

CONTACT:  
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714  
ckellogg@calperformances.org  
Joe Yang 510.642.9121  
jyang@calperformances.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 30, 2012

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS THE BAY AREA PREMIERE OF  
PARIS'S THÉÂTRE DE LA VILLE IN IONESCO'S MASTERPIECE  
RHINOCÉROS ON THURSDAY-SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 27-29, IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**Legendary company comes to the United States for the first time**

**BERKELEY, August 30, 2012**—For its debut tour, Paris's **Théâtre de la Ville** brings its acclaimed production of **Eugène Ionesco's** pioneering play *Rhinocéros* to **Zellerbach Hall** on **Thursday and Friday, September 27 and 28 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, September 29 at 2:00 p.m.** This engagement is one of just three stops—Los Angeles, Berkeley and Ann Arbor—the company and its director, **Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota**, are making. Performed in French with English supertitles, the story is often seen as a commentary on the conversion to fascism by the people of Ionesco's Romania in the years leading up to the Second World War. The production has been lauded for skillfully blending physical theater with the playwright's language and vision. "The staging of Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota is a masterpiece....There is a magic embrace between the show and the spectator" (*Le Monde*).

Théâtre de la Ville has a long and storied history and one that crosses paths with Cal Performances more than 100 years ago. In 1906, when Sarah Bernhardt performed a benefit at the Greek Theater for the victims of the earthquake, she had already begun a 25-year tenure as the head of the organization that would become known as Théâtre de la Ville. For decades she shared her name with the theater's impressive Haussmann-era building on Paris' Châtelet Square. The building was the birthplace of Jean-Paul Sartre's first play, *Les Mouches*, and hosted Bertolt Brecht's Berliner Ensemble. Since 1999, Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota has appeared in, directed, or produced more than a dozen productions at Théâtre de la Ville, including highly praised stagings of Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* and Brecht's *Man is Man*, among many others. When Demarcy-Mota was appointed director of Théâtre de la Ville in 2008, he established an artistic ensemble within the theater to continue its grand tradition of groundbreaking work. This 2012 Berkeley visit

-MORE-

by Demarcy-Mota's Théâtre de la Ville ensemble completes a dramatic arc that stretches back to Bernhardt's turn-of-the-century performance.

*Rhinocéros* was first written by Romanian-French playwright **Eugène Ionesco** (1909–1994) in 1957 as a short story. Adapted into a three-act play in 1959, the highly metaphorical work follows villagers in a small French town as they all—with the exception of inebriated everyman Berenger—become rhinoceroses, a metaphor for conformism in the face of communism, fascism, and Nazism. Théâtre de la Ville first re-staged the play in 2004, and for several years workshopped it (along with other Ionesco plays) in what the company called “a kind of permanent laboratory” in which actors chose their own parts and reassembled the plays for each performance. This workshop experience nourished the current production of *Rhinocéros*, directed by Demarcy-Mota and featuring **Serge Maggiani** as Berenger, **Hugues Quester** as Jean, **Valérie Dashwood** as Daisy, **Philippe Demarle** as Dudard, and **Gérald Maillet** as The Logician.

Director **Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota** is the son of Portuguese actress Teresa Mota and French director and playwright Richard Demarcy. Born in 1970 and active in the theater since he was a student in Paris—he and friends staged a production of Camus' *Caligula* when he was just 17—Demarcy-Mota began a five-year artistic residency in Aubervilliers and Blanc-Mesnil at age 20, and became director of La Comedie de Reims/National Drama Center in 2001. There he established an artistic collective focused on new work; ten members of that collective appear in the current production of *Rhinocéros*. In September 2008, Demarcy-Mota succeeded Gérard Violette as director of the Théâtre de la Ville; he also serves as director of *Festival d'Automne* in Paris, and in May 2012 was recognized as *Chevalier de l'ordre de la Légion d'honneur* by the French Minister of Culture.

**Théâtre de la Ville**, the theater building commissioned by Baron Haussmann in the 1860s, has since been known by several names, including the *Théâtre Lyrique* and the *Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt*. In 1968 the structure was extensively renovated to accommodate modern productions without altering its outward appearance, and reopened as the *Théâtre de la Ville*. It has earned a reputation for showcasing innovative theater, music, and dance works from around the world. The theater's official website is [theatredelaville-paris.com](http://theatredelaville-paris.com).

## TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for the **Théâtre de la Ville** performing *Rhinocéros* by **Eugène Ionesco** on **Thursday and Friday, September 27 and 28 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Saturday, September 29 at 2:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** range from **\$30.00 to \$90.00**, and are subject to change. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php> or call (510) 642-9988.

# # #

Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the Season.

# # #

## CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Thursday & Friday, September 27 & 28, at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Saturday, September 29, at 2:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

#### *Theater*

**Théâtre de la Ville**

***Rhinocéros* by Eugène Ionesco**

**Program:** Théâtre de la Ville of Paris, France performs the absurdist masterpiece *Rhinocéros* by Eugene Ionesco, directed by Emmanuel DeMarcy-Mota. This is the Bay Area premiere of the company's 2011 production, presented in French with English supertitles.

**Tickets:** Start at \$30.00, and are subject to change; they are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at [calperformances.org](http://calperformances.org); and at the door.

-----  
- Cal Performances -