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## EUGÈNE IONESCO'S ABSURDIST PLAY "RHINOCEROS" COMES TO THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS APRIL 25 – 28

*Willpower doesn't help any when you feel like you're drowning.*

**PHILADELPHIA (April 10, 2019)** – The Ira Brind School of Theater Arts collaborates with the School of Dance and the School of Music at the University of the Arts to present the absurdist play, *RHINOCEROS*, by Eugène Ionesco. The play is a simple story that raises complex questions about the responsibility of the citizen when faced with radical thoughts. Enhanced with live bucket-drumming, dance, and puppetry, this interdisciplinary performance blurs the line of the real and the absurd. Performances take place April 25 – 28 at the Arts Bank Theater in Center City Philadelphia, and tickets are available at the door, online at [tickets.uarts.edu](http://tickets.uarts.edu) or by phone by calling 215-717-6310.

**About the play:** Imagine you live in a small town that is besieged by one roaring citizen who becomes a rhinoceros, tramples on the social order, and the rest of the town follows suit. Can you maintain your human form and identity, or will you, too, be lured into the "beauty" of brute force and violence? When all members of your society are thinking the same way and behaving the same way, will you want to be part of the mob? Or will you stick to your individuality, despite being alone in your human form? Eugène Ionesco's absurdist play, *RHINOCEROS*, is a simple story that raises complex questions about the responsibility of the citizen when faced with radical thoughts.

**When:** Thursday April 25 at 7:30 p.m., Friday April 26 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday April 26 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday April 27 at 2 p.m.

**Where:** Arts Bank Theater, 601 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19147

**Tickets:** \$10-\$15 at the door, online at [tickets.uarts.edu](http://tickets.uarts.edu), or by calling 215-717-6310. **Discounts** for seniors, students, and industry members. **FREE for the UArts community.** Email [jjaynes@uarts.edu](mailto:jjaynes@uarts.edu) for discount code or show UArts ID at the door.

### **About the Director:**

Fadi Skeiker (*RHINOCEROS* Director) is an Associate Professor of Theater at The University of the Arts. Prior to being part of the UArts community, Fadi directed and taught theatre at The University of Jordan in Jordan, The University of Minho in Portugal, and was a visiting researcher at Free University

of Berlin in Germany. Outside of the academia world, Fadi is an accomplished Applied Theatre practitioner and expert on Theatre Devise. He has led applied theatre workshops and devised theatre with marginalized communities of women/youth/and most recently with refugees in Jordan, Germany, Portugal, and the USA. Originally Syrian, Fadi holds a PhD in Performance as Public Practice from The University of Texas at Austin.

**About the Playwright:**

Eugène Ionesco (born Nov. 26, 1909 in Slatina, Romania, died March 28, 1994, Paris, France) was a Romanian-born French playwright. He studied in Bucharest and Paris, where he lived from 1945. His first one-act antiplay, *The Bald Soprano* (1950), inspired a revolution in dramatic techniques and helped inaugurate the Theatre of the Absurd.

**About the University of the Arts**

Founded in 1876, the University of the Arts is one of the nation’s only universities dedicated solely to educating students in the visual and performing arts, design and writing. It is the only art school in the U.S. that allows its students to collaborate across traditional lines—painters can minor in piano, dancers can study film, guitarists can take classes in screenwriting. A rigorous and well-rounded curriculum prepares its 1,800 undergraduate and graduate students to be the innovative leaders of tomorrow, whether in a specific artistic discipline or by applying their creative education to virtually any career. UArts’ campus is located in the heart of Philadelphia’s Avenue of the Arts, in one of the nation’s most culturally vibrant cities. [www.uarts.edu](http://www.uarts.edu)

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