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**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA
TO OPEN 2012-13 SEASON WITH *RHINOCEROS***

Opens October 4th in the Helms Theatre

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – September 25, 2012 – U.Va.’s Department of Drama salutes the Theatre of the Absurd when it opens its 2012-2013 season with the comic nightmare *Rhinoceros* on October 4th in the Helms Theatre.

One of the most iconic works in the absurdist theater movement, Eugene Ionesco’s *Rhinoceros* puts mindless conformity firmly in its crosshairs in response to the seemingly unchecked rise of Nazism and Fascism. When residents of a small village begin transforming into rhinoceroses, only one man is able to resist the urge and retain his own individuality and integrity against the pull of mass culture. This funny, bizarre, and biting satire is a cautionary tale for all eras.

“It sure sounds like a herd of rhinos stampeding around here,” shouts Tom Bloom, chair of the Department of Drama, over the deafening sounds of construction. “And life during construction can get pretty absurd. But seriously, it’s a good play and everyone should come see it.”

Rhinoceros, directed by U.Va. Drama’s Head of Movement Marianne Kubik, will be presented in the Helms Theatre October 4-6 and October 10-13 at 8pm.

Ticket prices for *Rhinoceros* are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors and U.Va. faculty, staff and alumni association members and \$8 for students. Tickets are available online at www.artsboxoffice.virginia.edu, by calling 434-924-3376 or in-person from noon until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the U.Va. Arts Box Office, located in the lobby of the U.Va. Drama building on Culbreth Road. A \$3.75 processing fee applies to all online or phone orders.

Subscriptions for the full 2012-2013 season are also available. In addition to *Rhinoceros*, the 2012-2013 season includes the Tony Award-winning musical *Spring Awakening*, the recent work *God’s Ear*, and the classic American comedy *You Can’t Take It With You*, which will be the inaugural production of the Ruth Caplin Theatre.

Subscription packages for 2012-2013 include tickets to all four productions, and are \$49 for adults, \$34 for students, \$43 for seniors and U.Va. faculty, staff and alumni

association members.

Free parking for all U.Va. Drama performances is available at the Culbreth Road Parking Garage, conveniently located alongside the Drama Building.

For more information on the 2012-2013 U.Va. Department of Drama season, visit us online at www.virginia.edu/drama.

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