



SAN
DIEGO
MUSICAL
THEATRE

For Immediate Release
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SAN DIEGO MUSICAL THEATRE RENT Debuting at SDMT Stage

La Vie Bohème! San Diego Musical Theatre announces on the 25th anniversary, *RENT* as its Pre-Professional show of the 2021 abbreviated season that will be performed at their new theater - SDMT Stage!

Set in the gritty East Village of New York City, *RENT* is about falling in love, finding your voice and living for today. Winner of four Tony awards including Best Musical and a Pulitzer Prize for Drama the same year, *Jonathan Larson's* iconic *RENT* has become a pop cultural phenomenon with songs that rock and a story that resonates with audiences of all ages.

Tragically, composer/lyricist/librettist, Jonathan Larson, never had the chance to win another after suddenly dying of an aortic aneurysm hours before the show began previews, creating an instant theatre legend as dramatic as his musical.

Based loosely on Puccini's *La Bohème* opera, *RENT* follows an unforgettable year in the lives of seven impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to follow their dreams without selling out all while trying to survive in New York's Lower East Side, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. The physical and emotional complications of the disease 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. Benny has sold out his Bohemian ideals in exchange for a hefty income and is on the outs with his former friends. Mark, an aspiring filmmaker, feels like an outsider to life in general. How these young bohemians negotiate their dreams, loves and conflicts provides the narrative thread to this groundbreaking musical.

"Every generation struggles with an epic crisis, be it consumption in the nineteenth century, the AIDS crisis in 80's or the Covid pandemic of today, humans still fall in love, fall out of love, make mistakes, celebrate victories, dance with joy, create, destroy, rebuild, and ultimately, the human race survives," said Courtney Corry, SDMT's *RENT* Director / Choreographer. "*RENT's* message of 'No Day But Today' resonates with themes of hope and faith throughout this rock-based opera."

RENT's pre-professional cast is composed of San Diego up and coming teens and young adults all with impressive resumes of local theatre, college and high-school musical production credits. *RENT's* inspiring message of joy and hope in the face of fear is a timeless celebration of friendship and creativity that reminds us to measure our lives with the only thing that truly matters – love.