

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. Gordon and, New York Theatre Workshop

Production Sponsor - WHITNEY HAMMOND

Director's Notes

RENT based on Puccini's *La Bohème* is based on Henri Murger's novel, *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 the 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.

Cast



David Alves



Mathieu Bellemare



Karina Bershteyn



Michelle Bouey



Andreane Bouladier



Trevor Curran



Camille Eanga-Selenge



Jake Foy



Joel Gomez



Aaron Hastelow



Jacob MacInnis



Julia McLellan



Matt Monopoli



Alycia Novak



Melissa Peters



Brett Schaller



Jaclyn Serre



Andrés Sierra



Chad Trembley



Luke Witt

*Dance Captain

Roger Davis.....	Aaron Hastelow
Mark Cohen.....	Joel Gomez
Tom Collins.....	Jacob MacInnis
Benjamin Coffin III.....	Brett Schaller
Joanne Jefferson.....	Jaclyn Serre
Angel Dumott Schunard.....	Andrés Sierra
Mimi Marquez.....	Michelle Bouey
Maureen Johnson.....	Julia McLellan
Junkie, Gordo, Vendor, Homeless Man, Mr. Grey.....	David Alves
Thug, Scott, Santa Fe Dancer, Contact Dancer.....	Mathieu Bellemare
Junkie, Mrs. Cohen, Contact Dancer.....	Karina Bershteyn
Prostitute, Sue, Vendor, Contact Dancer.....	Andreane Bouladier
Police Officer, Mr. Jefferson, Paul, Vendor.....	Trevor Curran
Junkie, Pam, Vendor, Santa Fe and Contact Dancer, Mimi's Mom.....	Camille Eanga-Selenge*
Police Officer, Contact Dancer.....	Jake Foy
Junkie.....	Matt Monopoli
Blanket Lady, Roger's Mother.....	Alycia Novak
Prostitute, Santa Fe Dancer, Mrs. Jefferson, Alexi Darling.....	Melissa Peters
Police Officer, Homeless Man, Pastor.....	Chad Trembley
Pimp Dealer, Joel, Santa Fe Dancer, Restaurant Man.....	Luke Witt

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.....	Angel, 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 CrewMatthew 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 Czaplinska, 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



STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER™