

STREBEL AUDITORIUM AT UTICA UNIVERSITY APRIL 10, 11, AND 12 AT 7:30 PM APRIL 13 AT 2 PM

Production Team

Director - Rachel M. E. Wolfe Stage Manager - Kate Vaughan Scenic Design - Laura Salvaggio Lighting Design - Micheal Deidrich Sound Design - Jeff Washburn Costume design - Kristen Palazzoli Projection Designer - Sully Walker Dramaturg - Abby Notar

Cast

Berenger - Dakoda House
Jean - Norman Booth
The Waitress/Fireman - Ashley Mercado
Grocer's Wife - Ollie Lapoint
Grocer - Makhi Cleophat
Housewife - Glory Stevens
Old Gentleman - Jonas America
Logician/ Mrs. Boeuf - Grace Monaco
Cafe Proprietor - Jarrod Scroggs
Daisy - Andi Spurr
Dudard - Christian Stevens
Botard - Jerome Nembhard
Mrs. Papillon - Sully Walker
Mr. Boeuf - Dakota Wayne
Cat - Kitty Serzanin

Crew

Assistant Stage Manager - Ollie Lapoint, Cassidy Forbes
Props Designer - Marsha Gachette
Props Designer - Julia Tyrel
Costume Crew - Class of THE 115
Costume Run Crew - Liz Hanba
Building, Painting, and Electrics crew - Stavi Ruhusa,
Kira Kuhn, Jerome Nembhard, Dakota House, Juan
Alvarez Garcia, Jeff Washburn, Jaiden Aucter, Julia Tyrel,
Catherina Ma, Marsha Gachette, Sully Walker, Alayna
Disotell, Kaitlyn Spann, Cassidy Forbes, Adimeji Fayeofori,
Makhi Cleophat, Connor West, Ceasar Thompson, Mary
Pecora, Ollie Lapoint, Abhijeet Singh and various
students from THE 115 and 334 classes.
Program Ad Sales - Connor Cannell

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

Special Thanks

Our Friends at IITS, Dean Sharon Wise, Dean Jason Denman, Mary Dobek, Pierce Brown, and Yangchun Ma

Notice

There will be a 15-minute intermission after the second scene

Additionally

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Rhinoceros is a comedy, but like all great satires, it has a very serious message at its heart. Eugene Ionesco wrote Rhinoceros about the experience of living through the rise of the fascist Iron Guard in Romania in the 1930s. During an interview he gave in 1970, he explained it like this:

"University professors, students, intellectuals were turning Nazi, becoming Iron Guards one after another. We were fifteen people who used to get together, to find arguments, to discuss, to try to find arguments opposing theirs. It was not easy ... From time to time, one of the group would come out and say 'I don't agree at all with them, to be sure, but on certain points, I must admit, for example the Jews ...' And that kind of comment was a symptom. Three weeks later, that person would become a Nazi. He was caught in a mechanism, he accepted everything, he became a Rhinoceros. Towards the end, it was only three or four of us who resisted."

While the notion of people turning into rhinoceroses is patently absurd, ordinary people turning into fascists is all too real a phenomenon. And unfortunately, it is a real phenomenon that we have been subtly taught to dismiss by Americans' near-exclusive focus on Hitler and the Holocaust when it comes to depictions of fascism. We as a country have been left with the impression that fascism was the work of a single man, a single country, or at least a single instance, when in fact it is a pattern that has been repeated in numerous countries over the last 100 years not only in Ionesco's home country of Romania but in places as far-flung as South Africa, Japan, and Argentina. And because we think of fascism as an aberration rather than a pattern, many of us have been unable to recognize its presence in our midst today. That can't have been a rhinoceros in the town square-no rhinoceros has ever been seen in this country! In our own production of *Rhinoceros*, we aim to that highest calling of satire: to both make you laugh and make you think. After you leave tonight, we hope you'll be inspired to look up the actual definition of fascism and have a good, hard think about the parallels between fascism in other times and places and the news stories you're seeing in the here and now. That is, after you look up the difference between African and Asiatic rhinos, of course!

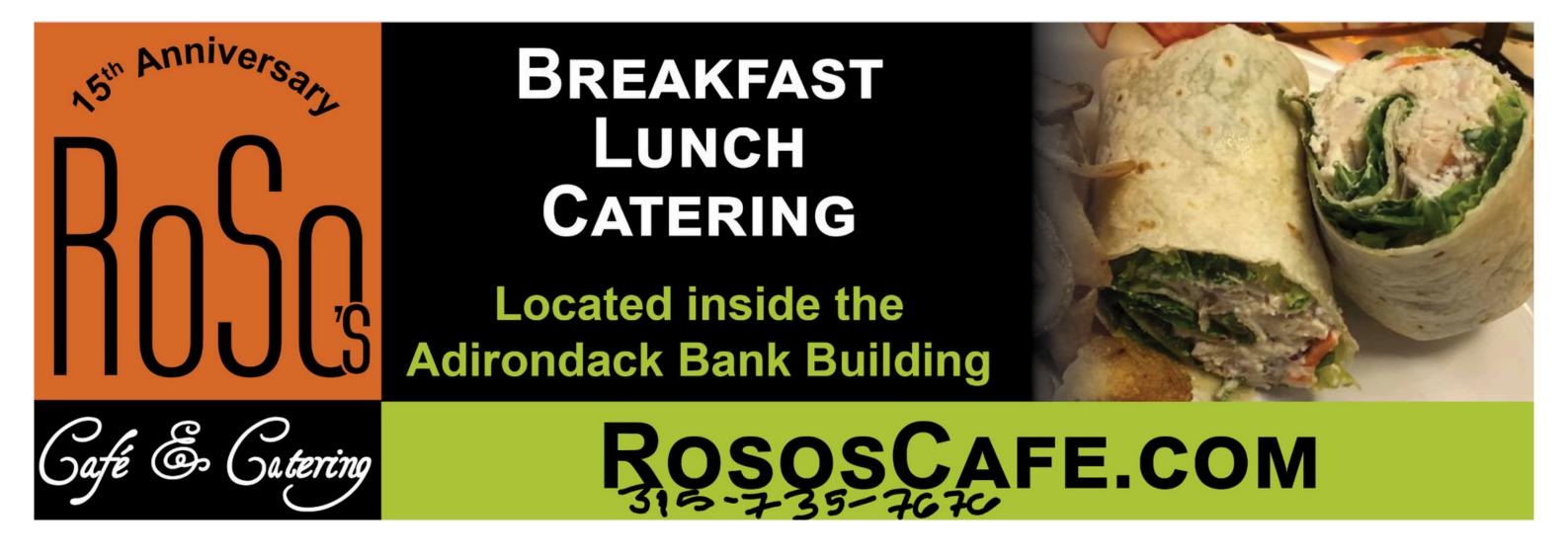
BIOGRAPHIES

Rachel M.e. Wolfe (Director) - Wolfe is an Associate Professor of Theatre here at Utica University, where she teaches acting, directing, dramaturgy, play analysis, and theatre history. Her professional work as a director and dramaturg has been seen on stages in New York, California, and Seattle, WA. At Utica, she has directed Arcadia, Ghost Stories at Yotsuya, War of the Worlds, Trifles, Chicago, In the Blood, and Alice in Wonderland. Rhinoceros is her first official dive into the world of absurdism, after teaching the genre in theatre history classes for over a decade. Enjoy!

Kate Vaughan (Stage Manager) - Kate has stage managed multiple of Utica theatre's perfomances since her transfer to utica University. she is computer science major with a concentration in CYBER SECURITY and a minor in theatre. she' thankful for her favorite cast thus far and hope each and every member continues their wonderful acting career!

Dakoda House (Berenger) - Dakoda House is debuting their first lead performance in the Show *Rhinosaurus*! Dakoda has been in two other performances at Utica University which are *Transitional Space* and *Alice in Wonderland*. In the role of Berenger Dakoda hopes to send a message about how important it is to think for yourself no matter what. Unlike these Wretched Rhinosaurai.

Norman Booth (Jean) - Norman Booth is a senior here at Utica University. He is currently a construction management major who plays on the football team and is a community advisor as well. This is Norman's fifth major involvement in a play since he's been at college. Norman has taken on roles in *Chicago* and *Almost*, *Maine* and *In the Blood* and as the Caterpillar in the *Alice in Wonderland* performance last spring. He is very excited to play Jean in this debut of *Rhinoceros*.



Ashley Mercado (Waitress/ Fireman) - Ashley Mercado is thrilled to be performing in her second production at Utica University. Originally from New Jersey, she is majoring in Psych-Child Life and will be graduating this semester. Last year, she appeared as the Cheshire Cat in Alice in Wonderland, and she is thrilled to now take on the roles of the Fireman and Waitress in this production. Outside of theatre, she serves as the Secretary of Fuerza Latina, where they help celebrate Latinx culture on campus. She would like to thank the cast, crew, and directors for making this experience unforgettable. This performance is brought to you by caffeine, chaos, and two cognac.

Ollie Lapoint (Grocers Wife) - They are a great Stage Manager, the BEST Stage Manager. Jk, this is their first show they've ever done and have learned so much during this production. (Like yelling at people) Fun fact, they also are on the Utica Women's Wrestling Team!

Makhi Cleophat (Grocer) - Makhi Cleophat is a sophomore majoring in construction management. This is his first performance within the Utica theatre and overall. He is playing the Grocer and is extremely excited to begin his acting career here! Something cool about Makhi is that he is a secret artist and knows how to paint. Additionally, he is very talented; some of his talents are: dancing, step, being the crowd favorite.



Glory Stevens (Housewife) - Glory Stevens is a second-year English major at Utica University. Last semester, she performed in Utica University's Homecoming cabaret, which encouraged her to shamelessly copy her older brother (who plays Dudard) by declaring a minor in theatre. Glory plays Housewife in this production of *Rhinoceros*, but do not be deceived...she in fact cannot cook to save her life. She relates on a personal level to Damon Salvatore, Loralei Gilmore, and Nick Sturniolo. Her performance in this play is dedicated to everyone who has an emotional attachment to their cat. And most importantly, she can out-bench her brother.

jonas America (Old Gentleman) - Jonas is a Senior in the Theatre Program and a local filmmaker. Some would say that he is an "old man" playing an Old Gentleman. He is grateful for the opportunity to be part of this awesome cast and crew. *bellowing in rhinoceros*

Jarrod Scroggs (Cafe Proprietor) - He's Jarrod and he's not here to play, he's in the play. This is his freshman year at Utica University as a Criminal Justice Major but that won't stop him from taking a stand on the stage. He is also apart of the University's Mock Trial team and if you can't see him there's a good chance you'll hear him!





LET'S CONNECT.

Grace Monaco (Logician/ Madame Boeuf) - Grace Monaco is a recent Utica University graduate. Prior to *Rhinoceros*, you may have seen her star as Alice in Utica's production of *Alice in Wonderland*. She's thrilled to be back onstage for another exciting and humorous play. She would like to thank her friends & family, Rachel, stage management, crew, & everyone else that has dedicated their time and support to this production. She would also like to thank you for your continued support of the arts!

Andi Spurr (Daisy) - Andi Spurr is in her third year at Utica University. She has been backstage in many productions in college and high school. Andi also portrayed second Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* and Mrs. White in *Clue*. Andi is excited for this play and hopes you all enjoy the show.

Jerome Nembhard (Botard) - Jerome Nembhard is an eccentric part of the Utica community, as a member of the football team and apart of various organizations he likes to hear and interact with many on campus. he's an accounting major and theatre minor; appearing in *Alice in Wonderland* last spring as the White Rabbit, and this semester as Botard in *Rhinoceros*. He's excited you're here and hopes you don't listen to any fake News!

Christian Stevens (Dudard) - Christian Stevens is a third year Physical Therapy student here at Utica University and plans to begin grad-school in the summer. Due to his passion for acting, Christian is pursuing a minor in Theatre. Christian is portraying Dudard in the play *Rhinoceros*, and this is the first play he is a part of... so go easy. Christian can also rep 225 on bench.

Sully Walker (Madame Papillon) - Sully Walker is an MBA student and has a long history in theater. You may recognize her from their past involvement in university shows or in productions through Breadcrumbs productions, RCT, Sterling Renaissance Festival, Brick 2 Theatre and many more. Sully can be seen both on stage and behind it, having directed, written, done lights and sound, and various other production side roles, but they also enjoy working in film and have a passion for comic books.

Dakota Wayne (Mr. Boeuf) - Dakota Wayne is THE Rhino to watch in this production! Though he couldn't take on a bigger role this semester, he is excited to be on stage with his fellow cast mates playing Monsieur Boeuf and be a part of this production in any way. You may recognize him most recently from his role as The Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz* last semester. Dakota is a Communications and Media Major with a Concentration in Theatre.





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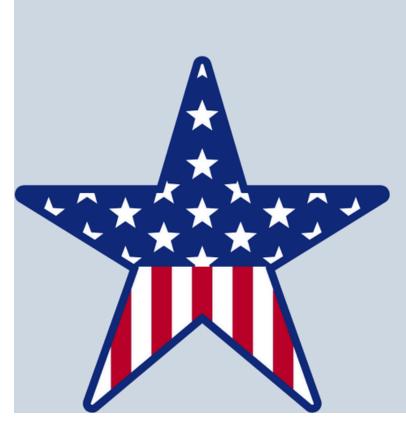




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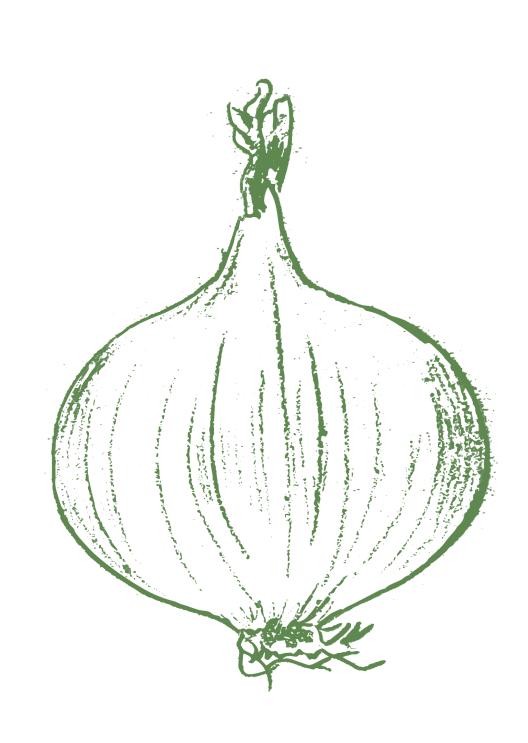


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