

Gosford Musical Society  
presents

# RENT

Information Pack





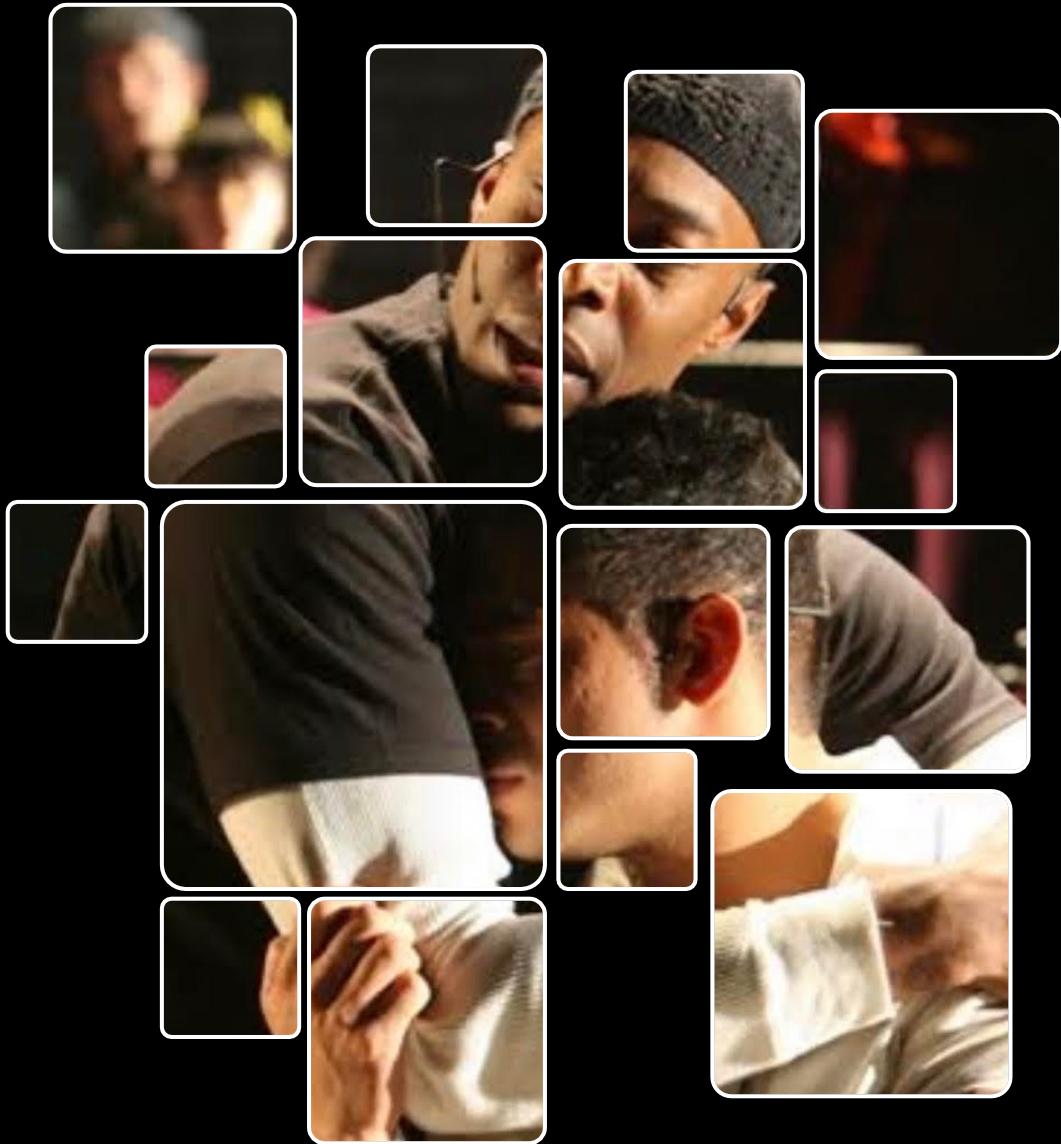
# Directors Vision

This show will celebrate and respect the original intent and vision of the story through a workshop approach. We will amplify the role community plays in supporting adversity and humanizing 'otherness' through storytelling and inclusion of more dance.

The theme of Rent is a universal one highlighting the value of love and life and connects everyone who feels alone or afraid, struggling for being who they are, following their dream or afraid of being their authentic self.

We need to reach out to our community, live in the moment, choose love, and choose each other over adversity. No day but today.





## Synopsis

Rent is a rock musical, with music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson based on Giacomo Puccini's opera La Bohème. It tells the story of a group of struggling young artists and musicians living in New York City in the 1990's in the peak of the AIDS epidemic where AIDS was the number 1 cause of death in young adults 25-44. The story follows 7 friends throughout one year and observing their challenges in navigating love, accomplishments, tragedies, drug addiction and relationships - everything that a year has to offer

# RENT

# Production Team

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**Book, Music & Lyric** - Jonathan Larson

**Director** - Rob Hale

**Musical Director** - Marianne Powles

**Choreographer** - Lauren Miller

**Assistant Choreographer** - Lara Coffey

**Assistant Director** - Declan Dowling

**Vocal Coach** - Monique Donath

**Creative Consultant** - Toni Williams

**Set Designer** - Rebecca Howarth

**Production Manager**- Gary Keys

**Stage Manager** - Jo Whitelaw

**Assistant Stage Manager** - TBA

**Assistant Production Manager**- Lara Low

**Social Media** - Rebecca Gracia

**Costume Designers** - Bev Barendse & Mel Vangelatos

**Lighting Designer** - TBA

**Props Manager** - TBA

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# **Show Information**

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**RENT by Jonathon Larson**

Laycock Street Community Theatre

**Show Dates: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

11 performances

**Auditions Sat 8<sup>th</sup> + Sun 9<sup>th</sup> October**

Callbacks 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> October (if needed)

**Rehearsals commence 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Summer break from Dec 21<sup>st</sup> to Jan 9<sup>th</sup>

Production Week 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

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# Cast

- We are seeking **approx. 34 diverse performers** from all genders, ages and backgrounds. Strong vocal and acting abilities are required.
- **8 lead roles**
- **18 named/minor roles**- chosen from ensemble cast consisting of different ages/looks
- Featured **dance ensemble of 8**
- We are open to casting against the perceived 'norms' where talent and ability deserve.



RENT

## Character Description

**Mark Cohen**



**"Here on in I  
shoot without  
a script..."**

## Basic Info

Tenor

Range: A2 – G4

Stage Age 20-28

## What are we looking for?

- Exceptional actor and storyteller
- Confident mover
- Captivating presence

## Need to know

Traditionally a bit of a nerd, but we are open to creative, cool, whatever your interpretation is.

## Description

A struggling documentary filmmaker, the narrator of the show and the person who creates a final movie which details his friends; lives and journey throughout the story. Always has a camera in his hand and wants to make a difference in the world through his filmmaking

Ex-boyfriend of Maureen.

Roommate of Roger.

## Audition

"Halloween"

Callback song: "Goodbye love"

Callback scene: Opening dialogue + "tune up #1"

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## Character Description

**Roger Davis**



**"I'm writing  
one great  
song..."**

## Basic Info

Tenor

Range: F2-A4

Stage Age 20-28

## What are we looking for?

- Exceptional actor and storyteller
- Confident mover
- Guitar playing advantageous but not essential, but must learn guitar

## Need to know

Not required to have a "natural" rock tone in his voice, but must be able to create a strong chest voice foundation to mimic a rock sound

## Description

A once-successful-but-now-struggling musician who is HIV-positive and an ex-junkie. He has difficulty coping with his own mortality as well as that of his friends. He is roommates and best friends with Mark, is madly in love with Mimi but fights his feelings constantly out of fear.

## Audition

"One song Glory"

Callback song: "I should tell you"

Callback scene:  
"Goodbye Love"

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## Character Description

**Mimi Marquez**



**"Would you  
light my  
candle..."**

## Basic Info

Mezzo-Soprano

Range: Eb3- E5

Stage Age 18-25

## What are we looking for?

- Strong actress
- Triple threat performer
- Strong dancer

## Need to know

Kissing and love scenes with Roger and must be comfortable with being sexual in solo "Out tonight".

## Description

A stripper and drug addict. Carefree, lives each day like it's her last. She lives downstairs from Mark and Roger, is in love with Roger, and, like him, is HIV-positive. She is also Benny's ex-lover. She is cheeky, a bit of an optimist, but very troubled.

## Audition

"Out tonight"

Callback song: "I should tell you"

Callback scene: "Goodbye love"

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## Character Description

**Maureen Johnson**



**"The only thing  
to do is jump  
over the moon"**

## Basic Info

Mezzo-Soprano

Range: C4 - F5

Stage Age 22-30

## What are we looking for?

- Very strong actor
- belt voice
- Must be able to move well.

## Need to know

Must be comfortable with kissing and being affectionate with women, exposing her bottom, and leaving inhibitions at the door.

## Description

A bi-sexual performer / activist who is Mark's ex-girlfriend and Joanne's current girlfriend. She is very flirtatious and very sexual. Wants to be famous, is a complete extrovert.

## Audition

"Over the moon"

Callback song: "Take me or leave me"

Callback scene: "Goodbye love"

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## Character Description

**Joanne Jefferson**



**"Take me or  
leave me..."**

## Basic Info

Mezzo-Soprano

Range: G3-E5

Stage Age 24-32

## What are we looking for?

- Very strong actor
- Strong singer
- Must move well to learn the Tango

## Need to know

Must feel comfortable kissing and being affectionate with a woman

## Description

An Ivy League-educated lawyer and lesbian. Maureen's girlfriend. Uptight, cautious, jealous but forgiving. Madly in love with Maureen.

## Audition

"We're okay"

Callback song: "Take me or leave me"

Callback scene: "Goodbye love"

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## Character Description

**Angel**



**"Today for  
you, tomorrow  
for me."**

## Basic Info

Tenor

Range:C3-A4

Stage Age 18-25

## What are we looking for?

- Very strong actor
- Strong dancer.
- Triple threat performer.

## Need to know

Must be comfortable with kissing and loving scenes with a male.

## Description

A drag queen percussionist with AIDS, who is Collins's partner. The glue that holds the "family" together. Warm, gentle, compassionate, generous and sassy. Angel dies from AIDS in Act II.

## Audition

"Today 4 U"

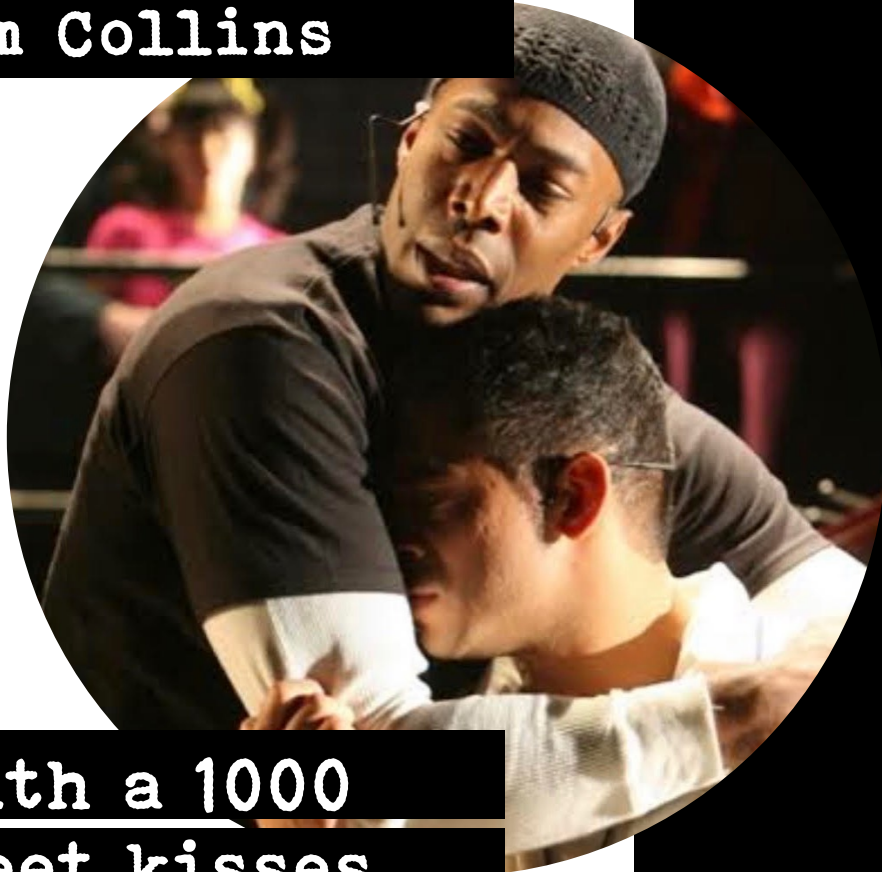
Callback song & scene:  
"I'll cover you"

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## Character Description

**Tom Collins**



**"With a 1000  
sweet kisses,  
I'll cover you."**

## Basic Info

Baritone

Range: F#2-A4

Stage Age 22-28

## What are we looking for?

- Exceptional actor and storyteller
- Confident mover
- Captivating presence

## Need to know

Must be comfortable  
with kissing and loving  
scenes with a male

## Description

A gay, part-time  
philosophy professor at  
New York University and  
an anarchist with AIDS.  
Angel's loving and  
smitten partner. Roger,  
Mark, Maureen and Benny's  
ex room mate.

## Audition

"I'll cover you" (reprise)

Callback song: "I'll  
cover you"

Callback scene: "Goodbye  
love"

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## Character Description

**Benny**



**"You'll see  
boys...."**

## Basic Info

Baritone

Range: Bb2 - F#4

Stage Age 22-28

## What are we looking for?

- Strong actor
- Strong singer.

## Need to know

He at one time had a short relationship with Mimi and restarts it again in Act II

## Description

The landlord to Mark, Roger, and Mimi's apartment building. Ex-roommate of Mark, Collins, Roger, and Maureen. Now married to Alison Grey of the Westport Greys, a very wealthy family involved in real estate, and he is considered yuppie scum and a sell-out by his ex-roommates.

## Audition

"You'll see"

Callback scene: "Goodbye love"

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# Minor roles / Named roles

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- **Mrs Cohen** - Mark's Jewish mother.
- **Mr & Mrs Jefferson** - The wealthy parents of Joanne Jefferson, they leave her Voicemail Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson usually sing the solos in Seasons of Love.
- **Alexi Darling** - The producer of Buzzline, a sleazy tabloid company that tries to employ Mark after his footage of the riot makes primetime.
- **Mrs Davis** - Roger's confused mother
- **Mrs Marquez** - Mimi's Spanish-speaking mother
- **Mr Grey** - Benny's father-in-law who wants to buy out the lot.
- **The Man** - The local drug dealer whom Mimi buys from and Roger used to buy from.
- **Paul**: The man in charge of the Life Support group
- **Gordon**: One of the Life Support members.
- **Steve**: One of the Life Support members.
- **Ali**: One of the Life Support members
- **Pam**: One of the Life Support members
- **Sue**: One of the Life Support members.
- **Squeegee Man**: A homeless person who chants
- **The Waiter**: A waiter at Life Cafe.
- **The Woman with Bags** or Homeless Woman
- **The Preacher** or The Pastor

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# Audition Process

- Everyone intending to be part of RENT must attend both VOCAL audition and DANCE group audition
- All auditions are by appointment only
- All auditions will be conducted in a closed panel format consisting of the production team and Committee/Life Member representative
- Auditions will be filmed to assist in the casting process
- Anyone auditioning for one of the 8 lead roles will need to prepare a solo vocal audition for each role you are auditioning for
- If you are auditioning for a minor role/ vocal soloist' we encourage you to do a vocal solo audition
- There is no separate 'acting' audition. You must use your vocal audition to show your acting skills and storytelling abilities

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# Dance Auditions

**When:** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October

**Ensemble/Leads:** 9am – 10am

**Featured Dancers/Mimi:** 10am – 11am

- All auditionees will need to attend a dance audition. While some of the named roles/ensemble are not dance focused, everyone is still required to attend so the team can assess your abilities
- There is nothing to prepare in advance. You will be taught the audition choreography on the day
- The featured dance ensemble will involve more technical and challenging choreography

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# Vocal Auditions

**When:** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October

**Ensemble:** 11am – 12pm

**Minor Roles:** 12pm – 1pm

**Leads:** Sat 2pm – 8pm and Sun 10am onwards

- Ensemble/dance ensemble there is nothing to prepare as you will be taught a song on the day
- Minor/named roles and leads will all be required to prepare the audition song from the show for the role(s) you are auditioning for (2 max)
- Please use the corresponding backing track for your solo vocal audition
- You may be required to do a range check in addition to your song



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## Show Dates

All 11 performances will be performed at the Laycock St Theatre.

There is an additional ghost show on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March if needed.

Please do not commit to the show if you are unable to be available for any of these dates.

Week	Show	Date
Tech week	Bump in	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Tech Week	Tech/Dress	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Tech Week	Tech/Dress	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
Tech Week	Tech/Dress	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February
Week 1	Preview	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 8pm
Week 1	<b>Opening Night #1</b>	<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 8pm</b>
Week 1	<b>Show #2 + #3</b>	<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2pm + 8pm</b>
Week 2	<b>Show #4</b>	<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 8pm</b>
Week 2	<b>Show #5 + #6</b>	<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2pm + 8pm</b>
Week 2	<b>Show #7</b>	<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2pm</b>
Week 3	<b>Show #8</b>	<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 8pm</b>
Week 3	<b>Show #9</b>	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 8pm</b>
Week 3	<b>Show #10 + #11</b>	<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2pm + 8pm</b>





# How to book your audition?

- Complete the Rent audition form [here](#)
- Make sure you indicate the role(s) you are interested in and if you wish to be considered for ensemble/featured dancers
- For any questions about auditions please contact the Production Manager Gary Keys [rentgms@gmail.com](mailto:rentgms@gmail.com)
- If you are unable to attend the scheduled audition times please contact [rentgms@gmail.com](mailto:rentgms@gmail.com) and we will make every effort to accommodate you.

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# How will you know if you have been cast?

- All auditionees will be contacted by email or phone advising if they have been successful
- Call backs if required will be notified by phone and most likely held 13/14<sup>th</sup> October
- Lead roles will be called by phone if successful
- Everyone will be advised of the outcome of the audition by **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October** at the latest



# Backing tracks

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## Roger Davis

- Audition song: "One song Glory"

[Act 1 backing tracks](#) 9:42

## Mark Cohen

- Audition song: "Halloween"

[Act 2 backing tracks](#) 25:21 (vamp  
ends at 25:50)

## Mimi Márquez

- Audition song: "Out tonight"

[Act 1 backing tracks](#) 30:09

## Maureen Johnson

- Audition song: "Over the moon"

[Act 1 backing tracks](#) 55:51

## Joanne Jefferson

- Audition song: "We're okay"

[Act 2 backing tracks](#) 48:36

## Angel Dumott Schunard

- Audition song: "Today 4 U"

[Act 1 backing tracks](#) 18:23

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# Backing tracks

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## **Tom Collins**

- Audition song: "I'll cover you"  
(reprise)

[Act 2 backing tracks](#) 20:44 (Long  
vamp - vocals start at 22:27)

## **Benjamin "Benny" Coffin III**

- Audition song: "You'll see"

[Act 1 backing tracks](#) 20:38

## **Ensemble vocal audition**

- Audition song: "Will I"

[Act 1 backing tracks](#) 38:34

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