



**WHITLEY  
COLLEGE**

Whitley College Presents

# RENT

Book, Music and Lyrics by  
**Jonathan Larson**

Musical Arrangements  
**STEVE SKINNER**

Music supervision and  
additional arrangements  
**TIM WEIL**

Original concept/  
additional lyrics  
**BILLY ARONSON**

Dramaturg  
**LYNN THOMSON**

August

Thursday 18th 7.30pm  
Adult \$25 Concession \$20

Friday 19th 7.30pm  
Adult \$20 Concession \$15

Saturday 20th 2pm & 7pm  
Adult \$20 Concession \$15

Union House Theatre, The University of  
Melbourne

Tickets available via Eventbrite  
or at the door

RENT was originally produced in New York by New York Theatre Workshop and on Broadway by Jeffrey Seller, Kevin McCullum, Alan S. Gordon and New York Theatre Workshop

Whitley Annual Residential Theatre  
Society Presents:

# RENT

Book, music, and lyrics by:  
JONATHAN LARSON

Directed by:  
KATE DOUGLAS

Musical Direction  
by:  
KIRRILY SWATTON

Produced by:  
BETH LAMB

Starring:

JAMES LUGTON, CALEB BALLINGER, HOLLY PINEY,  
LEWIS FORRESTER, BILLY STAFFORD, KELSEY RETTINO,  
CLAIRE FERGUSON, RICHARD DARIUS HUBBARD

Production Manager: BELINDA WEISS  
Stage Manager: SIDNEY MILLAR

Assistant Director:  
LYDIA BELL

Assistant Music Director:  
EMMA COLLARD

**Musical Numbers**  
**ACT ONE**

'Tune up/Voicemail #1' . . . . . Mark, Roger, Mrs. Cohen, Collins, Benny  
 'Rent' . . . . . Mark, Roger The Company  
 'You Okay Honey?' . . . . . Angel, Collins  
 'One Song Glory' . . . . . Roger  
 'Light My Candle' . . . . . Roger, Mimi  
 'Voice Mail #2' . . . . . Mr and Mrs Jefferson  
 'Today 4 U' . . . . . Angel  
 'You'll See' . . . . . Benny, Mark, Collins, Roger, Angel  
 'Tango Maureen' . . . . . Mark, Joanne  
 'Life Support' . . . . . Paula, Jordan, Support Group  
 'Out Tonight' . . . . . Mimi  
 'Another Day' . . . . . Roger, Mimi, The Company  
 'Will I?' . . . . . The Company  
 'On The Street' . . . . . Mark, Homeless, Blanket Person  
 'Santa Fe' . . . . . Collins, The Company  
 'We're Okay' . . . . . Joanne  
 'I'll Cover You' . . . . . Angel, Collins  
 'Christmas Bells' . . . . . Homeless Chorus, The Company  
 'Over The Moon' . . . . . Maureen  
 'La Vie Boheme/I Should Tell You' . . . . . The Company

**ACT TWO**

'Seasons of Love' . . . . . The Company  
 'Happy New Year/Voicemail #3' . . . Mimi, Roger, Mark, Maureen, Joanne, Collins  
 Angel, Mrs. Cohen, Alexi Darling, Benny  
 'Take Me or Leave Me' . . . . . Maureen, Joanne  
 'Without You' . . . . . Mimi, Roger  
 'Voice Mail #4' . . . . . Alexi Darling  
 'I'll Cover You Reprise' . . . . . Collins, The Company  
 'Halloween' . . . . . Mark  
 'Goodbye Love' . . . . . Mark, Mimi, Roger, Maureen,  
 Joanne, Collins, Benny  
 'What You Own' . . . . . Pastor, Mark, Collins, Benny, Roger  
 'Voice Mail #5' . . . . . Roger's Mom, Mimi's Mom,  
 Mr. Jefferson, Mrs. Cohen  
 'Finale A' . . . . . Mark, Roger, Collins, Maureen, Joanne, Mimi  
 'Your Eyes' . . . . . Roger  
 'Finale B' . . . . . Mimi, Roger, Joanne, Maureen, Collins,  
 Mark, The Company

# Synopsis

*Based on Giacomo Puccini's opera La Boheme, Rent was written by American composer and playwright Jonathan Larson, a brilliant creative mind who unfortunately did not live to see the success his musical would become.*

*The show begins on Christmas Eve in New York's East Village, and follows a year in the life of a group of creative friends fighting to overcome poverty, amongst other things. Many of these characters are also HIV positive, and throughout the show must come to terms with their mortality, sexuality and vices.*

*Love and its boundaries are explored through the couples of Roger and Mimi, Collins and Angel, and Maureen and Joanne, as well as the group and community in how they support each other. Fiddlermaker Mark captures the pivotal points in their lives across this year, reminding everyone of the importance of friendship, love, and community support in making life something worth living.*

*At its heart, Rent is not about 'living with', it's about living; treasuring each moment as if it were your last, and loving others as if this were your only chance.*

## NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR: Kate Douglas



*Despite originally pitching Rent when I applied for the role of director back in 2015, I never imagined this overly optimistic idea would actually come to be. Rent's unique ability to provoke critique of common ideologies and highlight the grey matter of society was undoubtedly the basis of my selection. This show was not destined to be such a success for the sole reason that it just 'gets' people, and people 'get' it.*

*To take full credit for the creation of this show would be both unrealistic and inappropriate. Instead, I'd like to highlight that there is a common misconception that the director is the one to order everyone around, make every decision, and provide all the answers. This is not the case. Throughout the whole process, I felt my primary job was to make use of all members of the cast and crew embedded and reflected the passion I have for this show.*

*So, the one thank you I want to make is to my unbelievable cast and crew. Thank you for humoring me and being a part of the most thrilling experience of my life - I hope my love job description was met.*

## NOTE FROM THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Kirrily Swatton



*Having played musical instruments since I was 2 years old, I have always participated in concerts and musicals as part of the cast or orchestra. Being Musical Director for RENT this year, however, has been a completely different experience. Although there have been many stressful times and situations that I was unsure how to deal with, it's been such a fun job and I've enjoyed every minute of working with such wonderful people.*

*I want to thank my Assistant Musical Director, Emma, for the amazing help and support she's given me, the cast for being so easy to work with, the band for being ready for all situations, and, of course, Kate. This show would not be going forward without the spectacular work that she has done.*

*I'm extremely proud of the result that has come out of the past month too, and I hope that you all enjoy the show!*

## NOTE FROM THE PRODUCER: Beth Lamb

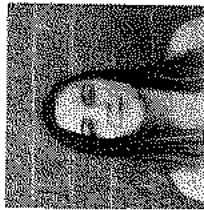


*Whitby College's production of Rent has been a fantastic and valuable experience for me. I have been involved in theatre since I was about 12 years old but this is the first time I have been on the organizing end.*

*The role of producer has allowed me to oversee the whole process and work with a fantastic group of people to produce something that I am, and we all should be, proud of. A huge huge thank you must go to the entire production team for working tirelessly on this production.*

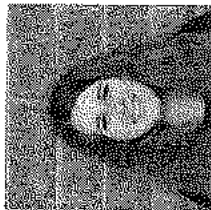
*I hope that the effort and dedication shown in our performances and that the audiences enjoy watching it as much as I do!*

## STAGE MANAGER: Sidney Millar



*Though I've been performing as a musician, dancer, and actor since I was a kid, I tend to lean towards the shadows of backstage. I'm currently studying a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Production) at the Victorian College of the Arts to improve my knowledge and experience of sound and lighting. I'm known at Whitley for a particular instance where I (apparently) told everyone 'I love sound'. I'd never hear the end of it... I've been so lucky to get this opportunity to stage manage Rent, as well as designing and operating audio. #KeepSick*

## PRODUCTION MANAGER: Belinda Weiss



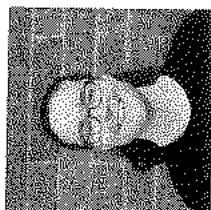
*Between choir, bands, plays, gymnastics, dance, and musicals, I spent a lot of my school life on stage. This lead to some amazing experiences, including singing for the Queen of England, and performing in the Lincoln Centre, New York. Since then, I've come to love being involved behind-the-scenes, and am studying contemporary music composition at the Victorian College of the Arts, as well as sound production at Abbey Road Institute. Rent has been a great step in this process for me, and I'd like to thank the executive team and cast for being patient with me figuring out what my job was before messaging them at odd hours with ever more odd requests. I've had so much fun working on this show, and am excited to see everyone's hard work come together in the performances!*

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Lydia Bell



*I have felt very honoured to be assistant director for WARTS this year. Having been singing from an early age as well as trained in theatre, assistant directing RENT has been an exciting challenge, and something I have very much enjoyed. I would like to thank the cast, crew, and Kate for being so awesome and helping to make some theatre magic. I hope the audience enjoys the show and connects with the stories of the characters! Have come to love. Viva La Vie Bohème!*

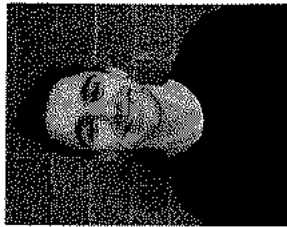
## ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Emma Collard



*I've really enjoyed the role of Assistant Musical Director in our college's production of Rent this year. This experience was a new and exciting challenge, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time playing in the band and fitting in as Musical Director whilst Kirby was away overseas. All of my many previous music theatre experiences have been exclusively as a band member, so I welcomed the extra responsibility which came with being AMD. My favourite part of this production is definitely watching the cast, band, and crew come together to create a truly rewarding and enjoyable production. I would like to thank everybody in the production for an amazing few months, especially Kate and Kirby for being so good at what they do, and my partners in crime. Ah, for always keeping it fun.*

## MEET THE CAST

Mark Cohen - James Lugton

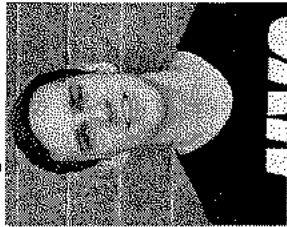


James' musical beginnings were in 2004, but his first musical wasn't until 2012. Since then James has been in seven musicals, taking a role in five. He took singing lessons for 2 years in high school and has 2 years of jazz dance experience.

James' favourite song is Goodbye Love, although Tango Maureen is his favourite to perform. He relates closely to the slightly awkward nature of Mark and especially his need to see the best in people.

The friendships made and strengthened in rehearsals are a highlight for James, and he has no doubt that he will continue to be called 'Mark' in the months to come.

Roger Davis - Caleb Ballinger

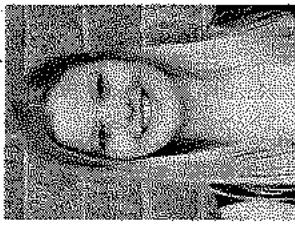


Caleb is a long time participant in Whitley musicals, as this is his third after Bat Boy and his lead debut as Clyde in last year's Bonnie and Clyde.

Before Whitley, Caleb was a chorus member in four musicals during high school: Footloose, Spamalot, Oklahoma and Wizard of Oz.

Caleb's relationship with his character, Roger, is best described as One Great Song. At the start it was confusing and he had no idea what he was doing, but as he got to know his character better, he began to love him and at least pretend he knows what he's doing. Caleb would like to thank all his friends and family for coming, and also thank you to the WARTS exec, Without You the show couldn't have happened.

Mimi Marquez - Holly Piney



Rent is Holly's onstage debut, having studied drama and music in school but never pursued an onstage role. Although initially she found this lack of experience daunting, the positive environment created by Kate and the crew alleviated those fears.

To step into Mimi's shoes and portray a character who is HIV positive and struggling with addiction is a unique experience. This has been such a rewarding process, but what has stood out to Holly is that even in a world that has so much hopelessness, these characters still share so much love and joy.

Tom Collins - Lewis Forrester



Lewis started his foray into theatre last year in Whitley's production of Bonnie and Clyde, where he played the seminal 'Ted Hinton'

The lure of the spotlight was overwhelming, and he has returned to bring his distinctive flair to the role of Collins, and hopefully develop his baritone range/Elvis impression.

His favourite part of the production process has been pushing the boundaries of Claire 'Claz' Ferguson's patience, which is already painfully short. He would like to thank her and his director Kate Douglas for putting up with his drivel

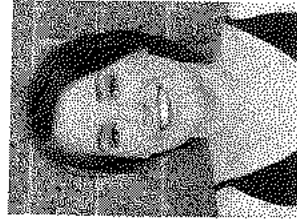
Angel Dumott Schunard - Billy Stafford



Despite being his first musical performance onstage, this is NOT Billy's first time in a wig and heels. Leaving his Mother's wardrobe and joining the stage, Billy endeavours to live up to both his and Angel's potential, providing a beacon of light to the LGBTQ+ community.

His favourite part of RENT has been working with an amazing cast, crew and band. His least favourite part of RENT has been "working" with Lewis. He hopes you will enjoy watching the show just as much as he has enjoyed partaking in it.

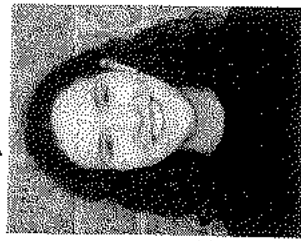
Maureen Johnson - Claire Ferguson



At the beginning of this process Claire could sing this show in her sleep, and against all odds her love for Rent has only grown stronger in the last 5 weeks. This is Claire's 12<sup>th</sup> theatrical production, her onstage journey began in 2006 as a ten year old, and she definitely shares Maureen's love/need for the spotlight. It has been a thrill and a dream come true for Claire to work on and see this show come together, to be portraying such a fun character and singing her favourite songs with some truly amazing people makes her genuinely happy.

Claire would like to wholeheartedly thank her parents for being incredibly supportive people her whole life. They're the reason she's on the stage tonight.

Joanne Jefferson - Kelsey Rettino



After performing in several musicals and plays throughout high school (personal faves include Little Sally in Urinetown and Rizzo in Grease), Kelsey starred as Blanche in Whitley's 2015 production of Bonnie and Clyde.

Kelsey has loved being part of Rent because of its catchy songs and loveable and quirky characters. She's had a ridiculous amount of fun playing Joanne - she gets to tango with James! And sing/fight with Claire! Kelsey would like to thank the rest of the cast for making rehearsals so enjoyable and for being so great to act/sing alongside. She hopes the audience has as much fun watching the show as she's had being in it

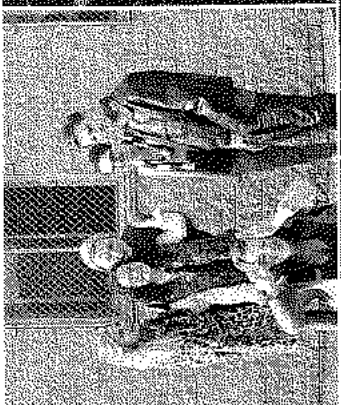
Benjamin Coffin III - Darius Hubbard



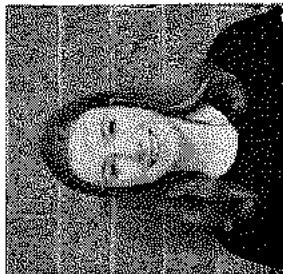
Darius didn't choose the Benny life, the Benny life chose Darius!

Coming into this role Darius had the experience of a single musical production and his self-taught singing, but that didn't stop him jumping in enthusiastically. Darius' favourite part of his flamboyantly irksome role is being able to express his inner jerk. Darius would like to thank the WARTS exec team, without them none of this would have been possible! Ho ho ho!





**Merryn Allen**  
Vendor/Dancer



I sell stuff.

**Dominic Enter**  
Ali/Homeless



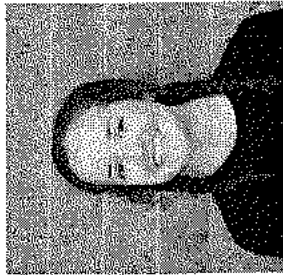
Watching Rent is  
time well spent.

**Lydia Bell**  
Mrs. Cohen/Stevie



Are warts meant to  
itch? I hope Rent  
leaves you itching  
for more.

**Bec Fagan**  
Homeless/Mimi's Mom



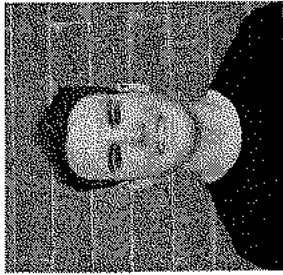
I'm the girl  
whose hair is  
bigger than her  
head.

**Annie Crone**  
Mrs. Davis/Homeless



Uh huh, I used  
to be a junkie.

**Hayden Goodwin**  
Cop/Mr. Grey



Hayden! Where  
the heck is  
your quote??

**Bronte Gosper**  
Waitress/Homeless



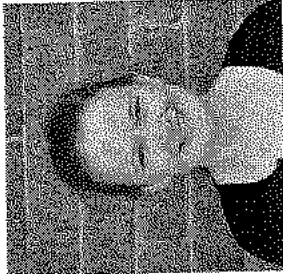
Meatless balls.

**Ryan Jones**  
The Man



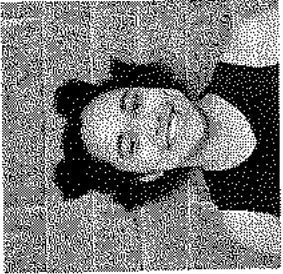
When life gives  
you lemons, snort  
them.

**Michelle Green**  
Vendor/Pastor



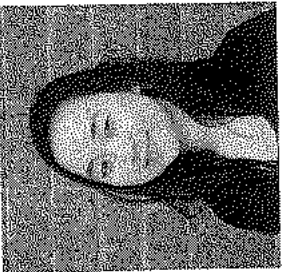
If you like water,  
you already like  
65% of me.

**Tombi Lloyd**  
Alexi Darling/  
Blanket Lady



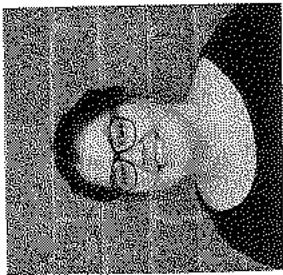
This whole  
narrative would  
be void without  
Alexi Darling.

**Helen He**  
Pam/Homeless



My only line in  
this show is my  
name, and I'm so  
excited for it!

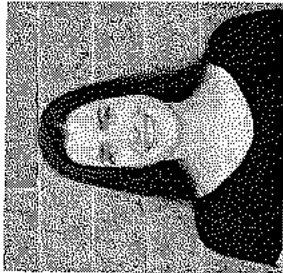
**Isabel Mantynen**  
Jordyn/Homeless



I'm not clumsy,  
chairs just hate  
me.

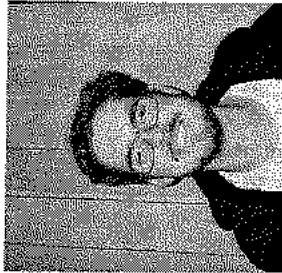
# Band

Loz McIntosh  
Mrs. Jefferson/  
Dancer.



Remember to  
wear a bra,  
kids!

James Mountain  
Mr. Jefferson



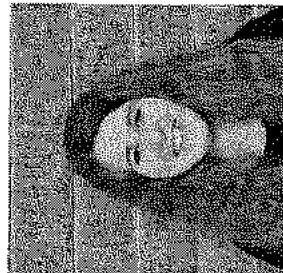
I don't even go  
here.

Nick Richardson  
Cop/Homeless



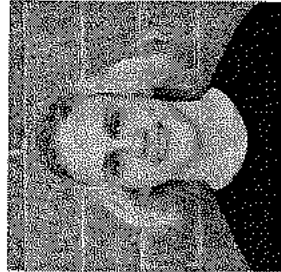
I'm the real  
star of this  
show.

Belinda Weiss  
Paula/Junkie



\*Content  
unavailable\*  
Quote budget used to  
pay rent.

Joe Williams  
Squegee Man/  
Homeless

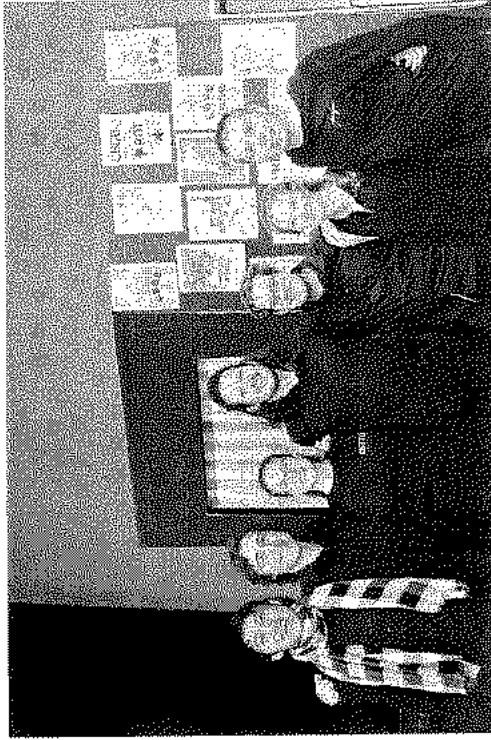


Honest livin'.

Rose Wilson Scott  
Sue/Junkie



I wish Rent was the  
first time I'd seen  
my boyfriend kiss  
another man.



CONDUCTOR: Kirrily Swatton

GUITAR: James Mountain

BASS GUITAR: Bryce Ellis

KEYBOARD: Andrew Hey

DRUMS: Emma Collard

KEYBOARD: Zac Wang

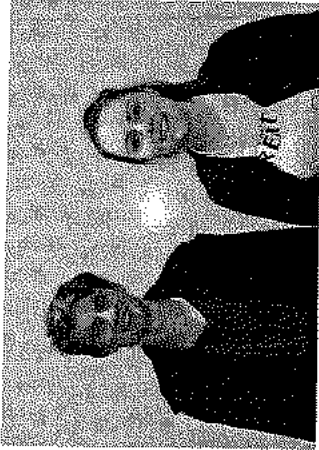
PERCUSSION: James Waterhouse

TROMBONE: Alistair Goggs



# Creative Teams

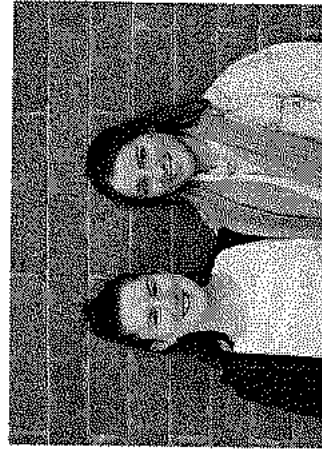
TECH CREW: Jono Wedgewood and Sidney Millar



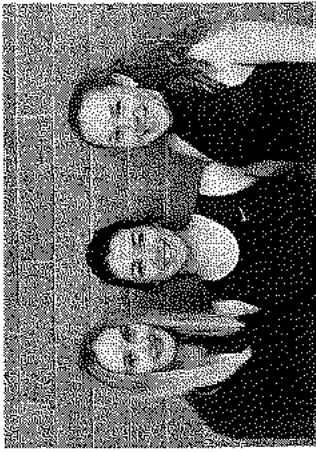
SET DESIGN: Eliza Bussell and Gil McKenzie



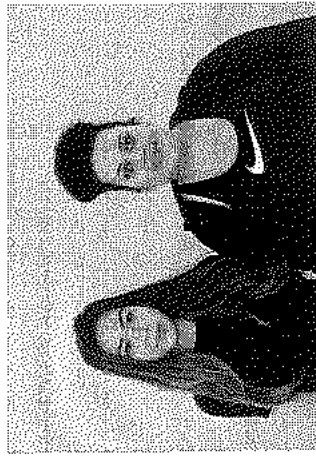
PROP TEAM: Claire Outtram and Annie Crone



COSTUME TEAM: Catherine Fist, Jessica Broad, and Rylee Olsson



MAKEUP TEAM: Namarra Walsh, Yarramun Conole, and Hana Martokoesoemo



CHOREOGRAPHERS: Loz McIntosh and Katrina Bell

