

RENT

**BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY
JONATHAN LARSON**

**DIRECTED BY
MATTHEW MAZUOSKI**

APRIL 27-30, 2023

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RENT

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JONATHAN LARSON

Musical Arrangements
STEVE SKINNER

Original Concept/Additional Lyrics
BILLY ARONSON

Musical Supervision
and Additional 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

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William Hill, *IT Manager*

CAST

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Mark..... | Connor Bezeredi |
| Roger..... | Nicholas Kerpsack |
| Mimi..... | Kylie Davis |
| Collins..... | Kage Jonas Coven |
| Angel..... | Wayne Bonner III |
| Maureen..... | Shiloh Hart |
| Joanne..... | Grayson McCrory |
| Benny..... | Nate Beagle |
| Ensemble..... | Joanna Andrei, Ben Bogen, Frank Carsone, Carolyn Colley, Nikita R. Jones, Ashley Milligan Smith, Robert Brandon Runnion, Mitchell Sharp, Emelia Sherin, Tyler Stouffer, John Weber |

CREATIVE TEAM

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Director/Scenic Designer..... | Matthew Mazuroski |
| Guest Artist/Conductor..... | Michael J. Moritz Jr. |
| Music Director..... | Joe Spurio |
| Choreographer..... | Joanna Andrei |
| Lighting Designer..... | Ellen Licitra |
| Costume Designer..... | Robert Dennick Joki |
| Assistant Music Director..... | Tyler Stouffer |
| Stage Manager..... | Hazy Jordan |
| Assistant Stage Manager/Props..... | Christina Kopcsos |
| Technical Director..... | Johnny Pecano |
| Intimacy Coordinator..... | Emelia Sherin |

CREW

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Lightboard Operator..... | Patrick "Shultzie" McCleery |
| Followspots..... | Courtney Bailey, Chaunise LaRae |
| Stage Crew..... | Finlay Andrei, Caitlyn N. Santiago |
| Rehearsal Pianist..... | Jan Cox |
| Wig Design..... | Mia Grimes |
| Fly Rail Operator..... | Chuck Kettering |
| Deck Hand..... | Travis Beatty |
| Graffiti Artist..... | Sam Perry |

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SONG LIST

ACT I

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| "Tune Up #1" | Mark and Roger |
| "Voice Mail #1" | Mark's Mother |
| "Tune Up #2" | Mark, Roger, Collins and Benny |
| "Rent" | Mark, Roger, Benny, Collins, Joanne, and Company |
| "You Okay, Honey?" | Angel and Collins |
| "Tune Up #3" | Mark and Roger |
| "One Song Glory" | Roger |
| "Light My Candle" | Mimi and Roger |
| "Voice Mail #2" | Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson |
| "Today 4 U" | Collins, Roger, Mark and Angel |
| "You'll See" | Benny, Mark, Roger, Collins and Angel |
| "Tango: Maureen" | Joanne and Mark |
| "Life Support" | Gordon, Paul, Mark and Company |
| "Out Tonight" | Mimi |
| "Another Day" | Mimi, Roger, Company |
| "Will I?" | Steve and Company |
| "On the Street" | Preachers, Squeegee Man, Mark, Collins, Angel, and Homeless Woman |
| "Santa Fe" | Collins, Angel, Mark and Company |
| "I'll Cover You" | Angel and Collins |
| "We're Okay" | Joanne |
| "Christmas Bells" | Company |
| "Over the Moon" | Maureen |
| "La Vie Bohème A" | Mark, Waiter, Roger, Benny, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Maureen, Joanne, Mr. Grey and Company |
| "I Should Tell You" | Mimi and Roger |
| "La Vie Bohème B" | Maureen, Collins, Joanne, Mark, Angel and Company |

ACT II

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| "Seasons of Love A" | Company |
| "Happy New Year A" | Mark, Roger, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Maureen, and Joanne |
| "Voice Mail #3" | Mark's Mother and Alexi Darling |
| "Happy New Year B" | Mark, Roger, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Maureen, Joanne, and Benny |
| "Take Me or Leave Me" | Maureen and Joanne |
| "Seasons of Love B" | Company |
| "Without You" | Roger and Mimi |
| "Voice Mail #4" | Alexi Darling |
| "Contact" | Angel and Company |
| "I'll Cover You" (Reprise) | Collins and Company |
| "Halloween" | Mark |
| "Goodbye Love" | Mark, Roger, Mimi, Collins, Maureen, Joanne, and Benny |
| "What You Own" | Roger and Mark |
| "Voice Mail #5" | Roger's Mother, Mimi's Mother, Mr. Jefferson, and Mark's Mother |
| "Finale A" | Preachers, Mark, Roger, Collins, Maureen, Joanne, and Mimi |
| "Your Eyes" | Roger |
| "Finale B" | Company |

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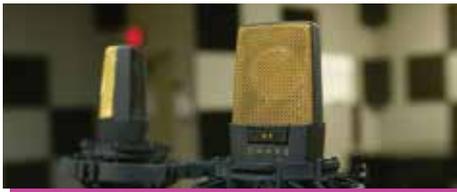


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SYNOPSIS

ACT I

On Christmas Eve, 1989, in Manhattan's East Village, two roommates—Mark Cohen, a filmmaker, and Roger Davis, a rock musician—struggle to stay warm and produce their art without a penny to their names. Mark, being recently dumped by his outrageous performance artist ex-girlfriend, Maureen Johnson, has a new drive to document “real life” with his friends and experiences in New York City as it faces the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Benny Coffin III, Mark and Roger's former roommate, turned landlord, calls the two starving artists about breaking an earlier agreement and demands that they pay rent, or else (*RENT*). As they struggle to figure out how to turn their building's power back on, their friend Tom Collins—a gay anarchist professor of computer-age philosophy at NYU—makes a new, special friend, Angel Dumott Schunard, a cross-dressing street drummer who finds Collins wounded in an alley and tends to him, as they both bond over having a similar diagnosis (*You Okay Honey*). Roger reminisces over his past relationship as he feels left alone to fend his new diagnosis by himself (*One Song Glory*). He's then unexpectedly visited by their neighbor, Mimi Marquez, who is an exotic dancer and junkie, asking for a helping hand (*Will You Light My Candle*). Mark comes home, and Benny arrives, speaking of Maureen's upcoming protest against his plans to evict the homeless from a lot where he is hoping to build a cyber arts studio. Benny offers that, if they convince Maureen to cancel the protest, then Mark and Roger can officially remain rent-free tenants (*You'll See*). Mark goes to help Maureen with the sound equipment for the protest, unexpectedly meeting Joanne Jefferson, Maureen's new girlfriend who's a lawyer. Initially hesitant with each other, the two eventually bond over their shared distrust of Maureen's “gaslighting” and promiscuous behavior (*Tango Maureen*). Mark continues to document “real life” by joining Collins and Angel to film their HIV support group meeting, which Roger reflects on while thinking about his fear of dying without a purpose (*Life Support*). Roger takes his chance and apologizes to Mimi, inviting her to come to Maureen's eccentric performance protest and the dinner party his friends are having afterwards. Maureen begins her avant-garde, new age performance based on “Hey Diddle Diddle” until the protest turns into a post-show party at the Life Café (*Over the Moon*). Benny arrives, criticizing the protest and the group's bohemian lifestyle. In response, Mark and his group defiantly rise up to celebrate their way of living (*La Vie Bohème*).

ACT II

The cast lines up to sing a vulnerable, yet empowering tune, affirming that one should measure life “in love” prefacing the second act (*Seasons of Love*). On New Year's Eve, the group of friends gather to break back into Mark and Roger's apartment (*Happy New Year*). Benny arrives, saying he wants to call a truce and revealing that Mimi—who used to be his girlfriend—convinced him to change his mind. Mimi denies rekindling her relationship with Benny, but Roger is upset, and although they apologize to each other, Mimi goes to her drug dealer to cope with her frustrations by using again (*Happy New Year B*). When preparing for another upcoming protest, Maureen criticizes Joanne's controlling behavior, and Joanne criticizes Maureen's promiscuous mannerisms, resulting in a dramatic break up (*Take Me or Leave Me*). Come spring time, Roger and Mimi's relationship is strained by her escalating heroin use and Roger's lasting jealousy and suspicion of Benny. Each alone, Roger and Mimi sing of love and loneliness, as they watch Collins nurse Angel, whose health is drastically declining due to AIDS (*Without You*). By the end of summer, Mark continues to receive calls offering him a corporate job, questioning his devotion to his life's work. Angel falls deeper into illness and has a fever dream representing all the couples' sex lives where the climax results in the two former couples breaking up, and Angel's sudden death (*Contact*). At Angel's funeral, the friends briefly reunite to share their memories (*I'll Cover You Reprise*). The funeral sparks arguments amongst the friend group and they realize that their close-knit friendships will be disintegrating due to Angel's death, Roger moving, and relationships ending. Mark tries to convince Roger to stay in New York, but Roger is unable to handle Mimi's declining health. Collins, unable to pay for Angel's funeral, is comforted by Benny and rekindles their old friendship. In the winter, Mark and Roger simultaneously reach an artistic epiphany, as Roger finds his song in Mimi and Mark finds his film in Angel's memory. Roger decides to return to New York in time for Christmas, while Mark devotes his efforts to working on his own film (*What You Own*). On Christmas Eve, 1990, one year since the beginning of their story, Mark prepares to screen his now-completed film to his friends. Roger has written his song, but no one can find Mimi for him to play it to. Maureen and Joanne hastily enter carrying Mimi, who has been homeless, sick, and is close to death. As she begins to fade, she tells Roger that she loves him, as he plays her the song he wrote for her to reveal the depth of his feelings (*Finale A/Your Eyes*). Mimi appears to die, but abruptly awakens after seeing a vision of Angel surrounded by a white light, telling her to return to Earth and stay with Roger. The remaining friends gather in a final moment of shared happiness with the time they have left with each other, because there is “no day but today” (*Finale B*).

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Over thirty years ago, Jonathan Larson's *Rent* had its first staged reading at the New York Theatre Workshop. Larson had huge aspirations for his musical based on Puccini's *La Bohème*. Broadway, at the time, was running enormous spectacles such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, and *Les Misérables* or the intellectual explorations of the human condition in Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, and *Sunday in the Park With George*. Larson wanted to create something for the average person—"to bring musical theatre to the MTV generation." In doing so, he revolutionized and forever changed musical theatre and had profound impact on a generation of theatre goers and geeks. It has become a cultural touchstone.

Rent, like all great theatre, reflects its time. The country was still in the throes of the AIDS epidemic, New York City was being transformed by gentrification and commercialization. Once seedy yet creative and bohemian enclaves were being sanitized by developers looking to make a profit. Rudy Giuliani was running for Mayor with a "tough on crime" platform and promised "civic clean-up" in New York City. But while *Rent* reflects these larger economic and social changes in the context of its day, it also brings to life the personal struggle of being able to pay the "rent". *Rent*, also has a double meaning—"to be torn or to separate into parts with force or violence."

The vibrant characters at the center of *Rent*, are torn apart by addiction, disease, homelessness, and the age-old struggle between art and commerce. The struggle for Larson and nearly all artists is sometime between making art and making a living. Mark epitomizes this struggle. Roger, knowing that his life might be cut short, struggles with what, if anything, he will leave behind to signify that he was here.

When I was asked if I was interested in directing this show, I had two main concerns or questions: Could I bring this story to life in a compelling way with the available resources and could we find the artists with the acting and vocal skills who could bring these characters to life? I believed that we could answer yes to the first question. With the talent and hard work of the entire creative team and the production staff, this could be achieved. The answer the second question was one I worried about the most. Could we find the talent locally? I wasn't sure. But to my amazement, those theatre goers and geeks, the "MTV generation" who grew up listening, and watching, and performing *Rent* came out for the auditions.

Rent has inspired a new generation of theatre artists and creators. Its legacy are other rock musicals that include *Spring Awakening*, *Next to Normal*, and Lin Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton*. Unfortunately, Larson died on the opening day of *Rent's* Broadway debut. He never was witness to his impact on theatre. On the 20th anniversary of *Rent's* move to Broadway, Lin Manuel Miranda wrote on Twitter: "I think about an alternate timeline where Jonathan Larson is 56 years old, with many shows written & more on the way." Larson lived, died, and told his story, and musical theatre would never be the same.

Matthew Mazuroski
Director

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CAST BIOS



Connor Bezeredi (Mark) Born and raised in Salem, Ohio, Connor was involved consistently at Salem Community Theatre from the age of 12 until graduation from Youngstown State University with his BFA in Musical Theatre. After college, Bezeredi added several professional credits to his resume, including: Scrooge in The Imbible's seasonal off-Broadway production, *Christmas Carol Cocktails*; Pat/Bud in *4:20 The Musical: X-mas Special* and *4:20 The Musical: In Concert*. Connor is so humbled and grateful to be performing this show next to people he loves on the very stage where he first saw *RENT* at 14 years old. He would like to dedicate this performance to his younger brother, Cooper.



Nicholas Kerpsack (Roger) is a Youngstown native who first started as an Easy Street Little Rascal and is currently working as a Territory Sales Manager for the east coast. After many musical experiences - from theater to bands - Nick is coming back to the musical theater stage after ten years. He has been playing music with his band, Decades, from Austintown, Ohio. You can follow him on Facebook or Instagram @nickkerpsackmusic.



Kylie Davis (Mimi) It has been said that Kylie was singing before she talked. She grew up in a theatrical family, where performing quickly became her lifeblood. The only things she loves more than entertaining are her daughter, family, and four cats. Kylie's previous roles have included Jill in *Equus*, Fantine in *Les Miserables*, and Mimi Marquez in *RENT*. She is eternally grateful for the opportunity to be Mimi once more.



Kage Jonas Coven (Collins) Kage Jonas Coven has been a member of community theater in the Youngstown area since 2004. He'd like to thank everyone who helped him along this path and all those who have come to see his work. Most recently, he starred in Squeaky Wheel Theater Company's *Little Shop of Horrors* as Seymour. *RENT* is his DeYor stage debut. This is another show and role from his bucket list. He'd like to dedicate his performance to the memory of his beloved older brother who succumbed to this specific disease in 2007.



Wayne Bonner III (Angel) is thrilled to be back on the DeYor stage after playing Harpo in *The Color Purple: The Musical!* He was last seen in the Youngstown Playhouse production of *Sister Act* as Eddie Souther. Some credits include *Shrek the Musical* (Donkey), *Dreamgirls* (Ensemble), *Frozen Jr.* (Prince Hans), *The Gospel According To Tammy Faye* (Angel Valazquez), *Elf: The Musical* (Store Manager), and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Ensemble). Wayne is also a part of The MAC Experience LLC led by Michael A. Cotton Jr. He gives all thanks to God and to everyone who has supported him on his journey!



Shiloh Hart (Maureen) Shiloh graduated from Firestone Academy of The Arts with her Visual and Performing Arts diploma at just 18 years old. Outside of school she competed in saxophone, clarinet, oboe, opera and piano competitions. She signed to Jason Wyatts Production Company at 20 years old. Shortly after she wrote and demoed "All Over You" with Grammy nominated Jan Buckingham. She has done studio accompaniment with Jeff Roach and Jason Wyatt. After 300 musical theatre performances and 10 years of successful studio work, she returned to the Youngstown area and founded a youth fine arts academy, Hart's School of Performing Arts. Shiloh now resides in the Youngstown area with her three kids, Milo, Emma, and Mara! Shiloh wants to give a big thank you to her parents, Tom, kids and family for all the support.

CAST BIOS CONT.



Grayson McCrory (Joanne) Grayson is honored to be a part of this beautiful show and playing their dream role of Joanne. Gray is a fourth year BFA Theatre major at Youngstown State University. They have been performing for many years, and just started getting involved in the technical side of things in their most recent years. You may have seen them most recently as Gary Coleman in *Avenue Q* with The Millennial Theatre company. Some of their most notable performances include Marianne Angelle (*The Revolutionists*), Audrey II (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Texas (*Cabaret*) and Hermia (*An Evening with Billy Shakes*) along with light designing *The Last Five Years* all at Youngstown State University. They also had the pleasure of playing the role of Madame Thenardier (*Les Miserables*) at the Pittsburgh Civic

Light Opera Academy of Musical Theatre. Grayson sends the cast and crew good vibes and thanks their director for the opportunity to experience such a wonderful production.



Nate Beagle (Benny) is delighted to perform on the DeYor stage for the first time! Nate is a proud alumni of the Youngstown State University Theater Program. Regional credits include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Shrek: The Musical*, *A Christmas Carol* (Jenny Wiley Theater), *The Full Monty*, *Greater Tuna*, *Grease* (Northern Lights Playhouse), *Grumpy Old Men: The Musical*, and *Junie B Jones* (Prather Entertainment). Local theater credits include *The Laramie Project* (Trumbull New Theater), *Sister Act* (The Youngstown Playhouse), *20th Century Blues* (The Hopewell), *Seussical: The Musical* (YSU). Nate would like to thank all of the organizations involved for making this production possible. Love to his wife Kelly, mom, Amanda, and Jay.



Ashley Milligan Smith (Ensemble) is excited to return to the stage and be a part of *RENT*, alongside the sweetest castmates! Her previous community theater shows include *Elf: The Musical* (Emily Hobbs) and *Mamma Mia!* (Ali), both at the Youngstown Playhouse. She is a master's level registered nurse at multiple organizations and she enjoys educating and caring for the pediatric population. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, dancing/singing, and playing with her puppy. Many thanks goes out to her friends and family, as well as her castmates and directors for supporting her dreams of being on stage!



Ben Bogen (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making the leap to DeYor in this production with this incredible company! After semi-retirement from the pandemic, Ben has steadily been getting back into stage acting, starting with the Youngstown Playhouse's past production of the *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Clopin Trouillefou). Other notable credits include Brad Majors (*Rocky Horror Show*), Harry (*Kinky Boots*), and Bob Cratchit/Young Scrooge (*A Steampunk Christmas Carol*). Best wishes to all the supportive cast and crew members in this production for reminding him there's "no day but today". Viva La Vie Boheme!



Carolyn Colley (Ensemble) is so excited to finally be back in the theater after a long hiatus - her last role was Rapunzel in Kent Trumbull Theater's production of *Into the Woods* way back in 2006! Though not in the theater, from 2013-2014 she trained and toured with Re-Creation USA, Inc., performing song and dance variety shows every day in VA medical centers and state veteran's homes across the country, and has continued to lend her voice on various recording projects with the group. She is also the front-woman and principal songwriter for the indie-rock band Black Wolf & the Thief. Carolyn would like to thank her cast for making her return so enjoyable and her family for always supporting her artistic endeavors.



Emelia Sherin (Intimacy Coordinator/Ensemble) is a Warren native who has been professionally choreographing and performing for 10 years. Sherin currently coaches the Howland Speech and Debate team, is a teaching artist for the Ohio Thespians chapter of the Education Theatre Association, and is the Education Coordinator for Stambaugh Auditorium, Opera Western Reserve, DeYor, Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, and The Youngstown Playhouse. After graduating from Howland High School, she sailed the seas and worked for Disney Cruise Lines as a dancer and actress. Once she returned to land, she attended Kent State University and earned her degree in Public Relations with minors in Dance Studies and Theatre Management. She is a certified Intimacy Designer/

Choreographer who helps actors and directors communicate scenes of intimacy or domestic violence in a safe and consensual manner. Over the years, she has choreographed for and performed with several theatre organizations. Her highlights include: *Disney Dreams* (Cinderella, Snake Charmer), *Tangled* (Bard, Stunt Double), *Chicago* (Hunyak), *Hairspray* (Amber VonTussle), *Legally Blonde* (Margot), *Cats* (Rumpleteazer), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crystal), *Living Dead the Musical* (Barbara), *Steel Magnolias* (Shelby), *Spring Awakening* (Thea, U/S Martha), *Macbeth* (Witch), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia). She would like to shout out her voice teacher, Amanda Beagle of Amanda Beagle Studios, for helping her regain her confidence and strength in singing!



Frank Carsone (Ensemble) a multimedia student with a life-long appreciation of the arts of film and television production. As a student, I've led an active role in the Business Professionals of America, a nationwide CTSO (Career Teacher-Student Organization), giving a total of ten competitive presentations; three of which being on the national level. I've been involved with productions at Youngstown's Covelli Centre, DeYor Performing Arts Center and LinMar Strategies for Entertainment. With experience in audio/video production, broadcasting, voiceovers, public speaking, graphic design, public relations, delegation and condensed time management, I'm prepared to bring my all to your project!



Joanna Andrei (Choreographer/Ensemble) A 30 year theatre veteran, Joanna was trained at American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. She has danced with Ballet Theatre Ohio, Great Lakes Festival Ballet and American Cabaret Theatre. In more recent years, Joanna has played Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Lola in *Damn Yankees*, and Six in *Chicago*. Her choreography credits include *The Producers*, *Pippin*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Mary Poppins*. She dedicates this performance to her 15 year old, Finlay.



John Weber (Ensemble) has appeared as Monsignor O'Hara in *Sister Act* with Top Hat Productions, Brandy Bottle Bates in *Guys & Dolls* with Easy Street Productions, and the Youngstown Symphony. *Annie* with Easy Street he played Al/ Servant/ Harold Ickes in *Annie* with Crown Theater as Drake the Butler. John has had Several Appearances with The Youngstown Playhouse: *Hunchback of Notre Dame* Father Dupin / Ensemble / December 2018 & July 2019 *Mamma Mia* / Ensemble. Tom Keeney in *Funny Girl*. *Bullets Over Broadway* as Warner Purcell. *Young Frankenstein* in the Ensemble. *The Music Man* as Constable Locke. *Mary Poppins* as the Police Officer. *Fiddler On The Roof* as The Innkeeper. *Legally Blonde* as Winthrop and Dewey. *Cabaret* as the Customs Officer, First Sailor, and Gorilla. *The Mystery Of Edwin Drood* as Bazzard. *Scrooge The Musical* as Mr. Pringle, Topper, and The Ghost of Christmas Future. He has appeared at Salem Community Theatre in *Oliver* and *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*... John would like to thank our entire cast & crew, as well as the entire management & staff. He would like to dedicate his performance to his late sister, Diane Weber Laboy, who was his biggest supporter, as well as his nieces, nephews and all of his family and friends for their love & support...

CAST BIOS CONT.



Mitchell Sharp (Ensemble) is currently a senior at Youngstown State University. Pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a minor in Musical Theatre. This will be his 21st show performing in theatre, some of those credits include: *The Last Five Years* (Jamie Wellerstein), *Godspell* (George), *Newsies* (Jack Kelly), *The Glass Menagerie* (Jim), *Almost, Maine* (East/Chad/Phil/Lendall), and *Puffs...* (The Narrator). Mitchell is also currently enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve and is proud to serve. He is very excited to perform in *Rent*, and wants to thank his friends and family for all the support.



Nikita R. Jones (Ensemble) is very excited to be back on the DeYor stage. She was last seen on DeYor's stage as Sofia in *The Color Purple: The Musical* but the last time she was on the Youngstown Playhouse stage, she was Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act*. Nikki is no stranger to the theater! Other shows she has done include: *Sister Act*, *Amazing Grace*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Ragtime*, *In The Heights*, *Hairspray*, and *Aida*. (Top Hat Productions) *The Wiz* (Youngstown Playhouse) *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Hair* (Oakland Center for the Arts).

This Youngstown State University graduate was also in *Once on This Island*, *BrokeOlogy*, *1940's Radio Hour*, and *RENT* during her time at YSU. She was a member of globally known, The Youngstown Connection. Nikita was also in a

Regional tour of *A Night with Janis Joplin*.



Robert Brandon Runnion (Ensemble) This is Brandon's first experience on the stage. He currently serves as City Councilman in the Village of East Palestine and is a sales associate at Sheely's. Brandon is proudly supported by his wife, Paige, and his two sons, Jensen and Theodore.



Tyler Stouffer (Assistant Music Director/Ensemble) is so excited to be making his debut at DeYor with such an incredible group of artists. Tyler recently relocated to his hometown of Salem after spending the last 10 years performing, directing, and learning in Southern California. Tyler is a proud alumnus of the Performing Arts BFA program at AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts in Los Angeles. Credits: Regional: Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Sister Act*, *Joseph... Dreamcoat* (5-Star Theatricals), *Spamalot* (3D Theatricals), *Avenue Q* (Cupcake Studios), *A Christmas Carol* (Temple Theater), Other Favorites: Shrek in *Shrek the Musical*, Man in Chair in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Beast in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and more! Tyler is thrilled to be back performing in Ohio again and sends

endless thanks to his family for supporting his crazy dreams! @tstouff www.tylerstouffer.com

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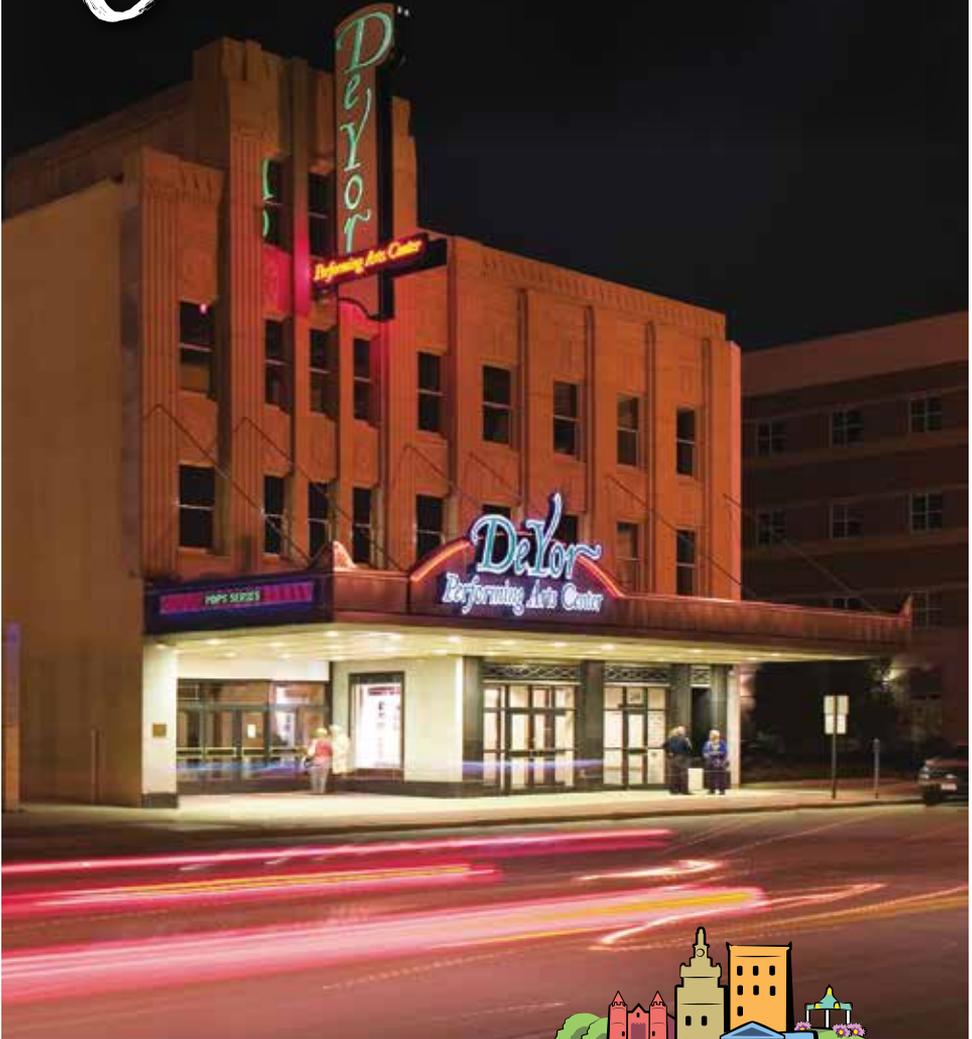
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CREATIVE TEAM BIOS



Matthew Mazuroski (Director/Scenic Designer) is thrilled to be working on this production of *Rent* with such a talented group of actors, designers, and technical crew! Over nearly 40 years, Matthew has worked across the country as an actor, director, fight-choreographer and theatre educator. His professional acting credits include: Nick in *Whose Afraid of Virginia Woolfe* with Phoenix Theatre, Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* with Actors Theatre of Phoenix, Hysterium in *Forum* with Whitehall Theatre, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* with The National Players, and the title role in *Hamlet* with the UK/AZ Festival. He served as the founding artistic and marketing director of The Actors Group, located in Phoenix Arizona, from 1993 until 1997. From 1995-98 Matthew was the lead program coordinator and curriculum developer

for Theatre at The Arizona School of the Arts—a Charter School that served grades 6-9. From 1998 until 2001, he traveled throughout the United States and the United Kingdom as a Trainer with Pryor Resources. From the fall of 2005 thru the spring of 2011, Matthew was the Performing Arts Coordinator and an Adjunct Professor of Theatre at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA.

Matthew has directed nearly 75 university or professional productions. He has worked as the fight choreographer for over 60 productions. Some of his award-winning productions as director include *Bent*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Buried Child*, *Before it Hits Home*, *David's Mother*, *Twilight of the Gods*, *The Crucible*, *Buried Child* and *The Laramie Project*. He has collaborated with playwrights on staged readings, workshop readings, and has helped develop scripts from readings through full productions. He also directed the production of *Jackie & Me* for Children's Theatre of Charlotte where it was selected as one of the best productions for the 2014-2015 theater season. He is also a member of Actors Equity and has performed in the tri-state area productions that include: Unseem'd Shakespeare's production of *Out of this Furnace* in Pittsburgh, and *Harry's Friendly Service*, *American Buffalo*, and *Keely and Du* for the Youngstown Playhouse and most recently as Bert Barricune in the Hopewell Theatre's production of *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*.

Matthew is retiring in May as the Associate Professor of Acting/Directing for the University Theatre for Youngstown State University where he taught Acting, Directing, Improvisation, Theatre for Young Audiences, Stage Combat, Advanced Acting, Acting for Film, Neutral and Character Mask, and Devised Theatre. For YSU he has directed 21 productions including: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar & Grille*, *Broke-ology*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Tartuffe*, *The Spitfire Grille*, *Mr. Wheeler's*, *Twelfth Night*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Addams Family*, *Into the Woods*, *Cabaret*, and *Romeo & Juliet* to name a few. He also directed YSU's production of *Dead Man's Cell Phone* which was selected by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival to perform at the Region 2 Festival and received National KCACTF Certificates of Merit. This is the first time YSU was selected and so recognized. In 2014 he directed a production of *Broke-ology*. This was the first-time in the history of the theatre program at YSU that a play, written by an African-American playwright, and featuring an all African-American cast was produced at Youngstown State University.

He served as the Chairperson for the Department of Theatre & Dance from 2016-2019. While Chair, he initiated the Department's Festival of New Works that celebrates student generated original work in playwrighting, film-making, choreography, and devised theatre.

He would like to thank the talented Mr. Michael Moritz, as conductor, keyboardist, and featured artist. He is grateful to the entire production team: Joe, Ellen, Joanna, Rob, Hazy, Christina, Johnny, Travis, and Kelly. He would also like to thank his wonderful partner in life, Pat Foltz, for her love, intellect, talent, and support over the past 35 years!

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS CONT.



Michael J. Moritz Jr. (Guest Artist/Conductor) Michael J. Moritz Jr. is an acclaimed conductor, pianist, music producer, and philanthropist. He made his Broadway debut in 2013 with *A Night With Janis Joplin* and has since worked on numerous Broadway productions, including *Big Fish*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *The Velocity of Autumn*, *On The Town*, and the Tony Award-winning *Hadestown*. As a producer, Moritz has received multiple awards and nominations, including a Tony Award for *Hadestown*, Tony Award nominations for *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and *On The Town*, an Olivier Award nomination for *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, an Emmy Award for *From Broadway With Love*, and a Grammy Award nomination for Stephen Schwartz's *Snapshots*.

Moritz has also been actively involved in philanthropy and charity work, participating in benefit concerts like *From Broadway With Love* for Sandy Hook, Orlando, and Parkland, and supporting organizations such as God's Love We Deliver, American Civil Liberties Union, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids, The Actors Fund, and The Angel Band Project.

As a symphonic conductor, Moritz has led world-renowned orchestras, including The Orlando Philharmonic, The New World Symphony, and The Boston Pops. In his role as a music producer, he has collaborated with, performed with, and mixed records for a diverse array of artists, such as Josh Groban, Leslie Odom Jr., Andrea Bocelli, Baby Face, Blake Shelton, Gwen Stefani, Wayne Brady, Chloe x Halle, Peter Frampton, HER, Journey, Gladys Knight, Adam Lambert, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Annie Lennox, Barry Manilow, Steve Martin, John Mayer, Audra McDonald, Kat McPhee, Idina Menzel, Bette Midler, Paul Shaffer, Sia, Jordyn Sparks, Stevie Wonder, James Taylor, Il Volo, Dionne Warwick, Clive Davis, and Jamie Foxx.

Michael's work has been featured and reviewed in numerous publications, including The New York Times, People Magazine, The Guardian, Mix Magazine, and Recording Magazine. His work can be heard on TV programs, movies, and hundreds of recordings across various genres.

Hazy Jordan (Stage Manager) Hazy is extremely excited to stage manage *RENT!* Some of their past stage management credits include Pittsburgh Festival Opera, *Glass Menagerie*, *Cabaret (ASM)*, *Oliver!*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Godspell*. When they're not stage managing you can find them house managing at City Theatre and Quantum Theatre. Hazy would like to thank their friends, family, and partner for supporting them (and for putting up with how long they were gone for).

Joe Spurio (Music Director) is a native of Hubbard, Ohio and serves as music director for several organizations in the northeast Ohio and northwestern Pennsylvania area. A graduate of Westminster College (B.M.) and the Dana School of Music (M.M.), he is currently director of music at St. Patrick's Catholic Church and works with several area theater companies in the valley, such as ACTS, and has collaborated with the theatre department at Youngstown State University. Joe also served as assistant choral director at Thiel College for the fall semester, and is presently the assistant director of the Shenango Valley Chorale. In addition to directing, Joe teaches private voice and piano lessons to students and adults throughout the northeastern Ohio and northwestern Pennsylvania region with a combined studio of nearly 30 students. Joe is thrilled to work with this supremely talented cast and passionate creative team.

Christina Kopcsos (Assistant Stage Manager/Props) Christina received her BFA in theater production/performance from YSU in 2003, and has been involved in multiple community theaters in the Youngstown area. Stage managing credits include both productions of *57th Street* at Top Hat Productions, *An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein* and *Betty's Summer Vacation* at the Oakland, *The Mad Woman of Chaillot*, *Death Takes a Holiday* and *Steel Magnolias* at Hopewell Theatre. Most recently, she stage managed *A Tuna Christmas* at The Youngstown Playhouse. In addition, she has been on the run crew and tech crew for many other shows in the area. Christina currently works at Eye Catchers Optical in Boardman, and previously worked at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Her community involvement includes being the First Vice President for the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15 in Poland, where she is part of the honor guard with the American Legion Post 15 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 15.

Ellen Licitra (Lighting Designer) has spent the past 40+ years lighting up theaters and TV studios, both locally and across the country, earning eleven awards for her work. Some of her most memorable shows have been *Color Purple*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Pippin*, *Chorus Line*, *Dream Girls*, *Funny Girl*, *Normal Heart* and *Hair*. Notably, Ellen worked for several summers as assistant to Tony award nominated lighting designer, Ian Calderone, at the NYC Eugene O'Neill Theater Center National Playwrights Conference. Recently retired from 26 years of designing lighting and rigging systems at Vincent Lighting Systems, Ellen continues to follow her passion.

Johnny Pecano (Technical Director) Johnny has created scenic, light, and sound designs for dozens of Youngstown Playhouse productions including *The 39 Steps*, *God of Carnage*, *The Woman in Black*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *Dinner with Friends*, *Legally Blonde*, *Honk! For the Record*, *Gloria Birnbaum's Broadway Debut*, and *Man on the Street*. Youngstown Playhouse Youth Theatre design credits include *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, *The Hobbit*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Thespis and the Three Golden Feathers*. A multi-talented artist, Johnny frequently sound designs productions at Youngstown State University and has directed local productions of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *The Goat*, or *Who is Sylvia?* and *Alice in Wonderland*. Acting credits include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Pillowman*, *The Elephant Man*, *Angels in America*, *Assassins*, and *The Odd Couple*.

Robert Dennick Joki (Costume Designer) is a nonbinary artist and activist who is proud to make his home in Youngstown, Ohio. He accepts all pronouns. Robert is the show director at Club Switch, the area's only alternative night club, and the creative force behind the Rust Belt Theater Company, which is now entering its fourteenth season serving the Mahoning Valley. He has written over a dozen original musicals, including the annual holiday hit *How The Drag Queen Stole Christmas*. Currently celebrating twenty five years on stage, he is a seasoned drag performer, known for outrageous costumes and live vocals, under the name Starrlet O'Hara. He is a former Mr. Ohio Allstar, and has been honored as Grand Marshal of both Pride in the Valley in Warren, Ohio...as well as Pride Youngstown.

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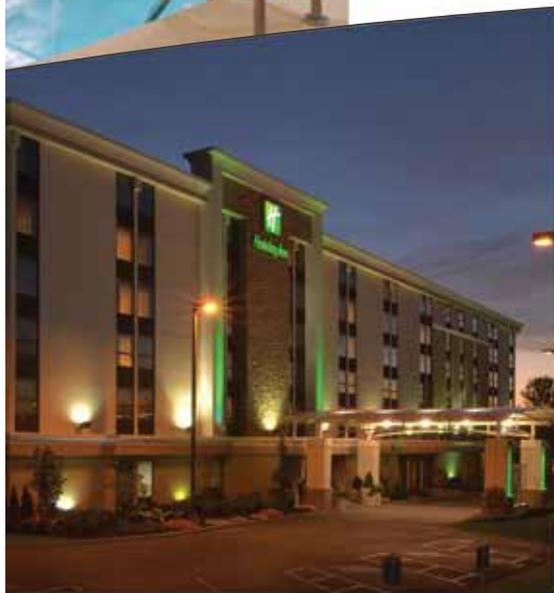


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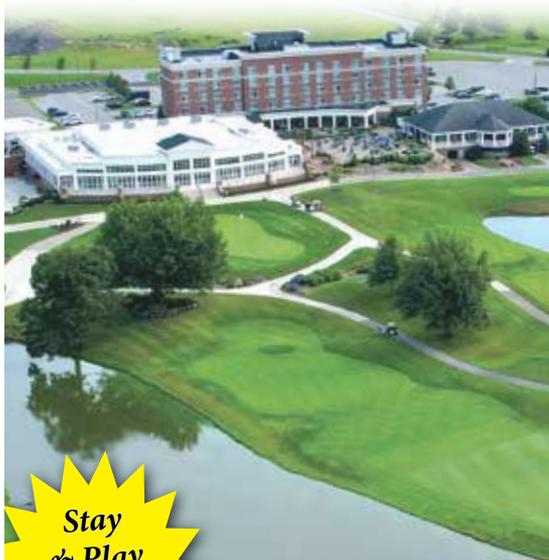
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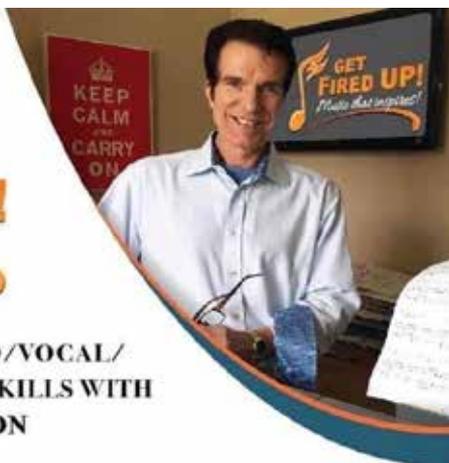
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