Theatre Sheridan Presents

Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson
November 29 – December 10, 2011

Director
Lezlie Wade

Musical Director
Robert Foster

Choreographer
Marc Kimelman

Set & Costume Designer
Brandon Kleiman

Lighting Designer
Kevin Fraser

Sound Designer
Todd Charlton

The Band
Robert Foster Keyboard
Richard Gratton Percussion
Michael Pellarin Bass Guitar
Kim Radcliffe Guitar

Musical Arrangements by Steve Skinner
Original Concept/Additional Lyrics by Billy Aronson
Music Supervision and Additional Arrangements by Tim Weil
Dramaturg by Lynn Thomson
RENT was originally produced in New York by New York Theatre Workshop and on Broadway by Jeffrey Seller, Kevin McCollum, Allan S. Gordonand, New York Theatre Workshop

Production Sponsor - WHITNEY HAMMOND
Scènes de la vie de bohème, a collection of vignettes portraying young bohemians living in the Latin Quarter of Paris in the 1840s. The main theme of Murger's novel is ART ABOVE ALL.

Of the 8 principle characters in this play, half of them are dying of AIDS. What they will leave behind is what they create. This is a musical about the power of art, and friendship set against a backdrop of New York in the late 80's early 90's. A New York riddled with crime and covered in graffiti. A New York where the AIDS epidemic first reported in June 1981 becomes tantamount to a death sentence in 1989.

Jonathan Larson, himself a struggling artist, created a musical that tapped into the anger, frustration, love and determination of a generation of young people that resonates to this day and begs us to ask the question: How do you measure a year in the life of friends?

- Lezlie Wade

Special thanks to Kevin Etherington, The Talent House, Michael Rubinoff, Greg Peterson, Stratford Shakespeare Festival and everyone who gave their hearts to this production.

The services of Lezlie Wade and Marc Kimelman by special permission of Canadian Actors’ Equity Association.

RENT is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019www.MTIShows.com

Still photos, videotaping or other video recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Jonathan Larson (February 4, 1960 – January 25, 1996) was an American composer and playwright noted for the serious social issues of multiculturalism, addiction, and homophobia explored in his work.

Rent

Playwright Billy Aronson came up with the idea to write a musical update of La Bohème in 1988. He wanted to create "a musical inspired by Giacomo Puccini's La Bohème, in which the luscious splendor of Puccini's world would be replaced with the coarseness and noise of modern New York".

In 1989, Aronson called Ira Weitzman with his idea, asking for collaborators, and Weitzman put Larson together with Aronson to collaborate on the new project. Larson came up with the title and suggested moving the setting from the Upper West Side to downtown, where Larson and his roommates lived in a rundown apartment. For a while, he and his roommates kept an illegal, wood-burning stove due to lack of heat in their building, and he also dated a dancer for four years who sometimes left him for other men and eventually left him for a woman. These experiences would influence the autobiographical aspects of Rent. Larson wanted to write about his own experience, and in 1991, he asked Billy if he could use the original concept they collaborated on and make Rent his own.

Rent started as a staged reading in 1993 at the New York Theatre Workshop, followed by a studio production that played a three-week run a year later. However, the version that is now known worldwide, the result of a three year-long collaborative and editing process between Larson and the producers and director, was not publicly performed before Larson's death. Larson died of an aortic dissection, believed to have been caused by Marfan syndrome, in the early morning on January 25, 1996.

Due to Larson's death the day before opening night, the cast agreed that they would premiere the show by simply singing it through, all while sitting at three prop tables lined up on stage. But by the time the show got to its high energy "La Vie Bohème", the cast could no longer contain themselves and did the rest of the show as it was meant to be, minus costumes, to the crowd. Once the show was over, there was a long applause followed by silence which was eventually broken when an audience member shouted out "Thank you, Jonathan Larson."

Rent played through its planned engagement to sold-out crowds and was continuously extended. The decision was finally made to move the show to Broadway, and it opened at the Nederlander Theatre on April 29, 1996.

For his work on Rent, Larson was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama the Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, and Best Original Score; the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical, Outstanding Music, and Outstanding Lyrics; the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical; the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical in the Off-Broadway category; and three Obie Awards for Outstanding Book, Outstanding Lyrics and Outstanding Music.

Rent played on Broadway at the Nederlander Theatre from its debut in April 1996 until it closed on September 7, 2008. It is the 9th longest running show in Broadway history. In addition, it has toured throughout the world. A film version was released in 2005.

After his death, Larson's family and friends started the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation to provide monetary grants to artists, especially musical theatre composers and writers, to support their creative work.

Jonathan's work was given to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. in December 2003.
**Musical Numbers**

**Act 1**
- Tune Up.................................................................Mark, Roger
- Voice Mail #1.......................................................Mark’s Mother
- Tune Up.................................................................Mark, Roger, Collins, Benny
- Rent........................................................................Company
- Christmas Bells...............................................Homeless Man
- You Okay, Honey................................................Angelo, Collins
- One Song Glory...................................................Roger
- Light My Candle..................................................Mimi, Roger
- Voice Mail #2.........................................................Mr. Jefferson, Mrs. Jefferson
- Today For You...................................................Collins, Mark, Roger, Angel
- You’ll See..............................................................Benny, Mark, Roger, Collins, Angel
- Tango Maureen......................................................Mark, Joanne
- Support Group......................................................Company
- Out Tonight..............................................................Mimi
- Another Day..........................................................Mimi, Roger, Company
- Will I.......................................................................Company
- On The Street.........................................................Company
- Santa Fe.................................................................Collins, Angel, Mark
- I’ll Cover You.........................................................Angel, Collins
- We’re Okay..............................................................Joanne
- Christmas Bells......................................................Company
- Over The Moon.........................................................Maureen
- La Vie Boheme/I Should Tell You.........................Company

**Act 2**
- Seasons of Love......................................................Company
- Happy New Year..................................................Roger, Mark, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Maureen, Joanne
- Voice Mail #3.........................................................Mark’s Mother
- Voice Mail #4........................................................Alexi Darling
- Happy New Year..................................................Roger, Mark, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Maureen, Joanne, Benny
- Take Me or Leave Me...............................................Maureen, Joanne
- Without You..........................................................Roger, Mimi
- Voice Mail #5........................................................Alexi Darling
- Contact.................................................................Company
- I’ll Cover You........................................................Collins, Company
- Halloween.............................................................Mark
- Goodbye Love.........................................................Mark, Roger, Mimi, Collins, Maureen, Joanne, Benny
- What You Own........................................................Roger, Mark
- Voice Mail #6.......................................................Roger’s Mother, Mimi’s Mother, Mark’s Mother, Mr. Jefferson

**Finale**.................................................................Company
TECHNICAL CREW
Stage Manager.......................... Jessica McRandall
Assistant Stage Managers........ Carrie McMunn & Katie Miller
Audio Crew.............................. Sydney Collet, Nick Matthews
Carpentry Crew......................... Ian Barber, Russell Benoit, Luke Dobson, Jacob Gow, Eric Wellman
Head Electrician...................... John Page
Lighting Crew ......................... Matthew Cochrane, David Corbacio, Michelle Inksetter, Luka Trifunovic, James Walsh
Properties Crew....................... Cristin Barr, Jenna Purnell, Leigh Rawlins, Jessica Richards, Bernadette Sperandeo Gall, Jayda Woods
Scenic Paint Crew..................... Breanna Baker, Leona Czapinska, Monika Dembowy, Jonathan Grosz, Nancy Kapodistrias, Sashin Naidu, Katrina Sorg
Wardrobe Crew ......................... Caroline Hunt, Shakira Kissoon, Matthew Leckie, Adriana Marchi, Katie McPhee, Chelsea Reinders
Technical Assistants............... Nick Cholack & Lawrence Glover

RUNNING CREW
Crew Chief............................ Nick Cholack
Lighting Board Operator........... Matthew Cochrane
Stage Hand.............................. Jacob Gow
Audio Playback......................... Sydney Collet
Deck Audio.............................. Nick Matthews
Follow Spots............................ Esther Brown, Andrew McGowan
Dressers................................ Caroline Hunt, Katie McPhee

Special Thanks: Lindsay Kramer, Jennifer Mote, Dave Scott