



# Vmedia

THEATRE ARTS REVIEWS AND EVENTS

THE BUS IS MARVELOUS FUN, AND PRIDE 2017 ROLLS INTO THEATRE RHINOCEROS WITH WIGS, HEELS AND FROCKS.

June 6, 2017

<http://www.vmediabackstage.com/>

## **PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT** the musical is a colorful winner at the Eureka by Rhino Theatre

....

Felicia says “I hereby christen this budget Barbie camper, Priscilla: Queen Of The Desert”. It's time to mention the elephant on stage - a bus named Priscilla, headed to Alice Springs where a job awaits them. Priscilla is the lead in this romp and Fisher told me “The bus is the show and even on this small Eureka stage it was a must to have the bus be actual size and able to hold the three leads and all their costumes”. When I first entered the small venue, my first question is how will Fisher get a bus on this stage. The three leads bring the star to stage in the rousing number “Go West” as the entire ensemble leads Priscilla in all her glamor is led on stage. The bus designed and crafted by a six man crew headed by designer Gilbert Johnson, and his construction team Fred Sharkey, Larry Jean, Sebastian Atardo, Clay David, and Wayne Roadie. Priscilla has to have an outside and inside for the men to dress and perform, the top has to be solid for Adam to perch on his High Heel couch. Priscilla steals the show as the over the top set piece. It is impressive including the busy light design of Sean Keehan that glitters and pops all of the many costumes past any sunglasses out on Jackson street.

...

<http://www.vmediabackstage.com/>

by Vince Vmedia



# THEATRIUS

Reviews: Plays, People, Projects – San Francisco and Beyond

## “Priscilla, Queen of the Desert”: Prophets in the Outback, at Rhino, S.F.

[June 7, 2017 Jeremiah Wall](#)

(<http://theatrius.com/>)

### **John Fisher Goes Fabulous for Magical Musical**

by Jeremiah Wall

Director John Fisher and Theatre Rhinoceros are staging “Priscilla, Queen of the Desert,” tapping a rich vein of song, dance, and drag—with colorful costumes galore. Three Aussie queens, Dorothy-like characters, follow their yellow brick road, from the gay friendly, safe harbor of Sydney, to the threatening desert outback of Oz. Along the way, they find friendship, family, and finally, romantic love.

Scenic Designer Gilbert Johnson’s Priscilla, the ramshackle bus that will be the crew’s home for a few weeks in the Australian Outback, rolls on, a life-sized Barbie camper, part doll house, part dirty diesel bus. Priscilla’s childlike pastel colors suggest a voyage to Home.

# for all Events

## Victor Cordell



### Performing Arts Reviews

Victor Cordell <http://forallevents.info/reviews/victor-cordell/>  
3 of 6 6/7/17, 2:50 PM

Director John Fisher orchestrates an exemplary production that a small company shouldn't be capable of. Everything works, from scenic design to lighting, from sound to musical direction. But special recognition goes to the team of five costumers who assemble in the neighborhood of 200 costumes. The outfits are sensational, from glitter-glam to Western, sometimes decorating the whole stage in pink or white or funereal black. Apart from the leads who wear new outfits each time they return to stage, other players typically have 12-14 changes, and they all take place in one backstage room. Amazing. Hopefully, the costumers are paid piecemeal, because they produce a ton. Same with AeJay Mitchell's energetic wall-to-wall choreography which includes everything from disco to hoedown.





# THEATREWORLD

## Internet Magazine

**PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT** the musical is a colorful winner at the Eureka by Rhino Theatre.

[06-3-2017](#) / [0 Comments](#) / [Kedar Adour](#)

eft to right: Darryl V. Jones\* as Bernadette, Charles Peoples III as Adam, Rudy Guerrero\* as Tick and the Company in PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT, directed by John Fisher. A Theatre Rhinoceros Production at the Eureka Theatre, Photo by David Wilson.

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT – The Musical. Book by Stephan Elliott and Allan Scott. Based on the Latent Image/Specific Films Motion Picture. Distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. Directed by John Fisher. Musical Direction by Dan Feyer. Theatre Rhinoceros, Eureka Theatre – 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA. [www.TheRhino.org](http://www.TheRhino.org). May 27 – July 1, 2017

Every so often there are good to great shows at the intimate Eureka Theatre. PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT the musical is one of the great ones earning a well-deserved standing ovation. Theatre Rhino under the direction of John Fisher has created an extravaganza with a 16 member cast playing over 30 roles (not counting their turn in the ensemble). They have pulled out all the stops and probably depleted their budget creating a bus that fills the stage and costumed the players in an abundance of “got to be seen to be believed dress.” The hats almost steal the show.

The bus ‘Priscilla Queen of the Desert’ of the title is an aging bus (Gilbert Johnson ,scenic designer) that takes two drag queens Tick/Mitzi (Rudy Guerrero), Adam/Felicia (Charles Peoples III)) and Bernadette (Darryl V. Jones) an aging transsexual on an unbelievable journey from Sydney across the inland Australia desert to Alice Springs. There is no need to have seen the movie but if you have you will probably go back and see it again if you have not already done so.

PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT the musical is a colorful winner at the Eureka by Rhino Theatre. Rating: ★★★★★½

**Theatreworld Internet Magazine:**

***Review by Kedar K. Aour MD***

# Theatre Eddys

<http://theatreddys.blogspot.com/2017/06/priscilla-queen-of-desert.html>

...

And then there is the other star of the show, the bus named Priscilla. Gilbert Johnson's cr me-de-la-cr me of a set design is boxy and pink on the outside but rotates to reveal an interior that bustles to the brim with boas, bows, beads, and bangles along with everything from seahorses to Christmas garland and, of course, plenty of martini glasses.

...



## Two on the Aisle

[June 2nd, 2017](#)

[twoontheaisle](#) 

### “Priscilla, Queen of the Desert” at Theatre Rhinoceros

...

Fortunately, director John Fisher has provided his audience with compensation in the form of wonderfully colorful costumes, a delightful set, and a bravura performance from Darryl V. Jones as the world-weary, yet wise, Bernadette, who has seen (and done) it all – and has the sequins to prove it. Jones exudes confidence and calm, and on his broad shoulders rests the success of this production. Without him, this *Priscilla* would be sputtering along, spewing noxious fumes and threatening at every moment to plunge into one abyss or another. (Also wonderful is Crystal Liu as Cynthia, who delivers the goods with her performance, especially when she literally puts the “pop” into *Pop Muzik!*)

But what a rainbow-colored abyss it would be, thanks to the vivid costumes and headdresses created by a quintet of designers: Robert Horek, Glenn Krumbholz, Larry Jean, Daisy Neske,

and Cindy Preiado. Even five people seem barely sufficient to create the stunning array of clothes, hats, headdresses and accessories that kept appearing on stage. It seemed like every scene involved a whole new wardrobe – which is, of course, perfectly in line for a show about drag queens.

Gilbert Johnson's set adds to the kaleidoscopic nature of the show, with a pink mylar fringe curtain upstage and, of course, a giant lavender bus that rotates to reveal a drag queen's #vanlife heaven, filled with scarves and frocks of every color and dotted with iridescent sequined fish...

<http://tweentheaisle.tumblr.com/post/161369193219/priscilla-queen-of-the-desert-at-theatre>



Regional Reviews: San Francisco/North Bay

## Priscilla, Queen of the Desert

Theatre Rhinoceros

Review by [Richard Connema](#) |

... Theatre Rhinoceros is presenting a glitzy production of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. I had never so many men in frocks on the local stage, fifteen to be exact. It is a "fab-u-lous" production that features 10 production numbers. What the show is really about is spectacle, thanks to John Fisher's direction, costumes by Robert Horek, and fantastic choreography by AeJay Mitchell. John Fisher went all out to present this Australian musical. ..



**Derek Miller, Rudy Guerrero, and Charles Peoples III**

*Photo by David Wilson*

<http://www.talkinbroadway.com/page/regional/sanfran/index.html>



# The BAY AREA REPORTER

*Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities since 1971*



**“Theatre Rhino has gotten ‘Priscilla Queen of the Desert’ up on its feet – and its high heels – with such an enthusiastic embrace that affection easily flows back from the audience.**

“The musical, based on the 1994 movie, must be one of the theater’s most expensive ventures, from a replica of the tricked-out tour bus nicknamed Priscilla to the large cast that is forever changing into such a bizarre bazaar of costumes that you might wonder if there isn’t a sweatshop operating in the Eureka Theatre’s basement.

“AeJay Mitchell’s choreography is an eclectic and high-energy mix of styles, from hoedown stomping to a melange of disco-esque steps that the cast performs...with a brass and bounce that rattles the floorboards. The scenery is the massive rotating bus that is an impressive feat in Gilbert Johnson’s set design.

“And then there are the costumes. Oh my, the costumes. Robert Horek is listed as costumier, but there are multiple additional credits for design and construction that will give you some idea of the uncategorizable phantasmagoria of apparel: headdresses by Glenn Krumbholz, Gumbys by Cindy Preiado, diva finale by Daisy Neske, and cupcakes by Larry Jean.”

Cupcakes? Well, someone did leave the cake out in the rain, and doesn’t that deserve a full-blown musical number with frosting and sprinkles on the top?

"Priscilla Queen of the Desert" will run at the Eureka Theatre through July 1. Tickets are \$15-\$40. Call (800) 838-3006 or go to [therhino.org](http://therhino.org).

– **Richard Dodds – Bay Area Reporter**

[http://www.ebar.com/arts/art\\_article.php?sec=theatre&article=1365](http://www.ebar.com/arts/art_article.php?sec=theatre&article=1365)

OTHER REVIEWS:

[https://issuu.com/bayareareporter/docs/june\\_8\\_\\_2017/22](https://issuu.com/bayareareporter/docs/june_8__2017/22)

<http://www.sfgate.com/performance/article/Rhino-s-Priscilla-keeps-Bay-Area-chintz-11195207.php>