

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN

PRESENTS



Book, Music and Lyrics by
Jonathan Larson

Musical Arrangements
Steve Skinner

Original Concept/Additional Lyrics
Billy Aronson

Music Supervision &
Additional Musical Arrangements
Tim Weil

Dramaturg
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.

RENT is produced through a special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

Directed by Prof. Lee Blair

Vocal Director	R.J. Nestor
Music Director	Antonio Duran
Scenic Designer	Prof. Robert Klingelhoef, USA
Costume Designer	Prof. Mary McClung
Lighting Designer	Colleen Doherty
Sound Designer	Alexis Allenbaugh
Production Manager	Prof. Aubrey Sirtautas
Producer	Prof. Joshua B. Williamson

CAST

Mark Cohen.....Christian Clausnitzer
Rodger DavisEli Nygaard
Mimi MarquezGrace Alvarez *
Tom CollinsCameron Khoshgam **
BennyEryk Bluto
AngelJoseph Solmor
Maureen JohnsonHannah Sue Mort *
Joanne Jefferson.....Colette Curry
Ensemble.....Kyra McKillip
Lydia Sircy *
Clayton Muir
Alex Evans
Larry Smith
Savanna Crane
Dustin Jones
Michael Gilligan

BAND

Band Director & GuitarAntonio Duran
Lead KeyboardRyan Walker
KeyboardAutumn Holt
BassMason Atha
PercussionJoe Boulos

* In partial fulfillment of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre

** In partial fulfillment of a Master of Fine Arts in Acting

RENT will be performed without an
intermission

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

H. Keith Jackson, Dean, College of Creative Arts.
Paul K. Kreider, Vice-Provost
City of Morgantown and members of the City Council
Ron Dulaney Jr., Mayor
B.O.P.A.R.C.
Morgantown Police Department

Lighting and audio equipment provided by United
Sound & Electronics, Bridgeport, WV.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

We are still dealing with COVID-19 today but we do see hope for a return to our normal lives. But *RENT* reminds us that some pandemics live on – altered and controlled to some degree – but they do live on. HIV and AIDS are still with us. We continue to be vigilant in HIV prevention, but people still contract it and still die. But the HIV pandemic is not an automatic death sentence as it was in early days. Advancement in treatments and care have made it a livable condition for most. I have friends and acquaintances who have lived with HIV for over 25 years now. They do it with grace and dignity, perseverance, and hope. Hope that one day there still will be a cure.

RENT is about hope, but it's also about living for today because today may be all you've got. I think we've all felt that once or twice in the last year. That's not a scare tactic or a threat but a call to live life to its fullest. Be involved and engaged in your life. Be in touch and friends, family, with the world around you as best you can. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us all to reach out in new and different ways to stay connected. It may have been Zoom or TikTok or even Facebook, but all of that was living for today to make it hopefully to another day. Living for today makes this very moment, special, perfect, and complete.

There were times this past year that as theatre artists we wondered "Will we ever get back to the stage?" But here we are – not in our usual space or format - but I can assure you this cast and crew is living for today! And as you sit in the amphitheater, socially-distanced following all the current guidelines of safety, on the banks of the Monongahela, flowering trees revealing the start of spring, geese and goslings swimming by, breathe, relax, silence that phone, sit back (well, you might be on bleachers but still sit) and live for right now, for today. No day but today!

Happy 25th Broadway Anniversary to *RENT*! Thank you, Mr. Larson.

– Prof. Lee Blair, Director

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager.....	Prof. Aubrey Sirtautas
Technical Director	Prof. Steven Neuenschwander, Grant Prodan **
Stage Manager	Sunny Rawlinson
Director of Costuming	Prof. Mary McClung
Draper	Prof. Tiffany Delligatti
Costume Construction	Katrina Lundquist, Sarah Korn, Desiree Childers, Coby Greene, Colette Curry, Maggie Hissam, and the students of THET 106
Wardrobe Manager	Katrina Lundquist
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	Emily Bishop
Wig Construction	Zara Schopick
Dressers	Mariel Hazelwood, Isaac Johnson, Emerson Minor, Jada Pinsley, Trace Swisher
Scene Shop Manager.....	Byron Utely
Assistant Technical Director	Charles DiGiorgio
Properties	Seret Cole
Scenic Artist	Tyler Roth
Carpenter	Chance Roberts
Scenery Construction	Daiva Daulys, Ashley Hungerford, Savannah Mateyka, Chris Sheriff, Abby Wagner, and students in THET 104
Lighting & Sound Supervision	Prof. Alan McEwen
Production Electrician.....	Levi Main
Assistant Production Electrician	Hannah Kramer
Light Board Operator.....	Nate Sidow
FOH Sound Engineer.....	Alexis Allenbaugh
Supervising Sound Engineer.....	Trey Caldwell, United Sound
Sound Playback Operator	Noah Hamrick, II
Deck Electrician.....	Yixi Zhou
Deck Crew	Riley Cullen, Jacob Goedeke
House Managers.....	Emily Humbertson, Marigene Robertson
Programs	Prof. Joshua Williamson
Business Manager	Sean Beatty
COVID-19 Testing Program	Steve Watkins, Bill Ramsey Ted Svehlik, Carmen Burrell, DO
Administrative Associate	Brenda Hamilton

FOR THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN

Director of Arts and Cultural Development	Vincent Kitch
Venue Manager	Joe Kaehler

SYNOPSIS OF "RENT"

CHRISTMAS EVE

Mark, a documentary filmmaker, and Roger, a songwriter, are surprised as their former roommate and current landlord, Benny, asks for the back rent due ("Rent"). Benny let it slide before but now he will evict them if they don't pay. Recently married into a wealthy family, Benny offers to let them live rent free again if they can convince Maureen (Mark's ex) to stop her protest at a performance space Benny is planning to turn into a cyber-cafe.

Tom Collins, Mark's former roommate, returns to town. He is attacked by three men and left for dead in an alley. Angel Dumott Schunard, a HIV-positive drag queen drummer, meets Collins, also HIV-positive, in the alley ("You Ok, Honey") and a romance begins.

Roger mourns his girlfriend April, who committed suicide after learning she had HIV, and sings of his desire to write one lasting song before his own death from HIV ("One Song Glory"). Mimi, a neighbor and night club dancer addicted to heroin, enters Roger's apartment and flirts with him ("Light My Candle").

Roger and Mark meet Angel ("Today for You") and are invited to a HIV-support group at a local community center. Roger declines but Mark accepts, telling them he will be there after he goes and helps Maureen, who had called and asked for help with a technical problem.

Mark goes to help Maureen, only to meet Joanne, Maureen's new lover. They talk about Maureen's cheating as Mark fixes the technical issues at the performance space ("Tango Maureen"). He then proceeds to the Life Support Meeting where attendees share their struggles with HIV ("Support Group").

Forward to a night club, with Mimi performing a song and dance routine, singing of her desire to go out and have a good time before her life ends ("Out Tonight). The song transitions back to the apartment as she barges into Roger's apartment, where he gets angry at her bravado ("Another Day").

The four friends – Mark, Roger, Collins and Angel - talk about leaving NYC and moving to Santa Fe to open a restaurant ("Santa Fe"). Roger heads home, Mark goes off to help Maureen at the protest, and Collins and Angel express their love strolling the streets of the Lower East Side ("I'll Cover You").

Maureen's protest happens later that night ("Over the Moon") as Benny puts the police on standby. There is a riot post-performance. That night at the Life Cafe, everyone meets up. Benny tells everyone that he is sorry, changing no one's mind. They then perform ("La Vie Bohème"). Roger and Mimi gather outside, expressing their love for each other ("I Should Tell You"). Roger finds out that Mimi is HIV-positive as Mimi has already figured out that Roger is too. The two re-enter the cafe and celebrate their newfound relationship.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

A new year brings new hope ("Seasons of Love"). The gang celebrates the New Year with Mimi vowing to give up her drug habit and go back to school. However, they are locked out of their apartment by Benny, and Angel breaks the padlock with a garbage can. ("Happy New Year"). Benny shows up to end the "war" with his former roommates. He reveals that Mimi had dropped by his place, convincing him to change his mind, but also intimating she had cheated on Roger with him. Mark gets a phone call from Alexi Darling, a producer at Buzzline. She wants his footage from the Christmas Eve riot.

VALENTINE'S DAY AND SPRING

As we reach Valentine's Day, Joanne and Maureen are working on Maureen's new performance piece but begin to argue over Maureen's flirtations and infidelities with other women ("Take Me or Leave Me"). They walk out on each other, ending their relationship. And after the events of New Year and move into spring, Mimi's relationship with Roger suffers, she resumes her drug habit and falls into a state of despair ("Without You").

FALL

Summer passes into fall. Relationships suffer and struggle, as Angel gets progressively sicker and eventually dies from AIDS ("Without You" and "Contact"). The next scene is Angel's funeral in a large church ("I'll Cover You - Reprise").

Mark worries about his career and all the pain experienced in the last ten months ("Halloween"). Roger and Mimi argue about their past relationship, along with Joanne and Maureen. In their argument, Roger reveals that he has sold his guitar, bought a car, and is planning to leave for Santa Fe ("Goodbye Love"). As Collins can't afford to pay for Angel's funeral, Benny graciously offers.

Mark laments his selling out to Buzzline and plans to quit to continue working on his documentary as Roger worries about his move to Santa Fe and what will he do without Mimi ("What You Own").

CHRISTMAS AGAIN...

Roger's stay in Santa Fe is short-lived as he returns NYC, missing friends and Mimi. Joanne and Maureen rush to the apartment with Mimi. Finding her in a local park, she had been living on the streets for months. ("Finale A").

As Mimi is about to die, Roger sings the song he has been writing over the last year ("Your Eyes"). Near death, Mimi suddenly regains consciousness and says, "I was heading toward this warm, white light. And I swear, Angel was there and she looked good! She told me, 'Turn around, girlfriend, and listen to that boy's song.'"

During the last song ("Finale B"), we "see" Mark's documentary. We see hope as relationships and friendships are mended and the memory of Angel lingers with them all.