivia Blunt*, Bran Micheletto*,
Francisco Santana, Remy Viveiros*,
Joe Griffith, Robert Cochran,
Trevor Jackson, Mai-Li Denman, Leo Fisher,
Seth Carrington
Remy Vivieros
Remy Vivieros, Bergen Whitney,
Olivia Blunt, Trevor Jackson,
Mai-Li Denman, Leo Fisher, Seth Carrington
Leighton Hartshorn
Allegra Taft
Thena Staggs

*Terry Reiniger Drama Scholarship Recipient

Cast, Crew, and Production Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

Olivia Blunt (Daisy) is 19 years old and lives in Vancouver with her husband. This is her second production at LCC, including her role as Assistant Stage Manager for *Stop Kiss* last spring. She's very excited for her first onstage part at LCC! She participated in the drama program at Goldendale High School for two years, where she played Annie in the 2022 production of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, as well as managing props backstage. She also co-directed and starred as Karen Andre in the 2023 production *Night of January 16*. She loves writing, acting, and reading. Olivia is working on getting her Associate Degree with a Drama focus and hopes to someday direct/act in movies.

Lucas Boursaw (Jean) is a resident of Rainier, Oregon. Lucas lives with his mother and father. He has been involved in theatre in some way or another for eight years. Lucas is no stranger to the Center Stage Theatre. In fact, *Rhinoceros* is Lucas's tenth production at Lower Columbia College. Now an alumnus of the college, he is elated to be back as a community volunteer and hopes to keep being in productions as long as possible.

Dorian Brickert (The Housewife and Mrs. Boeuf) is appearing in her third show at LCC and her ninth show since she started her freshman year in high school. She is an aspiring author and voice actress and loves chocolate and ramen, but not together.

Jakob Burleson (Light Board Operator) is a recent graduate of LCC and is now pursuing his BA at WSU-Vancouver. Though he only recently got into theater, he loves doing it, along with writing, reading, and occasionally drawing. He appeared in the Spring Quarter '24 production of *Stop Kiss* as Peter. Jakob is both very proud, and very excited to be a part of this production for the community.

Logan Clark (Mr. Papillon) is a student at LCC. She loves video games and theater! She has appeared in Castle Rock high school performances such as *The Stranger in Alibis* and as Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life*. This is her first performance at the LCC and she is very excited to be a part of the production.

Bran Micheletto-Struble (Berenger) is a current Lower Columbia College student earning an Associate Degree in Medical Assisting. He spent the past summer touring with the Columbians Drum and Bugle Corps after Stage Managing Center Stage Theater's Spring Production of *Stop Kiss*. Bran has also served as Assistant Stage Manager and as running crew for LCC's Center Stage Theater. His two previous acting roles include Doody in *Grease* and Kurt Kelly in *Heathers* at Kelso High School. This is his first acting role at Center Stage Theater.

Luis (Louie) Everardo Perez-Venegas (The Logician), a first generation American, hails from Mexico City. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Louie earned a B.A. in Humanities at Biola University and a doctorate at Rutgers, where he studied political theory through the lens of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Molière. Working on a production of *Fiddler on the Roof* helped get him through middle school. Louie is a fan of American cinema and musical theater. Happily married to a theater major, he enjoys an active retirement, serving as a volunteer in culturally significant projects that edify our community.

Paul Rawlins (The Old Gentleman/Botard) is a retired former Marketing Director who is returning to the stage after a 50 year hiatus. In high school and college he had considered an acting career but life went a different direction. He caught the acting bug recently and has helped out running lights and sound on a couple of recent productions at LCC, *Tartuffe* and *Top Girls*. Now he looks forward to being in front of the audience once again.

Allegra Taft (House Manager) is an LCC graduate who has recently taken on the role of House Manager for the Rose Center for the Arts. She is excited to be dedicating her time and energy to this special performance space.

Remy Viveiros (Stage Manager) served as Assistant Stage Manager and acted in the Fall 2023 production of *The Gods of Comedy*, but this is her first time stage managing a show at LCC. In addition to acting, Remy loves to make props! She designed the rhino masks as well as other specialty props seen in this production, namely the edible props. After summer break, Remy is excited to be back at Center Stage with her theater family doing shows again.

Acknowledgments

The Drama Department is indebted to the following for their contributions to this production and to our academic program:

Act One Drama Club Members	Associated Students of Lower Columbia College	Director, Rheba Rukkila and the entire staff
The families of the Cast and Crew	Richard Arquette, Director of Student Programs and Student Housing	The LCC Nursing Program
Stefanie Gilberti, Dean of Instruction and Learning Resources	Minel Slabu and the LCC Print Shop	LCC Counseling Services
Tamara Boyco, Administrative Assistant	Kristen Finnel, Vice President of Instruction	Nolan Wheeler, Vice President of Administration
Alyssa Milano-Hightower, Gallery and Programs Director	Safety and Security Services: Jason Arrowsmith ~	Richard Hamilton, Director of Campus Services
		David Wallis, Director of IT Services
		The LCC Foundation

The Theatre Department extends its deepest gratitude to the LCC Community and the Longview area senior citizen groups and individuals who have honored our drama program and plays with their loyal attendance. We look forward to continuing this relationship and we thank you for your continued support!

Artistic Staff Biographies

Robert Cochran (Scenic Design) has held the role of technical director of the Rose Center for the Arts since its opening in 2008. He also serves as the instructor of the stage crafts class for the drama program. A Kelso native, Robert graduated from LCC then transferred to the University of Washington School of Drama. He has worked as a scenic and Lighting Designer and served in a multitude of backstage roles including Technical Director at Arts West, Lakeside, Mercer Island High, and Okoboji Summer Theatre at Stevens College. In his free time he enjoys biking, kayaking, and making ice cream.

Joe Griffith (Lighting Designer) graduated from Evergreen State College with an emphasis in Entertainment Technology. He is an ETCP Certified Entertainment Electrician and Recognized Electrical Trainer. Joe is an Avixa Live Event Technician and Certified Technology Specialist. He has designed lighting, sound, video, and lasers for events throughout the northwest. His work has been featured as part of Fremont Art Council's Luminata, Burien's Arts-A-Glow, Nordic Av Artist's Tiny Massive, and The Typonexus Globalist Series.

Quinn Perry (Costumer) holds a BFA in Costume Design and Construction from Santa Fe University of Art and Design. She is excited to be joining the LCC family for this production! Quinn has designed costumes for productions at The University of New Mexico, The Vortex, Shakespeare in the Park, The Santa Fe Playhouse, The National Hispanic Cultural Center, and Aux Dog. Working primarily as a tailor, she has constructed costumes for theater, opera, concerts, film, and television, with projects ranging from Rococo gowns and suits, to medical devices, and activewear. When not sewing, she can be found in the woods, thru-hiking!

Elizabeth Richard (Director) is in her tenth year teaching and directing at LCC! Elizabeth holds a BA from CUNY, an Acting Certificate from The National Shakespeare Conservatory, and an MA from Eastern Michigan University. In the Pacific Northwest she has worked at The Actors Conservatory, Artists Repertory Theatre, Oregon Children's Theatre, Lakewood Theatre, Portland Accessible Theater, and The Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Most recently she appeared in *Men, Women and Ghosts* for Cygnet Theater in Portland. Elizabeth's passion for Theatre for Social Justice has led to work with Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and Planned Parenthood in addition to facilitator training with Theater for Living in Vancouver BC. Prior to LCC, Elizabeth taught and directed at Central Michigan University and acted for many years in NYC. Favorite directing projects outside of LCC include *Ramona Quimby* (Oregon Children's Theater), *Willy Wonka* (Midland Center for the Arts, MI), and *Race: How Blacks and Whites Think and Feel About the American Obsession* (CMU and Metro Detroit tour).

If you are interested in joining the volunteer community here at the Rose Center, please contact us at 360.442.2512 or rca.events@lowercolumbia.edu



LCC Symphonic Band Presents

THE NINE

*Celebrating the lives and accomplishments
of courageous African Americans*



Friday, November 22 • 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Night

featuring
special guest artist,
Mike Fahie

Tuesday, December 3
7:30 p.m.



LCC Choirs Present



Ring in the Holidays

Friday, December 6
7:30 p.m.

Wollenberg Auditorium, Rose Center for the Arts



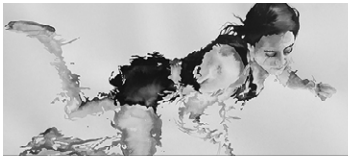
Fall 2024 Student Recital

Wednesday, December 11

5:30 & 7 p.m.

lowercolumbia.edu/concerts

THE FORSBERG ART GALLERY



Float

Heidi Keith & Erika Warhus



Exhibit Dates
November 4 -
December 5

Mon-Thurs, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. • lowercolumbia.edu/gallery

Theatre Arts Classes and Opportunities

Winter Quarter 2025 Drama Classes Behind the Scenes and Onstage

DRMA 101: Introduction to Theatre is a college transfer course that studies the history, development, and the many areas of theater required to produce a play. In addition to directing, acting, and playwriting, students will learn about set, light, and costume design through the study of the current Center Stage play and other plays from various periods of history. Taught by Betsy Richard.

DRMA 107 & 207: Acting are college transfer classes that study the methods, techniques, and theories of acting as an art form. Taught by Betsy Richard in Center Stage Theater. This course is offered every quarter as DRMA 106/206, 107/207, 108/208 and each quarter focuses on a unique aspect of Acting. Winter Quarter's focus is Improvisation. The courses do not have to be taken in sequence.

DRMA 116/117/118: Stagecraft are college transfer courses that teach the basic principles of stage design, lighting, and construction of sets for our productions! Enjoy fun, hands-on education taught by our expert technical theater instructor Robert Cochran. This course does not need to be taken in sequence and is offered every quarter

DRMA 197/297: Theater Rehearsal and Performance is a college transfer course that invites you to work on a Center Stage production! Each term LCC does a fully produced, **fully face to face** play. Auditions are the first week of each term, and you can earn credits by working on stage or offstage in the beautiful Center Stage Theatre. Instructor permission required. Betsy Richard directs.

Act One Drama Club produces each quarter's play selection, participates in Campus Culture, and takes field trips to Seattle and Portland to see plays and tour theaters! To become a part of the teamwork and fun, join us in the greenroom and shop of The Rose Center for the Arts Fridays 10AM. From backstage to onstage this group creates community benefiting its members and the entire LCC Campus! Contact Betsy Richard (brichard@lowercolumbia.edu) for more information.

Visit us at lowercolumbia.edu/drama
to learn more about LCC's Drama Program.

WINTER 2025 CENTER STAGE
AUDITIONS

Play TBD

Performance Dates:
February 28; March 1, 6, 8 at 7:30 p.m.
March 7 at 11 a.m.
March 2 at 2 p.m.

Auditions:
January 8 & 9, 3:30-6:30 pm
in Center Stage Theater

lowercolumbia.edu/drama/auditions