



♪ UMMTA PRESENTS

RENT

Book, Music and Lyrics by
JONATHAN LARSON





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UMMTA presents

RENT

Book, Music and Lyrics by
JONATHAN LARSON

Musical Arrangements
STEVE SKINNER

Original Concept and
Additional Lyrics
BILLY ARONSON

Music Supervision and
Additional Arrangements
TIM WEIL

Dramaturg
LYNN THOMSON

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

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)

THE OPEN STAGE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

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www.ummta.org

Show Synopsis

Set in the East Village of New York City, RENT is about falling in love, finding your voice and living for today. Winner of the Tony Award® for Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, RENT has become a pop cultural phenomenon with songs that rock and a story that resonates with audiences of all ages.

Based loosely on Puccini's La Boheme, RENT follows a year in the life of a group of friends struggling to make it in the big city. They include Mark, a filmmaker and the narrator of the story; his former girlfriend, Maureen, a performance artist; Maureen's lover, Joanne, a public interest lawyer; Mark's roommate Roger, a musician; Mimi, an exotic dancer, with whom Roger falls in love; Tom Collins, a computer genius; Collins' lover, Angel, a street musician and drag queen; and Benny, a former member of the group who, after marrying into a wealthy family, has become their landlord. How these young bohemians negotiate their dreams, loves, and conflicts provides the narrative thread to this groundbreaking musical.

A Note From The Director

RENT is the 9th longest running Broadway show in history, and for fans of the show, it is not hard to see why. The show is well written and structured, the music is modern, engaging and touching, and tells an emotional story that is worth telling. I first saw the professional version of RENT when it was staged in Melbourne in 1999. Ever since, I have loved this musical. I have seen many productions of the show and performed in the 2008 New Beat Theatre Company production of RENT in the Union House Theatre.

I began the production process with the simple aim of doing justice to an excellent script. I believe it is important that the setting for the show is intimate and immersive, and this led to the selection of the thrust seating model. In this way, I hope the audience has every opportunity to connect closely with the story as it unfolds.

Further, it is important to highlight the universal themes of the show - opening up to love, learning to live in the present and the importance of community. These themes are played out with an ongoing sense of connection and disconnection. For me, the most important device to communicate these themes to the audience is portraying realistic relationships and staging real and raw emotion between the characters.

Finally, my biggest concern in staging the show is to convey the historical context. Principally, this story is a tribute to the experiences of those who have died from HIV/AIDS and their friends and family.

To assist the cast in understanding the historical context and themes of the show, we were lucky enough to have David Menadue and Craig Burgess from Living Positive Victoria come and speak to the cast about living with HIV/AIDS. Their stories were in-

valuable in providing a historical perspective on the emergence of AIDS and the AIDS crisis, and what it was like to live with HIV in the past and today. I was most impressed with what the cast took away from this session. We are indebted to David and Craig for generously giving their time and personal stories. The show would not be what it has become without their contributions. I would like to thank all the members of our production team for their assistance with the production of this show. In particular I would like to thank:

- Pat for heading the Musical Direction team and developing the excellent sound that we have for a show that is sung almost from start to finish.
- Lena, for advancing the show by always creating rich and deeply intentional choreography, and coming up with the ideas that I wanted, before I asked for them.
- Ruben, for all his assistance and catching those things which otherwise could have fallen through the cracks.
- Ruth, for her assistance in managing our energetic and assertive cast, and the significant contribution she has made to the show as stage manager and more broadly.
- Danielle, for her oversight and management of the production process from the beginning.

Finally, I would like to thank the UMMTA committee and community for giving me the opportunity to direct my first full-scale musical and their support for my creative vision. Every show is a credit to the involvement and contribution of the UMMTA community, whether large or small, and the company can only succeed with each future endeavour in this collaborative spirit.

My gratitude to UMMTA extends beyond this show, for nurturing my love of musical theatre, for giving me the opportunity and confidence to perform, for helping me to take performing seriously and for the close friends I have today. As a student run theatre company, UMMTA provides an invaluable opportunity for young people to be involved in all aspects of musical theatre, and I believe the company consistently punches above its weight.

If this show leaves you with nothing else, I hope it is the message that we can put aside our anxieties and fears, which at times, can turn into real unhappiness. Instead, we can attend with openness and gratitude to the opportunities that life offers to us every day.

*There's only now, there's only here.
Give into love, or live in fear.
No other path, no other way.
No day but today.*

David Miles



David Miles **DIRECTOR**

David has worked extensively across amateur theatre companies in Melbourne, but is proud to call UMMTA home. RENT marks David's directorial debut for a full-scale musical, previously working as the Ensemble Director for *How to Succeed and Tommy* (UMMTA) and as Director for *UMMTAversary*. Performing credits include *Georg – Spring Awakening* (Altona City Theatre), *Tribe Member – Hair* (StageArt), *Mereb – Aida* (MDMS), *Charles Guiteau – Assassins*, *Christopher Belling – Curtains*, *George – The Wedding Singer*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Pajama Game*, *Do or Die*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (UMMTA), *Ryan Evans – Disney's High School Musical* (Whitehorse Musical Theatre), *RENT*, *Parade*, *Bare (New Beat)*. David composed original music for *The Blue Room* (FLW) and co-wrote and performed *Opposites Attract*, an original cabaret (Why Not? Production Company). David is currently studying his Master of Laws (Juris Doctor) previously completing a Master of Public Policy and Management and Bachelor of Arts (Political Science). David also enjoys learning piano and vocal training with Gerald Marko.



Patrick Paevere **MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

Patrick is a musical director, pianist and orchestrator, playing for numerous shows, rehearsals and auditions, and recently Music Directing UMMTA's "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying" and Assistant Music Directing Four Letter Word Theatre's "The Wild Party" and UMMTA's "Splendour". Last year, Patrick Co-Music Directed & Orchestrated for "1938: An Opera" as part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival. Patrick has also had the exciting opportunity to work with The Production Company (2009) and on the Victorian State School Spectacular (2010). Other credits include Assistant Musical Director for MHS & MGHS "Oklahoma!" (2011). In his spare time Patrick studies Computing and Software Systems at The University of Melbourne. Patrick has had an incredible time working on RENT, and would like to thank everyone involved for bringing together such a wonderful show.



Aleksis Payne **VOCAL COACH**

Aleksis is currently in her second year at the University of Melbourne, studying a Bachelor of Music and specializing in Music Performance. She was a chorister with the Australian Girls Choir for ten years and now tutors the junior levels of the choir. She has also performed in several Victorian Opera productions, including the premiere of *Assembly* at the Melbourne Festival in 2011. RENT has always been one of her favourite musicals because of the moving storyline and music. This is Aleksis's first experience working as a vocal coach with UMMTA, and she has loved being able to work with such a talented and enthusiastic cast and crew.



Lena-Jean Lamshed **CHOREOGRAPHER**

Lena-Jean is an avid patron of the arts. Performing since the age of 7 Lena has turned to choreography and direction over the last few years. Her dance schools: Centrestage Performing Arts School and Patrick Studios Australia were formative in developing her skills and passion for the theatre. Some of her recent choreographic credits include: "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" (UMMTA) an upbeat musical comedy and "Mythweaver" (CASUM) an original contemporary dance piece, which she will take to The Adelaide Fringe Festival in February 2014. She has loved working on RENT with a fantastic cast, crew and creative team and has fallen in love with

the emotionally charged show. She will take away a lasting message from it: no day, but today.



Ruben Clark **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

An avid student of theatre, Ruben has previously assisted in the direction of productions of The Wild Party (Four Letter Word, 2013) and the world-premiere of Noëlle Janaczewska's Third Person (Union House Theatre, 2013) as well as Oklahoma! (2011) and Breaker Morant (2011). He also has experience in performance both as an actor and a musician, but can safely say that working on the production team for a show like RENT is equally, if not more so, fulfilling. This is Ruben's second show with UMMTA, after Tommy (2012), and he looks forward to future productions. He is thrilled, too, to have been appointed Artistic Director of the company for 2014 and cannot wait to

get started on what he hopes will be an exciting year for everyone involved in the thriving UMMTA community.



Ellan Hyde **ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

Currently studying a Bachelor of Music Performance/Bassoon (MCM) and a Diploma of Chinese at Melbourne Uni, Ellan has had extensive experience in numerous shows and ensembles. These include The Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Choral, The Conservatorium Wind Symphony and The Victorian Youth Symphony Orchestra and the MSO. Ellan also runs a biannual charity concert series, is an executive officer of the Music Students' Society and part of the MCM Bachelor of Music Standing Committee. Her most recent musical theatre endeavour was Barnum: The Circus Musical ('11) in which she played a singing, dancing juggler. This year she was FOH Manager for ICAC's 'When the

Rain Stops Falling.' Though also presently busy rehearsing for Opera Australia's Ring Cycle, Ellan has made thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the RENT experience with UMMTA – her first show with this company.



Thomas Fellowes **SET DESIGNER**

Tom is a relative newcomer in the UMMTA world, RENT being his third production after How to Succeed and Lucky Stiff. Though a born and bred Nyu Zillender (his accent is an inexhaustible fount of amusement for the rest of the production team), he moved to Australia last year to study chemistry at the University of Melbourne. When he isn't studying or building scenery in his garage, Tom enjoys travelling, cycling, and writing about himself in the third person. It has been a pleasure and a privilege working with such a talented production team and cast, and

Tom hopes to work with everyone again in the future.



Giancarlo Salamanca **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Giancarlo is an award-winning lighting designer and console programmer, with experience designing for musicals, dance and traditional theatre. He is delighted to have had the opportunity to work with UMMTA to light RENT – a genre-defining musical that is one of his favourites. Recent lighting design credits include OCPAC's production of Seussical, UMMTA's Tommy, UMMTA's Wedding Singer and co-designing Adamson Theatre Company's Hair, which received an award from the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria.

Giancarlo has also recently appeared on stage as Goldberg in Four Letter Word's Wild Party, J. B. Biggley in UMMTA's How to Succeed, Joey Jinx in the original Australian musical Sugartown at Chapel off Chapel, Brad in SLAMS' Hairspray, Sammy in UMMTA's Wedding Singer, Mysterious Man in UMMTA's Into the Woods, and the ensembles of CLOC's All Shook Up, OSMaD's Sweeney Todd and Jesus Christ Superstar, Melbourne Model: The Musical in the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and UMMTA's Sweet Charity. He was also the Assistant Director for UMMTA's Curtains and served on the UMMTA committee as Communications Officer for two years.



Michael Leaver **COSTUME DESIGNER**

Michael's previous theatre work includes a bevy of both on and off stage roles. Recent UMMTA credits include directing 'Splendour 3' (2013) and appearing in 'Lucky Stiff' as Mr. Hobbs/ensemble. Michael would like to apologise to the cast on behalf of the heinous fashions of the 80's and 90's, but not for his slightly gleeful adherence to them. Michael hopes you enjoy UMMTA's RENT and will likely see you at the Clyde afterwards.



Danielle Ridgway **PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Danielle Ridgway is a first year Bachelor of Fine Arts- Production (Stage Management) student at the Victorian College of the Arts. Her involvement in student theatre began in 2012 when she worked with The Melbourne University Shakespeare Company on "Macbeth" as Proprieties Manager and "The Merchant of Venice" as Deputy Stage Manager and Front of House Manager. She has also worked with Until Monstrous' "Hotel" as Sound and AV Operator and "Man Zoo" as the Production/ Stage Manager. This is Danielle's first UMMTA show and she is very excited to be a part of RENT!



Ruth Blair **STAGE MANAGER**

Since initially becoming involved in UMMTA's Assassins (2011), Ruth has become a fully converted Musical Theatre Lover and continued her involvement with UMMTA with Tommy, Lucky Stiff and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying as well as being a part of both the 2013 and 2014 committees. Not only working with UMMTA, Ruth has worked with a number of theatre companies both on and off campus in a variety of roles including lighting, sound, properties and production management. She is currently studying a Bachelor of Science but after her discovery of student theatre spends more time in the Guild, Union and now the Open Stage too than she does in her actual classes and loves every minute of it.



William Penington **TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**

Since arriving at the University of Melbourne, where he is in his final year of studying computer science, Will has spent much of his time in the theatre playing with the lights and memorising acronyms. In first semester he was the lighting designer for UMMTA's production of How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying and has designed numerous other musicals, plays and concerts over the years. With RENT, Will is continuing his ongoing quest to expand his knowledge of departments that aren't lighting (without giving up on playing with the toys).

He has enjoyed working with a fantastic production team and the learning opportunities RENT has provided.



Finley Roberts **ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

Finley has enjoyed his first UMMTA show in the role of Assistant Stage Manager. Previously he has been Stage Manger for ICAC's When the Rain Stops Falling he has also been involved in publicity, set construction and lighting with other shows. He is in his final semester of a Bachelor of Science and is tired of people asking what he will do next. RENT is one of his favorite musicals and it has been great working with a such talented bunch of people, both in the cast and the production team. Finley would like to thank Lydia, his fellow ASM and Ruth for their help.



Lydia Muir **ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

Lydia is a half-English, half-Taiwanese exchange student from the Netherlands. While studying commerce at the University of Melbourne for a semester, she wanted to get involved with something different and so, she joined the RENT production team. As her first theatre show experience, Lydia was extremely honoured to be working with such a talented group of people. Over the past couple of weeks, she has grown to love RENT: the storyline, the music and the messages behind it. The entire experience behind producing RENT has been unforgettable and has created a new desire for Lydia to remain in the theatre in the future.







Taylor Rette **MARK**

Taylor is relatively new to the Musical Theatre scene, making his debut as angst, suicidal teen Moritz in Ormond College's Spring Awakening last year. Taylor said that he found it difficult to identify with the character, but is glad that was the case. Despite his lack of theatre experience, his friends will tell you he has been singing since a toddler - in fact it's near impossible to shut him up. Taylor is now taking on the role of Mark, the socially awkward and disconnected film maker - a role for which he feels he has been typecast. I'm any case, he is excited to

throw on his flares, pick up his camera and tango for your pleasure.



Douglas Costello **ROGER**

Enter Douglas Costello. Fresh off his heart wrenching performance as Melchior in Spring Awakening at Altona City Theatre, Douglas backed it up his well received time on stage with a successive performance as Jim Morrison and Michael Hutchense in Tribute at the same company. Finally breaking free of his contractual obligations in Altona, and repeated crazed assaults from desperate teeny-boppers, our boy has propelled himself straight into another poignant role as Roger in UMMTA's much anticipated RENT. Doug describes his time with Roger's

character as "something very special. I can identify deeply with the darkness that consumes this solemn yet beautiful man". It is widely felt that this quintessential heart-throb, blessed with a knee weakening vocal ability, was sent to us express from the theatre gods. So sit back and enjoy the gift that is watching this special performer in his element. And remember, if his looks don't kill you, his groupies will.



Anisha Senaratne **MIMI**

Although the photo-shoot in gale force wind wasn't Anisha's cup of tea, she is ready to slap on the crop top once more and take the stage as Mimi Marquez. Playing Mimi has been a far cry from her recent role as Martha in Ormond College's production of Spring Awakening. Going from the introverted and troubled Marta shrouded in insecurity and a hideous floor length dress to the bold and brazen Mimi, has been quite the experience for Anisha. However, she has thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of stripping away her inhabitations and hopes you find her

interpretation of the character entertaining. Either way, she sure is glad you took the time to come out tonight.



Rachel Tigel **MAUREEN**

Rachel has previously performed as Sandy in ARC's "Grease", Patrice in BuSTCo's "Thirteen" and Dynamite in SLAMS' "Hairspray". She trained at YABC and Sefra Burstin School of Dance. Rachel is very much enjoying her first UMMTA show and hopes that you are not too traumatized by her antics.



Syd Zygier **JOANNE**

This is Syd's second performance in an UMMTA production. It is also her first year out of high school where she discovered her passion for the arts. From humble beginnings with a single line in "It Happened In Hamlin" in year 5, she went on to play roles including Talulah in "Bugsy Malone", The Wicked Witch Of The West in "The Wizard Of Oz", Lady Macbeth in "Macbeth" and finally Penelope Pennywise in "Urinetown" for which she won a Victorian Music Theatre Guild Award for Best Supporting Actress. Following this exciting end to her high school theatre

career, she was then the recipient of the college "Bravo Award" for her commitment to the Adamson Theatre Company. Syd is now a contemporary music student at the Victorian College of the Arts and is looking forward to participating in many more UMMTA shows in the future.



James Worsnop **ANGEL**

A self-proclaimed RuPaul's fan and RENT addict, the character of Angel has always been a dream role for James to play. And as such, he is absolutely thrilled to throw on a gown and step into some heels to take on the challenge with UMMTA's production. Whilst this is his first time in drag, James has unleashed sass on stage in other roles including Bud Frump in How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (UMMTA, 2013), Phil D'Armano in The Wild Party (Four Letter Word, 2013) and Vinnie in Lucky Stiff (UMMTA, 2012). Masculinity has never been a

strong point for James, and so in portraying Angel, James is slightly concerned that he may make a more convincing woman than his previous attempts to blend in with the blokes.



Jeremy Russo **COLLINS**

Having just co-directed the smash original musical Gaga and Assange (KIN Collaboratory), Jeremy has once again decided to join UMMTA on stage as a member of the cast. Studying a Bachelor of Biomedicine at The University of Melbourne, other credits include How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (UMMTA 2013), Lucky Stiff (UMMTA 2012) and The Fury (UHT 2012). While he is no stranger to the onstage pash, RENT has left him with all kinds of confusion as he must repeatedly make out with a boy dressed as a girl. Nevertheless he has loved

every bit of playing Collins, but would like to warn the front row of the audience that they may get wet from the inevitable on stage sweat running down his forehead. Jeremy would especially like to thank his family and friends for their ongoing support and encouragement.



Elliot Parker **BENNY**

Elliot has only this year entered the world of theatre when his aimless meandering through life became all too apparent, feeling he had more to offer the world than just his rugged good looks and debonair charm. Previously he had taken charge as the front man of his originals band "Letterman" and various cover bands. Through theatre he is rediscovering his love for music and is embracing a welcome positive turn. His music performance outlets began when he accidentally took to the stage as The Dentist in 'SpocARTs' 'Littleshop of Horrors' after accompanying his sister to an audition in February. Enthusiastic feedback followed his debut and served to encourage Elliot to explore his expressive curiosity further. These days our 'Benny' spends what little spare time he has attempting to make his performances convincing, in whatever roles he can

get his hands on, even if his character isn't the greatest bloke around.



Pasquale Bartalotta

Pasquale completed his VCE in 2009 studying drama and receiving Dux in Media Studies. After having no previous formal training, Pasquale landed his first role as Sailor Rudy in Cabaret (BuSTCo, 2010), a role which he was grateful for and drove his passion for live theatre. Meanwhile, Pasquale continued to study a Bachelor of Creative Arts Degree, majoring in Drama at Deakin University. Other roles that Pasquale has played are Eddie from Jason Robert Brown's 13 (BuSTCo, 2011), Duane from Hairspray (SLAMS 2012), Ron Taylor from Bat Boy (PEP, 2012), Ensemble in AIDA (MDMS, 2012), Joe Marino in The Witches of Eastwick (Waterdale, 2013) and most recently Ernst in Altona City Theatre's hit production of Spring Awakening (2013). Pasquale is delighted to be involved in such a moving production of RENT, a timeless musical which brings a group of people together regardless of the trials they are facing.



Ruth Brown

Ruth is a former student of the University of Melbourne and now works as a primary school teacher. Having not done a show with UMMTA since 2007 it seemed right to drag her butt back to campus for RENT. Ruth has loved being part of this show and would like to thank the cast and production team for all their hard work!



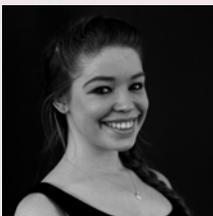
Sarah Calsiña

A self-confessed UMMTArd, Sarah is honoured to be returning for her sixth show with the company, in one of her all-time favourite musicals. Earlier this year, she touch-typed and toe-tapped her way through H2\$. Previous musicals include: Miss Saigon (Ensemble, CLOC), Little Shop of Horrors (Ronnette, OPTC), Nine (Our Lady Of The Spa, FLW Theatre), Aida (Nehebka, MDMS), Hair (Tribe, StageArt) and most recently as a member of the sexy ensemble in FLW Theatre's, The Wild Party. Sarah is beyond excited to be sharing the stage with such beautiful, not to mention incredibly talented, people and she hopes you enjoy the show. Special mention to Davey and the Prod Team for all their hard work, as well as The Clyde for putting up with her post-rehearsal shenanigans for over three years.



Isabella Clark

Isabella has been involved in theatre from a young age. Shelford Girls Grammar has been the basis of her performance education. Throughout high school she has participated in many musicals including the Wizard of Oz, Seussical and Beauty and the Beast. Isabella received the prestigious theatre studies award in 2012, performing the monologue Joan of Arc to a sold out Robert Blackwood concert hall. The highlight of her performance experience was in 2011 when she was featured as a guest lead in the acclaimed ABC series Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries as Lila Waddington. Isabella is extremely thankful to be involved with UMMTA in this production of RENT and would like to thank the cast and director for their support throughout her first university performance experience.



Laura De long

Laura has been a performer since she was 5 years old, and refuses to give it up (to the detriment of her university studies). She trained in ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary and musical theatre at Brent Street Studios, Sydney and later at Centrestage Performing Arts, Melbourne. She has since discovered her love for musical theatre and has performed in a number of shows including Patience (principal dancer), Sweeney Todd (Beggar Woman) and Annie (Lily St Regis) at high school, and How to Succeed in Business (dancer and ensemble) and Splendour, both with UMMTA. RENT has been Laura's favourite musical since she was young and she has loved every minute of working with this amazing production team and cast. She hopes to somehow manage to keep theatre in her life for many years to come and possibly even escape her 'lady of the night' typecast. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Chris Dempsey

Chris is currently studying Arts and Music at the University of Melbourne. He has previously appeared in productions of Seussical, West Side Story, Into the Woods, Jekyll and Hyde, Honk!, Pippin, Romeo and Juliet, Carousel, Dusty and Chicago. He has also performed in the VCE Top Class Drama and Top Acts concerts, as well as UMMTA's How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. Chris has been learning singing for 6 years, and is now studying at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. He is also one of Regional Arts Victoria's Young Creative Leaders, and is currently producing a statewide playwriting

competition called The Waves Project. Chris has enjoyed working with such a talented and supportive ensemble, and is excited to be a part of such an amazing show.



Tegan Jones

Tegan has a wealth of experience as both a performer and producer of theatre. As an actor, her performances include Gilmer in Godspell, Jenny Diver in The Threepenny Opera (UMMTA), Sarraghina in Nine (FLW) and Christmas Eve in the Australian amateur premiere of Avenue Q (Altona Theatre Company). Tegan is also an experienced cabaret artist, and has devised and performed Opposites Attract, Lady Be Good and the sell-out seasons of Blues In The Night – A Performance inspired by the Works of Eva Cassidy and Greenwich: The Music of the Village, as part of the 2010 Melbourne Fringe Festival. As a producer, Tegan has worked on RENT, Parade, Bare with New Beat Theatre Company and most recently co-produced and performed in Boutique Theatre's debut season of Edges: A Song Cycle. Tegan also previously held the position of Artistic Director in the University of Melbourne Music Theatre Association (UMMTA) twice and in that time produced The Pyjama Game, FAME and Curtains.

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Thomas Kitt-Thompson

Having grown up in England, Thomas was lucky enough to frequently visit the West End. This, along with his stage debut in Oliver at the age of ten, cemented his desire to perform. Since moving to Australia, Thomas continued pursuing his passion by performing in numerous productions for St Leonard's College including Much Ado About Nothing (Watchman), Jesus Christ Superstar (Pilate) and Summer of the Aliens (Stan) as well as the psychopathic Cousin Kevin in UMMTA's Tommy and the Emcee in UMMTA's Lucky Stiff. Thomas' most recent roles include the cast of FabNob's Eurobeat, the leading role of Mozart

in CasUM's premier performance of Amadeus and ensemble in Four Letter Word's Wild Party. Thomas is currently studying a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne, and is delighted to be back with his UMMTA family. He would like to thank his teachers, family and friends for their continual support and hopes you all enjoy the show.



Jasmine Kwan

Jasmine's passion for the stage began at an early age. She trained with the Children's Performing Company of Australia (CPCA) for three years, performing numerous bi-annual gala shows and toured America with them. With eight years flute, three years voice and 16 years dance training, some of her show credits include – Tommy (UMMTA 2012), Curtains (UMMTA), Sweet Charity (Babirra), Jesus Christ Superstar (OSMaD) and Miss Saigon (Yvette; CLOC). She is thrilled to be performing in another UMMTA collaboration and hopes you thoroughly enjoy the show! #ummta4lyf



Jessica Prinzi

Jessica has been singing and dancing since before she could walk and talk. The little girl that staged countless musical spectaculars in her lounge room for family and friends has gone on to become a qualified dance teacher (trained primarily in jazz, tap, ballet and hip-hop) as well as a trained classical and contemporary vocalist. She includes performing at Universal Studios, Disneyworld and SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida amongst some of her greatest achievements. Jessica has been involved in a number of musicals over the years including The

Wedding Singer (UMMTA), Tommy (UMMTA), 1938: An Opera (UHT), Lucky Stiff

(UMMTA), Sweet Charity (WMTC) and her first professional show, The Balinese Princess and the Funky Monkey (Eventive1 Productions). Jessica is so excited to have this opportunity to perform in one of her favourite musicals with this incredibly talented team and can't wait to share RENT's powerful message with the audience every night!



Elle Richards

Elle is currently studying her Masters in Arts and Cultural Management. She studied Music Theatre at the University of Ballarat Arts Academy as well as her Graduate Diploma in Education. She has previously performed as a backing vocalist for Mark Seymour and Jessica Mauboy, and has been featured in the film clip "Follow the Sun" for Aria award winning band Evermore. Elle was a finalist in the 2010 Short and Sweet Cabaret competition with her cabaret "Can You Catch Pregnancy?", which she was then asked to continue for a season at the Butterfly Club. Some other credits include The Wild Party (Four Letter Word),

The Carnival (Charody Productions), and Housewarming (Apollo Productions). Elle has also toured multiple times with Theatre-in-Education company Alpha Shows in both Hercules and The Little Mermaid. Elle would like to dedicate her performance to her father Bob. Measure your life in love.



Hamish Taylor

Hamish began his theatre experience at a very early age along with fellow cast member Syd Zygier. Wesley College's Adamson Theatre Company has been the foundation of most of his experience as an active participant in theatre, but he has also held a position as a youth ambassador for the Melbourne Theatre Company as well as having participated in acting workshops at the Malthouse Theatre. Hamish's past shows include Bugsy Malone, Honk!, Much Ado About Nothing, Seussical, Wizard of Oz, Chess the Musical, Cloudstreet and Urinetown. Hamish has loved his first experience with UMMTA, witnessing people

from diverse backgrounds coming together to bring an iconic musical to life has been a huge highlight of his year. He'd also like to recognise the sheer talent of his fellow cast members and the commitment and emotional connection they all share to this show. When not rehearsing for RENT, Hamish studies Arts, majoring in Media/Communications and French.



Pallavi Waghmode

Pallavi is currently in her second year of a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University, majoring in Biochemistry. RENT is her first show with UMMTA, and a show that she has loved since the moment it hit her ears. She has been involved in theatre since her awkward pre-teen years, she was that chick who was in the high school musical every year, and shows no sign of stopping any time soon! Past shows include Annie, Grease, Alice in Wonderland and High School Musical (yes, for real). Pallavi loves procrastibaking and belting show tunes in the shower.



Andrew White

Andrew began performing in school productions since 2007 and is a first year science student at Melbourne University. When he's not doing theatre, he is often wishing that he was doing theatre. He has always been a fan of the dramatic and theatrical and enjoys expressing himself on stage to entertain and amuse. RENT is his second show with UMMTA and his favourite musical of all time (just sayin'). As a result he is very honoured and humbled to be performing it, especially with such incredibly talented and lovely people. He has found the experience to be a hugely enjoyable one and is very excited to be part of this

super great production. #yolo



Dennis Wang

Dennis has been singing since grade 5, and his first play was in year 8. He however, didn't really enjoy singing, dancing and acting as much as he does now until his first school musical in year 9. The fact that he went to an all-boys school and the school musicals had girls from the sister school is of course; completely irrelevant. Nevertheless, he and musical theatre have been inseparable since, it is only natural as he sings as much during the day as he does in any musical. Dennis is a first-year student at Melbourne University, and having only done school musicals previously, this is his first UMMTA show, and judging

by the fun and shall we say; "unique experiences" that he's had, this will surely not be his last.



Tess Walsh

Originally from Rochester, Tess moved to Melbourne after high school. She began dancing when she was 5 years old, at her local dance company, trained in jazz and ballet for 12 years. It wasn't until Year 8 that she gained the confidence to perform in the school musical, which ignited her passion for the theatre. This is Tess' first show with UMMTA and has loved having the opportunity to perform in her favourite musical. Tess has previously performed as Gladys in The Pajama Game, and Rizzo in Grease (University College). Most recently Tess performed the role of Wendla in Altona City Theatre's Spring Awakening. Tess

has vocal training with MaryAnne McCormack, who she would like to thank for her incredible guidance. She is currently studying in her final year at The University of Melbourne, but hopes to pursue a career in musical theatre. Tess would like to thank all those involved with Rent, she's had an amazing time.

The Band



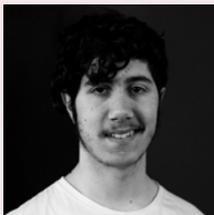
Patrick Paevere
CONDUCTOR
& KEYBOARD 1



Curtis Reardon
GUITAR 2
& KEYBOARD 2



Lauren Bachar
GUITAR 1



John Lauricella
BASS



Jane McCurry
DRUMS

Running Crew

Stage Manager: **Ruth Blair**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Finley Roberts**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Lydia Muir**

Hair and Makeup Assistant: **Bianca Bruce**

Microphone Technician: **Misha Lee**

Lighting Operator: **Giancarlo Salamanca**

Audio Mixing: **William Penington**

Followspot: **Danielle Ridgway, Jess Scott, Rémy Chadwick, Tom Fellowes**

Front of House Manager: **Chenez Dyer Bray**

Publicity Manager: **Richard Gwatkin**

Publicity Team: **Annie Nelson, Mollie Farrell**

Artwork and Design: **Patrick Paevere**

Programme: **Patrick Paevere, Giancarlo Salamanca**

Photography: **Ben Fon, Giancarlo Salamanca**

Videography: **Luisa Tascone**

Produced by: **The UMMTA Committee**

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Dance Dynamics

Anajak Temporary Fencing Hire

David Browne

Robert Cuddon

Dean Gourley

Georgia Vann

The UMMTA Committee

Company Manager **Anthony Cardamone**

Artistic Director **Patrick Paevere**

Company Treasurer **Chris Okey**

Communications Officer **Tristan Lawrence**

Social Officer **Richard Gwatkin**

General Committee **Ruth Blair**

General Committee **Katie Possingham**





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