



Rhinoceros

By Eugene Ionesco

Translated by Derek Prouse

November 14th (7pm), 15th (7pm), 16th (2pm), 2025
Garcia Opera House, Socorro, NM

A note from the Directors

In 1928, when Eugene Ionesco was 19, he attended the University of Bucharest. One of his professors was a respected logician who used his lectures to recruit for the Legion of the Archangel Michael, a Romanian fascist movement that idealized and paralleled the rise of the Nazis in Germany.

In 1932, Ionesco worked for a minor Bucharest newspaper. Within months, all the editors except Ionesco joined the Legion, and the paper transformed from a biweekly literary publication to a recruitment tool for the Legion's violent paramilitary wing: the Iron Guard.

In a 1970 interview, Ionesco described this formative experience: *"You would run into an old friend, and suddenly, under your very eyes, he would begin to change... From time to time, one of the group would say 'I don't agree with them, to be sure, but on certain points, I must admit, for example the Jews...' 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."*

The Iron Guard has seen a resurgence in Romania today. One of their main proponents is Călin Georgescu, a far-right politician who called the Iron Guard's leader a "hero who lived national history". In December 2024, Georgescu was the frontrunner after the first round of the Romanian Presidential Election with 22% of the vote, before being disqualified by the Romanian Constitutional Court.

Rhinoceros, the play, is not overtly about fascism. Instead, in our view, it's a reflection on the absurd parts of human nature that can lead us down that path. What those parts are is for you to decide, but in the show you'll see characters responding to crisis by echoing cliches, denying what's happening, fixating on superficial differences, and abandoning parts of their community along with their own individuality.

Our production of ***Rhinoceros*** features the hard work of technicians, students, retirees, scientists, transplants, and other Socorro community members who might not otherwise know each other were it not for community theater. Over the past few months, we put together this show for each other, for our love of art, and for you, who are also members of our community. We're quite proud of what we've created together, and we hope that you too will find our show entertaining, thought-provoking, funny, and just a little bit absurd.



presents



Rhinoceros

By Eugene Ionesco

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

NOTE TO AUDIENCE: The videotaping or audio and/or visual recording of this production is a violation of United States Copyright Law and an actionable federal offense.

SCENES

Scene 1: A square in a small provincial French town

Scene 2: The office of a law publications firm

Intermission

Scene 3: The square & Jean's apartment

Scene 4: Berenger's apartment

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

The Grocer	Lenore Hill
The Grocer's Husband	Jack Hill
The Waitress	Akram Mostafanejad
The Cafe Proprietor	Estevan Ortega
The Cat Parent	Bailey Rippy
Jean	Amy Kimball
Berenger	Jess Bice
The Old Gentleman	John Stokes
The Logician	John Leeper
Daisy	Minnie Mao
Botard	Willa Obringer
Dudard	Jalethzie Peña
Mr. Papillon	Warren Marts
Mrs. Boeuf	Marina Beltran
The Little Old Lady	Faith Valdez

The Cast



This is **Akram Mostafanejad** (Waitress)'s third time with the SCT's wonderful cast and crew. She played Angus in *Macbeth*, and a passenger in *Anything Goes*. She is a seismologist and engineering manager at the EarthScope.



This is **Amy Kimball** (Jean)'s 6th production with Socorro Community Theater with previous roles such as Inga in *Young Frankenstein* and Lady Macbeth in the Scottish play. However, Jean in *Rhinoceros* has proven to be one of the most difficult and fun roles yet! When not arguing about rhinoceros horns or humanism, she can be found acting as a scientist at NRAO.



Bailey Rippy (*Cat Parent*) is a student at NMT as a biomed major. This is their 3rd production in Socorro, but before there they were involved in many musicals and did Shakespeare, playing Cornwall in *King Lear*, a Wyrd sister in *Macbeth*, and more. They are very happy to be a part of *Rhinoceros*, partly because of its relevance to today but also because of the wonderful cast and crew.



Estevan Ortega (Cafe Proprietor) is a senior at NMT majoring in Electrical Engineering and minoring in Secondary Education. This is his 3rd SCT performance, previously appearing in *The Addams Family* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. He is excited to be in his first non musical, as he figures pachyderms likely aren't very good singers or dancers.

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The Cast



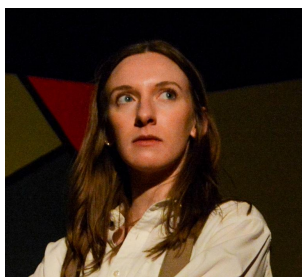
This is **Faith Valdez** (Little Old Lady)'s second time being in a SCT production. She really loves theater and is so glad to be a part of Rhinoceros!



Jack Hill (Grocer's Husband) escaped from the zoo in NC in 2024 in order to work for NRAO. He really is married to the Grocer, who enjoys his Indian-cuisine-influenced home cooking. This is his first acting performance, but he played keyboard in the orchestra for Anything Goes. He loves talking about programming languages and GNU-Guix.



There's one word that really describes **Jalethzie Peña** (Dudard) and that is busy. When not talking about Rhinoceroses real or imaginary, they can be found doing homework, teaching high school, doing news segments on KTEK News, running social media pages, representing the president of NMT, or traveling around New Mexico with the Cybersecurity Center. They hope you enjoy this show and remember that everything is logical.



Jess Bice (Berenger) most recently played Grandma in *The Addams Family* (SCT) and Celia in *As You Like It* (SCT). She directed *Macbeth* (SCT) last Fall and is excited to direct the musical this Spring. She wants to thank her fiancé, Andrew, for cooking dinner most nights these past few months...

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The Cast



John Leeper (Logician) has had the privilege of performing in a wide variety of Socorro Community Theater productions from *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* to *Young Frankenstein*. When he is not acting like a professional logician, he spends his time acting like a professional engineer.



John Stokes (Old Gentleman) has been involved with SCT since the Fall of 2008. *Rhinoceros* is the thirteenth SCT production in which he has appeared. He wishes to dedicate this week's performances to the memory of dear friends departed and soon to be departed.



Last year, **Lenore Hill** (Grocer) emerged from the swamps of NC and is now happy to call Socorro home. She is married to her Grocer Husband in real life. After 18 years working in IT, she now makes and sells jewelry on Etsy. Once the president of the board of a co-op grocery store, she also plays ukulele, paints, and enjoys fiber arts, including sewing the sailor costumes for *Anything Goes*. This is her acting debut!



Marina (Mari) Beltran (Mrs. Bouef) is a first-year Physics PhD student. This is her first play since 2014, when she played Feste in *Twelfth Night* for her middle school production. That same year, she received the director's "Most Dramatic" award (a title that may still hold true). When she's not being dramatic or fighting physics, she loves to read, crochet, and play the saxophone. Enjoy the show!



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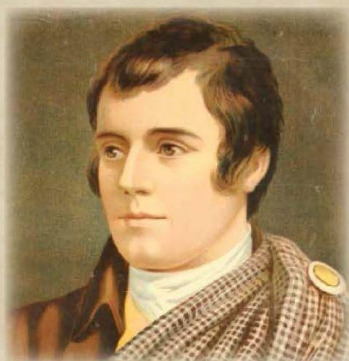
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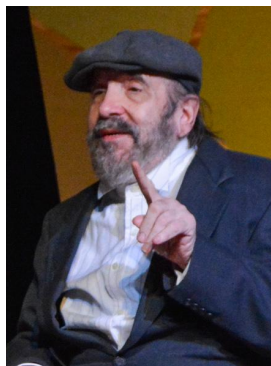
Robert Burns
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Advance purchase tickets only.
Contact Jon Morrison,
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The Cast



Minnie Mao (Daisy) is excited to be a part of *Rhinoceros* as she is a big fan of pachyderms. When not admiring the tremendous energy emanating from these creatures, Minnie enjoys living in the world of the imagination.



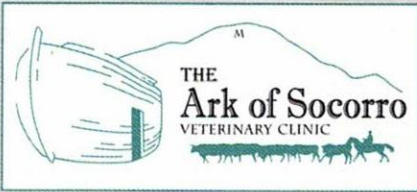
Warren Marts (Mr. Papillon) has worked onstage and backstage with many Socorro theater and musical groups. He has sung in the chorus of the Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria. This spring he welcomed a new addition to his family in the form of a bright yellow Porsche convertible. Outside of the dramatic, his interests include travel, languages and cooking.



Willa Obringer (Botard) is a PhD student in geochemistry at New Mexico Tech. She spends her days studying rocks, keeping an eye out for birds, and finding an excuse to go outside. *Rhinoceros* marks her theatre debut, and she wouldn't have it any other way.



Mr. Boeuf (Mr. Boeuf) is making his stage debut in *Rhinoceros*. Prior to this excitement, Mr. Boeuf was treated as a lowly footstool or a mere plaything for the household cats. He is very excited to have such a loving and dedicated wife.



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The Production Team

Co-Director
DILLON DONG

Lights
OLIVIA BOATMAN

Stage Manager
OLIVIA BOATMAN

Makeup
HALEY HANSON
DANA CHAVEZ

Photography
ZOE FINHOLM

Sound Recording
DAVID PHILLIPS
JACK HILL
DILLON DONG

Set Design
DILLON DONG

Set Construction
COLE MASON (LEAD)
JAY BLANCHARD
MARK WINTER
KYLE WINTER

Co-Director
JAY BLANCHARD

Sound
DAVID PHILLIPS

Props
SOPHIE BAUER
CHRISTIE SMITH

Costumes
MARY ELLEN FORE

Rhinoceros Masks
EILEEN COMSTOCK
JANE ANDERSON
JANE BECKSTEAD

Set Painting & Decoration
BEAUMONT CRISMER (LEAD)
CHRISTIE SMITH
KAARIN GONCZ
JAY BLANCHARD
MINNIE MAO
MADDIE STAMP

Front of House
DANA CHAVEZ
JANE BECKSTEAD
JANE ANDERSON

Music (*in order of appearance*)

Memories of Paris — Trabant 33

Marche Funèbre — Frédéric Chopin

The Fight (instrumental) — Amos Noah

Autumn Storm — Hanna Ekström, Anna Landström, Anna Dager

Steep Climb — Martin Clem

Past the Shadows — Megan Wolford



LGE CONSTRUCTION



Electrical Engineers &
Contractors

The Production Team



This is **Dillon Dong** (Director)'s fifth show with the SCT, and first time directing. Prior to *Rhinoceros*, they played Billy in *Anything Goes*, Malcolm in *Macbeth*, Fester in the *Addams Family Musical*, and Oliver in *As You Like It*. They've had a blast working with this amazing cast and crew, and hope you enjoy the show!



Jay Blanchard (Director) has participated in several SCT productions including co-directing *Macbeth*. He'd like to thank the cast and crew, and everyone who worked so hard to make this production possible despite all the wretched perissodactyls.



Olivia Boatman (Stage Manager, Lights) is passionate about community theater here in Socorro, having worked on *Macbeth*, *Anything Goes*, and *Clue*. This is their seventh show they have stage managed and they cannot wait to do many more. If they aren't doing theater, you can find them in the chemistry lab.



David Phillips (Sound) ran sound for *The Addams Family*, *Anything Goes*, *Macbeth*, and a few other productions. He mixed, ran, and sometimes recorded the sounds in this play. He hopes you enjoy the show.



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Eronel Designs

Lenore Hill

Socorro, NM

<https://eronel.etsy.com>



The advertisement for Jackson Ranch Steakhouse LLC is set against a black background. At the top, two longhorn skulls are positioned on either side of a central logo. The logo is an orange, flame-shaped oval with a black border, containing the letters 'JR' and the text 'JACKSON RANCH STEAKHOUSE LLC'. Below the logo, a circular inset shows a plate of steak with a bottle of wine and glasses. To the right, the word 'APPALOOSA' is written in a large, orange, serif font, with a small 'JR' logo and 'EST. 2018' below it. Below this, a horse is shown in profile, and the word 'TAPROOM' is written in a large, orange, serif font, with 'SOCORRO, NM' below it. At the bottom, the address '1123 NW Frontage Road, Socorro, NM' is written in a large, white, serif font. The phone number '(575) 838-5225' and the website 'www.jacksonranchsteakhouse.com' are also included.

The Author



Eugene Ionesco (born Nov. 26, 1909, Slatina, Rom. 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. He followed it with other one-act plays in which illogical events create an atmosphere both comic and grotesque, including *The Lesson* (1951), *The Chairs* (1952), and *The New Tenant* (1955). His most popular full-length play, *Rhinoceros* (1959), concerns a provincial French town in which all the citizens are metamorphosing into rhinoceroses. Other plays include *Exit the King* (1962) and *A Stroll in the Air* (1963). He was elected to the Academie Francaise in 1970.

Historical Productions

Rhinoceros premiered at the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus in Germany on November 6, 1959, before opening in Paris at the Odéon-Théâtre de France in January 1960, directed by Jean-Louis Barrault who also starred as Béranger. The Broadway production opened January 9, 1961, at the Longacre Theatre, earning Zero Mostel a Tony Award for Best Actor and winning Best Play of the 1960-1961 season. The London premiere at the Royal Court Theatre in April 1960 featured Laurence Olivier and was directed by Orson Welles, who also designed the production. Since then, *Rhinoceros* has become one of the most frequently performed works of the Theatre of the Absurd, with notable revivals including a 2007 Royal Court production with Benedict Cumberbatch and countless productions at professional, university, and community theaters worldwide, cementing its status as a modern classic.



CITY OF SOCORRO



This production was made possible by the generous support of our donors, advertisers, volunteers, and viewers like you!

Special Thanks to:

- NMT PAS for help with advertising and tickets
- Gaby Benalil for our rehearsal space
- The City of Socorro for help with set storage
- Blue Raven Transport for their generous donation
- Dicalite Perlite Mine for sandbags used in the set
- Epiphany Episcopal Church for our backstage props tables
- Abelino Fernandez and Minnie Mao for feeding us during the show
- Eileen Comstock and Christie Smith for logistical support
- Dillon Dong, Jess Bice, Eileen Comstock, and Aick Sofonofos for creating this program
- All the many helpers selling ads, taking photos, contributing to the endless tiny details that are part of such a community effort!

Follow Socorro Community Theater on social media!



Socorro Community Theater



sct1994

<http://www.socorro.com/sct>

Would you like to purchase an advertisement in the next program?
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Email us at **socorrocommunitytheater@gmail.com**
or talk to a board member and we will be in touch!

SCT board members (2025):

Christie Smith (President), Jess Bice* (Secretary), John Leeper (Treasurer),
Sanjay Bhatnagar, Olivia Boatman*, Eileen Comstock*, Dillon Dong*,
Amy Kimball, Heather Kovach, Jaletzie Pena*, Daniel Vonderhaar

**SCT Publicity Committee*

Announcing the 2026 Spring M-U-S-I-C-A-L...

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