

# RENT

Jonathan Larson's Tony and Pulitzer-prize winning Broadway musical based loosely on Puccini's opera La Bohème. The story follows a year in the lives of seven friends living the disappearing Bohemian lifestyle in New York's East Village. AIDS and both its physical and emotional complications pervade the lives of Roger, Mimi, Tom, and Angel; Maureen deals with her chronic infidelity through performance art; her partner, Joanne, wonders if their relationship is worth the trouble; Benjamin has sold out his Bohemian ideals in exchange for a hefty income and is on the outs with his former friends; and Mark, an aspiring filmmaker, feels like an outsider to life in general, always behind the camera recording the events but never playing a part. Rent is the 8th longest running show in Broadway history. The show has also toured the U.S. and been performed on five continents. Knowing that Jonathan Larson is not here to enjoy this incredible success serves as a constant, poignant reminder of the show's message to live your life to the fullest, for there is "no day but today."

**Directed and staged by: Nathan Ross Clemons**  
**Musical direction by: Kristi Montero**

## **Audition Notice:**

Auditions will be held at the Shoals Theatre September 28th and 29th at 6:30 pm each evening. Callbacks as needed on Thursday October 1st at 6:30 p.m.

Those auditioning should arrive on time and be prepared to work hard for this show.

**PLEASE NOTE: This show contains adult subject matter.**

Due to the adult content of this show auditions for lead roles (should) be 18 years of age and over. However, those under 18 are welcome to audition for all roles provided a parent/guardian attends auditions and provides written consent for their child to be in this production. Please contact Nathan Clemons by e-mail for more information or discussion regarding this policy. Lead characters in this show are ages 18-30 in appearance. Those auditioning should come prepared to sing a song from the show or sing a song of a similar musical style of their own choosing that shows of their vocal range. Dress comfortably for a brief dance/movement audition.

### **Character Descriptions:**

**Roger Davis**, Baritone/Tenor with a strong rock belting voice. A struggling musician who's HIV+. Roger hopes to write one last meaningful song before he dies. He is struggling with the loss of his girlfriend from suicide after she found out she had given him AIDS.

**Mark Cohen**, Baritone/High Tenor with a strong rock voice. Filmmaker and video artist, and Roger's roommate. He casually narrates the entire show. He is a sensitive loner who would rather document life than live it.

**Tom Collins**, Baritone/Tenor with a gospel/soul belting voice. An HIV+ computer genius who's back in New York after being away. Ex-roommate and best friend of both Mark and Roger. He falls in love with Angel.

**Benjamin Coffin III**, Low Baritone voice. Landlord of Mark and Roger's building. Benny wants to start a multimedia studio across the street from Mark and Roger's building. He is considered a corporate yuppie sell-out by his ex roommates.

**Joanne Jefferson**, Alto/Mezzo-Soprano with a belting voice. An Ivy League-educated public interest lawyer and Maureen's lover. Joanne is the woman for whom Maureen left mark.

**Angel Schunard**, High Tenor. A Strong actor is required for this role. Angel is a street drummer also infected with HIV. He is the central plot line of the entire show. He is a gay man who loves to wear dresses and outfits that he makes from recycled materials. He is named Angel for a reason. He is the giver of abounding LOVE amongst this group of friends. He is Tom Collins' boyfriend.

**Mimi Marquez**, Mezzo-Soprano with a strong, rough belting voice. A night-club dancer with a drug problem who has AIDS. She is very flirtatious and wears her heart on her sleeve. She falls head over heels in love with Roger. She lives in the same building as Mark and Roger.

**Maureen Johnson**, Mezzo-Soprano with a Diva attitude and a voice to match. She is a very passionate and entertaining performance artist and Mark's ex-girlfriend. She has a lot of attitude and cheats on both Mark and her current girlfriend Joanne.

**Ensemble**, Mark's mom, Roger's mom, Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson, Mr. Grey, Alexi Darling, Steve, Paul, a Christmas caroler, a woman with bags, a pastor, man with squeegee, 3 cops, a waiter, and others. Those cast in the Ensemble will also be included in the big musical numbers such as: Seasons of love, La Vie Boehme, Life Support, and the finales A and B.

**The Director encourages all those auditioning to please watch the DVD movie RENT. The live stage version of RENT is also available on DVD at many retail outlets. This will be a whole new staging of this show with strong emphasis on the characters within this wonderful life changing story. This is the first full (un-edited) community theatre production of Rent in Alabama. Please E-mail [Nathanrc28@yahoo.com](mailto:Nathanrc28@yahoo.com) regarding further information.**