



UNM DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE & DANCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**UNM's Department of Theatre and Dance
presents
Jonathan Larson's Rock Masterpiece
RENT
November 20-December 6, 2009
in Rodey Theatre**

WHAT: RENT, Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson,
Directed by Kathleen Clawson, Music director Paul Roth,
Choreography by Wendy Leverenz-Barker

WHEN: November 20, 21, 27, 28, December 1, 3, 4, 5 at 7:30pm, and
November 22, 29 and December 6 at 2pm

WHERE: Rodey Theatre, Center for the Arts, UNM's Main Campus

HOW MUCH: \$20 General, \$15 Seniors, \$10 Students

MORE INFO: <http://theatre.unm.edu>, or call 277-4332

TICKETS: UNM Ticket Offices, Call 925-5858 or 1-877-664-8661, or online at
www.unmtickets.com

UNM's Department of Theatre and Dance proudly presents Jonathan Larson's
rock masterpiece, RENT in Rodey Theatre, November 20 through December 6, 2009.
Loosely based on Puccini's opera La Bohème, it tells the story of one year – five hundred
twenty five thousand six hundred minutes – in the lives of eight friends in New York's
East Village, who struggle with committing their lives to art and their hearts to each other

while living in the shadow of AIDS. Winner of four Tony awards and the Pulitzer Prize, RENT reinvented musicals when it debuted in 1996. RENT is an emotionally stirring story and features a brilliant rock score, including the now classic "Seasons of Love."

This contemporary rock musical, written and composed by Jonathan Larson, is based on the classic Puccini opera *La Bohème*. RENT is the story of a community of young artists struggling to make their mark in New York's rapidly changing East Village of the 1990s. "RENT is *the* defining musical for this generation of students, in the same way HAIR was for their parent's generation. It is a great vehicle for our students and when I learned it was closing on Broadway, I began checking on the possibility of presenting it at UNM. We jumped as soon as the rights became available," says Kathleen Clawson, director of musical theatre at UNM. "We are thrilled, as our holiday show, to offer to our local community, a musical that celebrates love, diversity and the power of friendship."

RENT has been described as "a raw and riveting milestone in musical theater" (*Rolling Stone*.) The original Broadway production went on to win the Tony for Best Musical as well as the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, an honor bestowed on only a handful of musicals since the inception of that award. The exuberant rock score remains among the most beloved in recent Broadway history ("Light My Candle," "What You Own," "La Vie Boheme," "Without You" and the show's signature "Seasons of Love").

Kathleen Clawson directs, Paul Roth is music director and Wendy Leverenz-Barker choreographs the production. The scenic design is by faculty member Gordon

Kennedy, with lighting design by Aviana Meck, and costumes designed by Kelly Mims, and Laura Lundin.

The cast includes Leonard Hughes as Mark, Nate Warren as Roger, Amanda Machon as Mimi, Gilbert Sanchez as Tom Collins, Daniel Garcia as Angel, Rachael Shapiro as Maureen, Jessica Fisher as Joanne, and John Byrom as Benny. The ensemble cast includes Michael Ray Carter, Jonte Culpepper, Kir Kipness, Fernando Larranaga, Nikki Larsen, Amanda Morales, Jonathan Ragsdale, and Jenny Walkowiak.

RENT performs in Rodey Theatre, November 20 through December 6, with a special performance on World AIDS Day, December 1. This show is intended for mature audiences. Ticket prices are: \$20 General, \$15 Seniors, \$10 Students and are available at the UNM Ticket Offices located at the UNM Bookstore, Central and Cornell, or the Arena (The Pit), University and Avenida Caesar Chavez, by calling (505) 925-5858. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.unmtickets.com.

Rent Performance dates:

Friday, November 20 – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 21 – 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 22 – 2:00 p.m.

Friday, November 27 – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 28 - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 29 – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 1 – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 3- 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 4 – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 5 – 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 6 - 2:00 p.m.

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