



Theatre presents

World Theatre
Workshop

RENT

25th Anniversary of Broadway opening!

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

Director, Joy Powell

Musical Director, Brett Kristofferson

Assistant Director/Choreographer, Brandon Riley

Dramaturg, Les Gray

Winner of Tony Award for Best Musical and Pulitzer Prize for Drama

Rhynsburger Theatre

7:30 pm: Nov. 4-6 and 11-13

2:00 pm: Nov. 7 and 14

11:00 am: Nov. 10 Spotlight performance

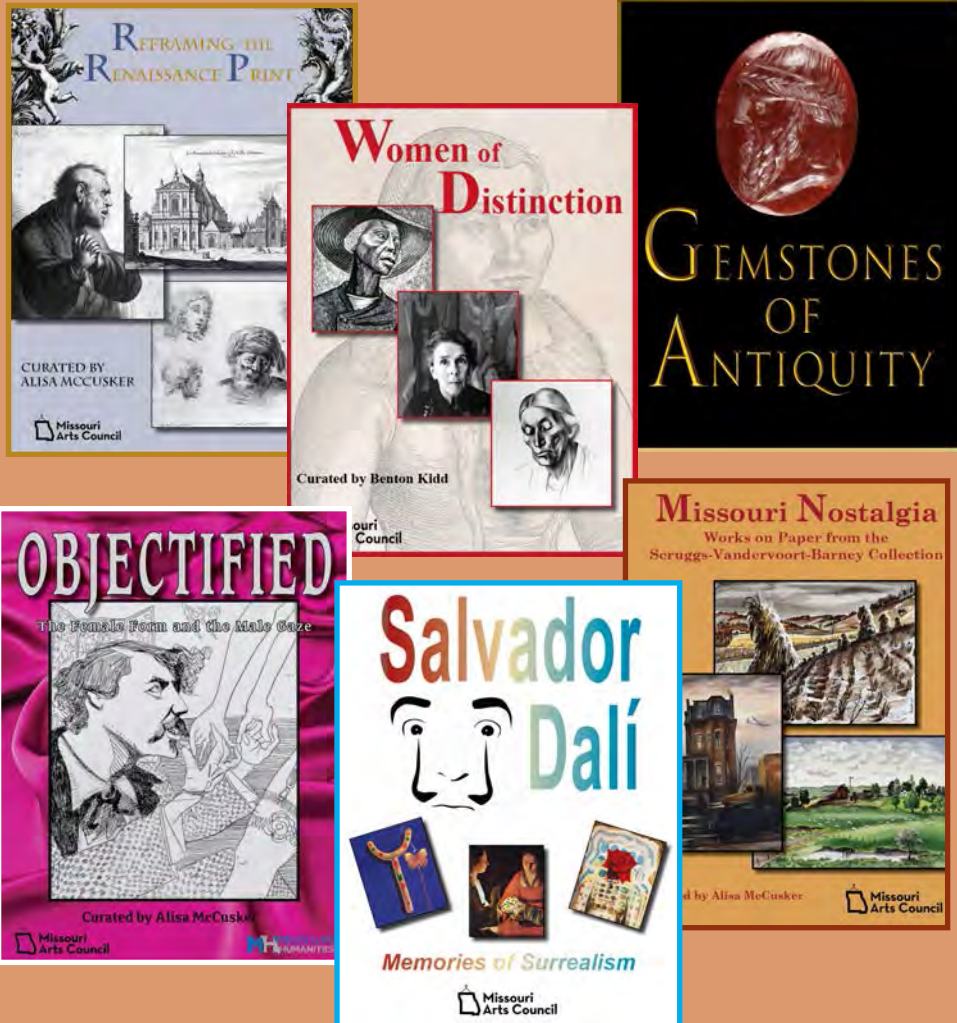
2021



MUSEUM OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

The Museum is on the MOVE!

While the galleries are CLOSED as the Museum moves to its new location in the lower east level of Ellis Library, explore online exhibitions as well as the collections portal, which offers information and images of every object in the Museum's collection.



Welcome Back to a live performance at the Rhynsburger! We are more than thrilled to be sharing this experience with you here in our beloved theatre.

It is difficult to imagine that this musical which examines the important ways in which love and humanity are life's basic essentials is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Just as the world was coping with the AIDS crisis when it premiered, we are still very much in the middle of the COVID pandemic. And although the struggles are different, in many ways how we address those who are suffering both physically and mentally is quite similar. In short, we need each other. We need each other for warmth, for safety, and for facing life's most difficult challenges.

Tonight under the brilliant direction of Dr. Joy Powell, the characters in RENT will show you how the actions of each day add up to years of support that are exponential. In the words of the most famous song, we hope to affirm together, live and present, the seasons of love unfolding in our future.

Thank you for your patronage, we are thrilled you are here.

M. Heather Carver

M. Heather Carver,
Artistic Director and Chair



Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

DIRECTOR
JOY POWELL

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST
BRETT KRISTOFFERSON

COSTUME DESIGNER
MARC W. VITAL II

SCENIC DESIGNER/
DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION
MIMI HEDGES

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER
BRANDON V. RILEY

LIGHTING DESIGNER
VINCENTE WILLIAMS

AUDIO ENGINEER
ELIZA BROOKS

STAGE MANAGER
SYDNEY LEWIS

SOUND DESIGNER
DE'JANNA SCALES-HAND

VOCAL COACH
SYMONNE SPARKS

DRAMATURG
LES GRAY

Cast

<i>Mark Cohen</i>	Evan Gagliardo
<i>Roger Davis</i>	Caleb Jared
<i>Angel Dumott Schunard</i>	Nathan Le
<i>Tom Collins</i>	Anthony Coleman Blatter
<i>Maureen Johnson</i>	Dani Major
<i>Joanne Jefferson</i>	Raynesha Green
<i>Mimi Marquez</i>	Aaliyah Jones
<i>Benny Coffin III</i>	Reggie Coleman
Ensemble.....	Komlavi Adissem, Lukas Barker, Peyton Boudouris, Avery Campbell, Kaylah Janssen Cayla Johnson, Scott Koonce, Gabe Levi, Kasey Lynch Sabrina Salerno, Dacia Slater Ayanna Taylor, Jack Taylor

Setting: Lower Eastside, New York City, 1989-1990

Intermission: There will be a 10 minute intermission.

Special Thanks: David Myers, Julia Gaines, Michael Burke
and Stephens College

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL
RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS ON ANY
MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE
AUTHOR'S RIGHTS AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW.

Partial funding for our productions is provided by Chrisha's Fund,
an endowment established by her parents in memory
of Chrisha L. Siebert, BA, '90.

Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. 

Musical Numbers

Act 1

"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 Ensemble
"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"	Joe, Larry, Paul, Mark and Company
"Out Tonight"	Mimi
"Another Day"	Mimi, Roger and Company
"Will I?"	Joe and Company
"On the Street"	Preachers, Squeegee Person, Mark, Collins, Angel and Houseless 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"	Mark, Waiter, Roger, Benny, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Maureen, Joanne, Mr. Grey and Company
"I Should Tell You"	Mimi and Roger
"La Vie Bohème Reprise"	Maureen, Collins, Joanne, Mark, Angel and Company

Act 2

"Seasons of Love"	Company
"Happy New Year"	Mark, Roger, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Maureen, and Joanne
"Voice Mail #3"	Mark's Mother and Alexi Darling
"Happy New Year Reprise"	Mark, Roger, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Maureen, Joanne, and Benny
"Take Me or Leave Me"	Maureen and Joanne
"Seasons of Love Reprise"	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 (Part I)"	Preachers, Mark, Roger, Collins, Maureen, Joanne, and Mimi
"Your Eyes"	Roger
"Finale" (Part II)	Company

Rent Production Crew

Assistant Stage Managers.....	Tricia Carver-Horner, Haley Fraser
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Jake Price
Properties Manager.....	Mimi Hedges
Technical Director.....	Joseph Lass
Properties Assistant.....	Ben Prentiss
Light Board Operator.....	River Pich
Videographer.....	Katrin Hunter
Dance Captain.....	Cayla Johnson
Sound Board Operator.....	Joe Shiffrin
Follow Spot Operators.....	Ella Ilg, Mariah Dale
Wardrobe Crew.....	Bailey Crouch, Jessica Peterson, Rose Shirkey,
Run Crew Head.....	Juan Martinez
Deck Crew.....	Mackenzie Clark, Francisco Melendez, Sara Wiley
Master Electrician.....	Babs Randazzo
Assistant Master Electrician.....	Ella Ilg
Electrics Crew.....	Jake Burns, Bailey Cannon, Robert Dresselhaus Lucy Ebling, River Pict, Ben Tatum, Aeryn Yonke
Scenic Studio Crew.....	Anthony Blatter, Jake Burns, Avery Campbell, Bailey Cannon, Mackenzie Clark, Robert Dresselhaus, Evan Gagliardo, Aaliyah Jones, Francisco Melendez, Allyson Minor, Sydni Pearson, Jessica Peterson, Joe Shiffrin, Ben Tatum, Rose Shirkey, Michael Westphal, Sara Wiley, Aeryn Yonke

Director's Notes

Hello and welcome back to the Rhynsburger Theatre! We simply cannot contain our excitement to have the opportunity to perform live for you! The cast, crew and production team have approached this process with so much heart and gratitude. We are thrilled to be back, in person doing what we were made to do: create theatre!

I'd like to share a bit of my personal history with this show. I had the amazing opportunity to see the original Broadway cast of RENT. In that moment, as I watched from my standing room only position in the back of orchestra, I knew history was happening right before my eyes. That history comes rushing forward to this moment 25 years later.

Since its inception this story has given so many folx a safe place for their voice to resonate and part of the representation they deserve. We are truly honored to share this story and to be a part of that work of building authentic community. Now, to be clear, this show is not perfect. It is a period-piece and representative of time in which it was written. While our understanding of sexuality, gender and even the ideas around disease have progressed since 1990, the heart of the show still has so much to teach us. I have watched these songs and characters bring our community even closer together. Old friendships have been strengthened and new ones have formed, creating a space where everyone has a place to belong, just as they are. We are living our own season of love. Thank you for joining us for this journey of realization and connection.

I'll end with my favorite quote from the show: "The opposite of war isn't peace, it's creation." I truly believe that the remedy for so much of what ails us as humans can be found in creating something new. This can be a friendship, art, justice, or a safe place for others to belong.

Thank you for joining us!

—Dr. Joy Powell

Dramaturg's Notes

I Hope This Program Note Finds You Well

Since around March of 2020, I have found myself writing the sentence, “I hope this finds you well” an inordinate amount of times knowing full well that, in many cases, this was not the reality for the recipient of my words. As we have worked to collectively conjure this iteration of Jonathon Larson’s 1996 musical *Rent*, we cannot help but to be relentlessly struck by its various resonances echoing from over 25 years ago. Inasmuch as *Rent* is seemingly haunted by the lives and deaths of those claimed by both the HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 pandemics, it also gestures toward the celebration of community, solidarity, and joy that we as humans desperately cling to.

Due to his untimely death before opening night, Larson wrote into a future that he would not be a part of wherein a new generation of folks would find an exciting new liberatory potential in theatre, seeing themselves and the stories they needed told in a rock opera. *Rent* has privileged representation of those who have been pointedly hidden in theatrical narratives and through its lottery program, opened up a radical space to decrease patrons’ financial barriers to accessing live theatre. The musical has manifested itself on the global stage with theatre productions, film interpretations, and a live TV debut. It is a cultural product that has transcended its original medium and many assumed limits proposed by a play set in the 90’s.

However, as theatre artists, we often pose and attempt to answer the question, “Why this play, now?” And for me, the answer is easy. In times of pervasive illness and loss,

we are collectively forced to lean into transience and the relatively temporary reality of the time we spend together and a sometimes overwhelming lack of control. That is to say, our lives, composed of those sung hundreds of thousands of minutes, can still feel all too short. However, *Rent* reminds us that we have the tools to counter this call of despair. We might not be able to buy a sense of control or love or healing or the comfort hope so many of us crave...

But for the runtime of this show, we invite you to rent it.

—Dr. Les Gray

Stage Door Club

Your support of the Stage Door Club helps keep the curtain rising on live theatre at Mizzou!

Your generosity will help recruit and enroll new MU Theatre Department students; fund students’ travel to regional festivals where they showcase their achievements and win awards; create professional-quality set, lighting and costume design; and bring noted theatre and guest artists to the MU campus. Become a part of MU Theatre’s traditional and cutting-edge productions at the Rhynsburger Theatre and Studio 4 with your gift today!

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MU Dept of Theatre, 129 Fine Arts,
University of Missouri, Columbia MO 65211



And ‘thank you’ to our generous donors!



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The Kennedy Center

*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by **David M. Rubenstein**.*

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

MU Theatre Technical Crew and Staff

Artistic Director.....	Heather Carver
Director of Production.....	Mimi Hedges
Head of Costumes.....	Marc W. Vital II
Technical Director.....	Joseph Lass
Scenic Studio Assistants.....	Jake Price, Eliza Brooks, Robert Dresselhaus, De'Janna Scales-Hand, Sydney Lewis, Juan Martinez
Artists-in-Residence.....	Babs Randazzo, Vincente Williams
Academic Advisors.....	Alex Anderson, Jennifer Bloss
Director of Front of House.....	Jabarbara Jennings
Assistant Box Office Manager.....	Josh Saboorizadeh
Box Office Staff.....	Tricia Carver-Horner, Makayla Green, Raynesha Green Abby Harpenau, Sydney Hendrickson, Austin Hultz Kasey Lynch, Dani Major Maggie McGrath, Emma Neel River Pich, Brandon Riley De'Janna Scales-Hand, Joe Shifrin Dacia Slater, Abby Uphoff, Payton Woodruff
Business Affairs.....	Pat Garmon
Graphic Design.....	Dory Colbert

MU Department of Theatre Faculty

Kevin Brown, Associate Professor
M. Heather Carver, Professor, Department Chair
David Crespy, Professor
Les Gray, Postdoctoral Fellow
Mimi Hedges, Visiting Professor
Joy Powell, Associate Teaching Professor
Claire Syler, Assistant Professor
Marc W. Vital II, Assistant Professor

Scholarship Recipients 2021-2022

Richard And Patricia Wallace Endowment For The Arts
Liza Mahacek, Dacia Slater

Donovan and Peggy Rhynsburger Scholarship
Maddie Bunten, De'Janna Scales-Hand

Terry Perkins Comic Actress Scholarship
Payton Woodruff

Sol Feinstone Technical Theatre Award
Ben Prentiss, Juan Martinez

John Ross Berneche Acting Scholarship
Ayanna Taylor

Tom Berenger Acting Scholarship
Jack Fulkerson, Raynesha Green

James M. Miller Musical Theatre Scholarship
Dacia Slater, Anthony Blatter

Richard M. Hennessy Scholarship
Reggie Coleman, Averey Campbell

Dan Springer Memorial Scholarship
Ellison Land, Jake Price

Dr. Marcia Berry Memorial Scholarship
Symonne Sparks

Frances McCurdy Memorial Scholarship
Brandon Riley

Carla Waal Johns Award
Kasey Lynch

MU Theatre Citizenship Award
De'Janna Scales-Hand

Curators Scholarship
Jodelyn Belew, Joseph Belmore, Anthony Blatter,
Peyton Boudouris, Shannon Bradley, Max Bodenhausen,
Madeleine Bunten, Averey Campbell, Ryan Cohen, Reggie Coleman,
Brayden Corniels, Lucy Ebeling, Hayley Frazer, Michael Frimpong,
Jack Fulkerson, Raynesha Green, Alana Hayes, Emily Inman,
Kaylah Janssen, Caleb Jared, Hayley Jones, Ellison Land,
Liza Mahacek, Juan Martinez, Brittaney Nicholson, Ben Prentiss,
Jake Price, Joel Rodriguez, Tinek Robinson-Douglas,
Grant Rust, De'Janna Scales-Hand, Dacia Slater, Ayanna Taylor,
Justice Thompson, Zach Vajda, Jor'Dan Weatherspoon,
Payton Woodruff



Stories matter.

Come experience the ones we tell.

Mizzou New Play Series

Director, David Crespy

Studio 4

7:30 pm: Feb 9-12 • 2:00 pm: Feb 12 and 13

War of the Worlds

Adapted by Howard Koch, based on the novel by H.G. Wells

Director, Kevin Brown

Studio 4

7:30 pm: Mar 9 -12 • 2:00 pm: Mar 12 and 13

The Revolutionists

Written by Laura Gunderson

Director, Claire Syler

Rhynsburger Theatre

7:30 pm: April 27-30 • 2:00 pm: April 30 and May 1

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