

RENT

Book, Music and Lyrics by
JONATHAN LARSON

Directed by Chauntee' Schuler Irving

April 6 - 8 and 13 - 15, 8 pm
April 9, 2 pm

Reynolds Industries Theater,
Bryan University Center

Duke | DEPARTMENT of
THEATER STUDIES
theaterstudies.duke.edu

 **HOOF 'N' HORN**
hoofnhorn.org



Book, Music and Lyrics by
JONATHAN LARSON

Musical Arrangements
Steve Skinner

Original Concept/Additional Lyrics
Billy Aronson

Music Supervision
and Additional Arrangements
Tim Weil

Dramaturg
Lynn Thomson

Directed by Chauntee' Schuler Irving

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

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www.mtishows.com

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RENT

DIRECTOR

Chauntee' Schuler Irving

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jayce Mulligan

SCENIC DESIGN

Josafath Reynoso

DRAMATURG

Jane Mattingly

VOCAL COACH

Sandra Cotton

CHOREOGRAPHER

Courtney Liu

SOUND DESIGN

Brooks Frederickson

COSTUME DESIGN

Erin M. West

LIGHTING DESIGN

Bill Webb

INTIMACY DIRECTOR/ FIGHT CONSULTANT

Alexis Black

CAST

Roger..... Nishant Namboothiry*
Mark Blaze Gambla*
Mimi..... Anna Muthalaly*
Maureen..... Alaina Guo*
Joanne Ila Amiri*
Benny Akshay Gokul*
Collins..... Branch Worsham*
Angel..... Tommy Shen*
Roger Cover/Ensemble Gus Gress*
Mark Cover/Ensemble Jack Sanitate*
Mimi Cover/Ensemble Alexandria Thomas*
Maureen Cover/Ensemble Barbara Cardenas*
Joanne Cover/Ensemble Avery Lythcott-Haims
Ensemble Jacqueline Cole,* Caroline
Edmondson,* Haylee
Feist,* Will Lopez,* Elliot
Loverin,* Isa Mellody,*
Hannah Shuffer*

Musicians:

Ritwik Bhattacharjee, bass;* Eunice Lee* & Jayce Mulligan,
keyboards; Doga Ozmen, drums;* Lucas Balagot & Brendan
Sweezy,* guitars

**Students enrolled in Theater Studies Mainstage Production courses
THEATRST350-1, taught by Chauntee' Schuler Irving; THEATRST 350-2, taught
by Thom Quintas; or THEATRST 211, taught by Jayce Mulligan.*

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Tune Up A
Voice Mail #1
Tune Up B
Rent
Christmas Bells #1
You Okay, Honey
Tune Up - Reprise
One Song Glory
Light My Candle
Voice Mail #2
Today For You A
Today For You B
You'll See
Tango Maureen - Intro
Tango Maureen
Support Group
Out Tonight
Another Day
Will I
On The Street
Santa Fe
I'll Cover You
We're Okay
Christmas Bells
Over The Moon
Over The Moon Playoff
La Vie Boheme/
I Should Tell You

ACT 2

Seasons of Love
Happy New Year A
Voice Mail #3
Voice Mail #4
Happy New Year B
Valentine's Day Crossover
Take Me or Leave Me
Seasons of Love B
Without You
Voice Mail #5
Contact
I'll Cover You - Reprise
Halloween
Goodbye Love
What You Own
Voice Mail #6
Finale A
Your Eyes
Finale B
Exit Music (I'll Cover You)

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager Thom Quintas
Stage Manager Harper de Andrade*
Assistant Stage Managers Alexa Carr,* Rianna Huertas*
Assistant Producers Haley Cionfola,* Francesca Herrera
Assistant Director Jen Gobaira*
1st Assistant Director (film) Miranda Zhong*
2nd Assistant Director (film) Iris Wu*
Assistant Choreographers Alexandria Edwards,* Gabriela Salas*
Assistant Intimacy Coordinator Tess Redman
Assistant Music Director Eunice Lee
**Assistant Sound Design/
Sound Board Operator** Sam Savitt*
Props Artisan Tim Domack
Scenic Artist Alex Webb
Rehearsal Pianist Alex Baker
Light Board Operator Sage Hirschfeld*
Spot Light Operators Kyra Hoskin,* Clara McMillan
VPM Technical Director Richard Kless
VPM Senior Director Marcy Edenfield
VPM Costume Shop Supervisor Erin M. West
VPM Scene Shop Supervisor David Berberian

Marketing Zack Finacchio, Faye Hardek,
Elizabeth Thompson

Graphic Design Miel Creative Studio

Photographer Les Todd

Costume Shop Crew: Alexa Bolin Santiago, Evan Chan, Abigail Hartemink, Esther Hong, Elisa Jose, Sana Simran Khazielakha, Pratheema Prathap Kumar, Paige Lind, Tanvi Wagh

Scene Shop Crew: Prarthana Anand, Surya Cannon, Jaidev Jayakumar, Aden Klein, Ally Lublin, Paris Reynosa

**Students enrolled in Theater Studies Mainstage Production courses THEATRST 350-1, taught by Chauntee' Schuler Irving; THEATRST 350-2, taught by Thom Quintas; or THEATRST 211, taught by Jayce Mulligan.*

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"*Rent* is not about AIDS, it's not about homosexuality, it's not about homelessness – it's about family."

– **Wilson Jermaine Heredia**

"What a strange, what a fantastic city ... there was something here that one experienced nowhere else on earth. Something one loved immensely. What was it? Crossing the streets – standing on the street corners with the crowds: what was it that induced this special climate of nerves ... a peculiar sense of intimacy, friendliness, being here with all these people and in this strange place ... They touched your heart with tenderness and you felt yourself a part of the real flight and flutter – searching their faces, speculating about their dooms and destinies."

– **Isabel Bolton**, *Do I Wake or Sleep*

SPECIAL THANKS TO

John V. Brown

Vice Provost for the Arts

Ryan Donovan

Darren Gobert

Chair of Theater Studies

Morgan Irving

Sienna Irving

Sheri Sanders

Alyson Schacherer

Tom Whiteside

BIOGRAPHIES

Ila Amiri (she/her) (Joanne) is a senior from Los Angeles, CA studying Public Policy with a minor in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies. At Duke, she is also the music director of Out of the Blue and a singer/songwriter signed with Small Town Records. Previously, Ila played the flute for 9 to 5 (Fall 2022), music directed *Into the Woods* (Spring 2022) and starred as Riff Raff in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Fall 2021). She is super excited to be culminating her Duke theater career as Joanne, one of her all-time dream roles, and hopes you fall in love with this show and cast as much as she did.

David Berberian (Scene Shop Supervisor) has spent over two decades in the world of theater and film. He serves as the technical director for Duke University Theater Operations. David graduated with a BFA in acting from East Carolina University. He has been seen on stage locally and has been in numerous corporate video projects, including training videos for IBM, Comcast, Cisco, Cree and Glaxo-Smith Kline. David is a recurring role player, working with Credit Suisse during its summer training programs. He also enjoys his work with Theater Delta (TD) – an interactive theater model for social change that boasts such clients as The World Bank and the United States Army. With TD, David has had the privilege of traveling the country and working with a diverse group of clients on a range of social issues.

Alexis Black (Intimacy Director/Fight Consultant), a fight, movement and intimacy director, performer and theater educator, is thrilled to work on *Rent* with this amazing team. She is an Assistant Professor of Movement at Michigan State University and a certified Intimacy Director and instructor with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators. As a fight or intimacy director she has worked on Broadway (most recently in *Macbeth*, starring Daniel Craig, in 2022), Off-Broadway, regionally and internationally (Europe and Asia). As a professional actor and member of AEA, she has worked with regional theaters, on international tours and in New York City. She leads staged intimacy and staged violence workshops at universities across the U.S., and is the co-author of *Supporting Staged Intimacy: A Practical Guide for Theatre Creatives, Managers and Crew* (Routledge Publications, 2022).

Barbara Cardenas (Maureen Cover/Ensemble) is a sophomore at Duke from Caracas, Venezuela, majoring in English and minoring in Creative Writing and Psychology. Some of her favorite past musical theater roles are Heather Chandler in *Heathers* (2022) and Cathy Hiatt in *The Last Five Years* (2018). When she isn't rehearsing for a theater production, you can find Barbara performing her original music at a local venue in Durham or writing songs in her room. Barbara is eternally thankful for her loving and supportive family and friends, and especially to her parents for having stressed the importance of following her passions and embracing her individuality when she was growing up. She has loved every bit of putting such a special show together and cannot wait for everyone to see what the cast and team have done!

Alexa (Lexi) Carr (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman from New York City who is planning to major in Sociology with a certificate in Decision Science and a minor in Cinematic Arts. She started her work in theater last semester as the Assistant Stage Manager for Hoof 'n' Horn's production of *9 to 5*. As an aspiring filmmaker (and basically a female Mark Cohen), she was honored to work with such a talented and dedicated group of individuals to create such an incredible production. She'd like to dedicate this performance to her friends who have never stopped believing in her and her dreams. She hopes you love this show as much as she has loved working on it!

Haley Cionfolo (Assistant Producer) is a senior from Knoxville, TN, studying Biology and Global Health. She serves as President of Hoof 'n' Horn and has been involved in productions of *Cabaret*, *Pippin*, *Rocky Horror*, *Into the Woods* and *9 to 5* during her time at Duke. Haley is so honored to have the opportunity to work in such a remarkable production. She would like to thank the *Rent* production team for their support and warm welcome, especially Chauntée', Darren and Thom, her friends for listening to her talk about all things *Rent* all the time, and her roommate/best friend, Ila Amiri, for keeping her awake with clips from the *Rent* ProShot. After graduation, Haley will pursue a Master's of Public Health in Epidemiology.

Jacqueline Cole (Ensemble) is a sophomore studying Political Science, Journalism and Chinese. While she grew up playing goofy roles like Linus in *Charlie Brown* and Lord Farquaad in *Shrek the Musical*, she is thrilled to be participating in this year's production of *Rent*, her first show at Duke! She was born and raised in New York City and can't wait to portray the city she calls home for her audience this April.

Sandra Cotton (Vocal Coach) is a member of the music faculty at Duke University, where she teaches studio voice, the physiology of singing and diction. She received the Master of Music and Doctorate of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, as well as additional certification at the National Center for Voice and Speech. Since moving to Durham in 2007, Dr. Cotton has offered Art Song and Chamber Recitals, premiered works by local composers, adjudicated collegiate and post-collegiate competitions, and traveled regionally and internationally to teach master classes.

Harper de Andrade (he/him) (Stage Manager) is a sophomore double majoring in Computer Science and History. He is so excited to be stage managing his first production after producing Hoof 'n' Horn's fall show, *9 to 5*. Outside of the theater you will find him shivering in line for Duke Men's Basketball games and walking back to West Campus from Shabbat meals. Harper would like to thank his mom and dad for instilling in him a love for music and the theater and always supporting his artistic endeavors. LET'S GO DUKE!

Tim Domack (Props Artisan) is super happy to be back in the theater again. His New York credits include: The Juilliard School props artisan and assistant for seven years, The Charlotte Wilcox Company and Shakespeare in the Park. Regional credits include: GoodSpeed Opera House, Portland Opera, Utah Festival Opera, North Carolina Theatre, Duke University, William Peace University and PNC. Tim is the technical theater teacher at Wake Forest High School. He sends a special thank you and love to his family: Caroline, JJ, Phillip and Margaret.

Caroline Edmondson (Ensemble) is a freshman from Raleigh, NC who is beyond excited to be in *Rent*! She was previously seen in Duke Theater Studies' mainstage production of *She Kills Monsters*, and she has been dancing, singing and acting for most of her life. Outside of *Rent*, Caroline can be found cheering on her roommate in the marching band, rehearsing with Duke On Tap or dabbling in various forms of arts and crafts. She wants to thank the entire *Rent* cast and crew for being so welcoming, and she is endlessly grateful to her family for their love and support!

Haylee Feist (Ensemble) is a sophomore from Arlington, Virginia. She is studying Public Policy and Psychology with a minor in Visual Media Studies. At Duke, she loves to welcome new students by being a tour guide and orientation leader. She also has pink hair. *Rent* is her first-ever production, and she is thrilled to be a part of this unbelievable cast. She has had an amazing semester learning the ins and outs of musical theater and would like to thank the entire *Rent* team for graciously teaching her along the way.

Brooks Frederickson (Sound Design) is in his sixth year of the PhD in Music Composition program at Duke. Brooks writes patient music that is grounded in long lines of slowly evolving textures with understated rhythmic drive. He has worked with leading new music ensembles Sō Percussion, the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) and the JACK Quartet. Interested in the interaction of movement and sound, he has also collaborated with choreographer Stefanie Batten Bland and the American Ballet Theater Studio Company, choreographer Katherine Helen Fisher and multi-media artist Julie Rooney. Recent recording projects include his first full-length album *Small Works*, released through New Amsterdam Records' Windmill Series, and his "steroidally hard-driving, rock-influenced" (*NY Times*) piece "Undertoad" on Bearthoven's Cantaloupe Records release *Trios*. An advocate for education and community, Brooks has taught students at every level from K-12 in private, group and classroom settings. He is a new father of a young son named Nima.

Blaze Gambla (Mark) is a sophomore studying Arabic and Theater. Having performed most recently as Orcus in the Duke Theater Studies' fall production of *She Kills Monsters* and as Ram in the 2022 Duke Players' spring showing of *Heathers*, he is no stranger to putting academics aside for the good of the show. An aspiring weekend warrior, he is a member of the Duke University Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and works to minimize his career prospects as the Duke Players directing liaison. When home he enjoys the occasional dip in the ocean or a good game of volleyball with his younger brother, Koa.

Akshay Gokul (Benny), a freshman majoring in Public Policy and Economics, is both empowered and humbled to be a part of the radical work of art you'll be witnessing tonight. Hailing from the Garden State, Akshay has been tap dancing and belting around his home and town for nearly 10 years, most recently performing as Chip in the *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Franklin High School). He sends much love to Jersey, his dog Kiki and the entire team and cast behind *Rent*. "The opposite of war isn't peace... It's creation!"

Gus Gress (Roger Cover/Ensemble) is a Trinity sophomore from Thousand Oaks, CA, majoring in Theater and Public Policy and minoring in Spanish. Previous roles at Duke include Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Duke Players) and Cinderella's Prince/Wolf in *Into the Woods* (Hoof 'n' Horn). You may have also seen Gus on the Duke stage with Opera Theater, Jazz@, the Pegram Performing Arts Community and Me Too Monologues, which he co-directed this year. Gus is grateful to his parents for their acting training, his friends and family for their never-ending support, and to Duke, Chauntee' and the *Rent* team for the opportunity to perform live in Reynolds this semester!

Alaina Guo (Maureen) is a freshman from the Philly suburbs majoring in Theater Studies and Psychology. Recently, she performed in *She Kills Monsters*, Duke's fall Mainstage production. She is also a member of Rhythm and Blue, Duke's most attractive *a cappella* group (in a totally unbiased way). Outside of performance, she is a connoisseur of sunrise walks, caffeinated sparkling water and the benches on BC plaza. She would like to thank Chauntee' and the *Rent* team for this wonderful opportunity and her fellow squatters for treating her with love and support every day.

Francesca Herrera (Assistant Producer) is a senior from Atlanta, Georgia. She is majoring in Music with a Concentration in Vocal Performance, with minors in Computer Science and Psychology. While at Duke, she has been involved with many performing arts organizations such as the Duke Chorale and Duke Opera Theater. This is her debut production with Hoof 'n' Horn and Duke Theater Studies. Her experience as Assistant Producer has given her the experience to begin pursuing a career in the performing arts. In the next five years, she hopes to receive a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and continue to work in the performing arts on or off the stage.

Sage Hirschfeld (Light Board Operator) is a sophomore studying Environmental Engineering. They first got involved with theater at Duke when they snuck into the light booth during *Rocky Horror Picture Show* to make friends. They're super excited to be back in the booth on purpose this time and be a part of one of their favorite musicals. When they're not running lights, you can find Sage picking consensual fights in Club Krav Maga or lost in the woods with Outing Club.

Kyra Hoskin (Spot Light Operator) is a senior from Stone Mountain, Georgia. She is majoring in Neuroscience with minors in Chemistry and Psychology. She will be continuing her studies at Georgetown University next fall studying Biotechnology and Business. This is the first theatrical production Kyra has been involved in, and she is grateful and excited to be working in backstage crew this year to support the incredibly talented actors in their performance.

Rianna Huertas (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior from Santa Fe, New Mexico, majoring in Public Policy. She is elated to be participating in her first production at Duke. After growing up in the theater community and taking a long hiatus from the stage, assistant stage managing for *Rent* and working alongside such a talented cast has felt like coming home. She would like to thank her amazing friends, the wonderful people involved in the production and her beautiful mom for convincing her to return to the arts in her final semester. Enjoy the show!

Eunice Lee (Assistant Music Director) is a freshman from Busan, South Korea, studying Statistics on a Pre-Med track. After performing in *Chicago* and *Dear Evan Hansen*, she was captivated by the power of stories told through music and wrote her first musical, *When Colo(u)rs Speak*, in 2021. As a music producer, she has been actively composing and performing electronic digital instruments (launchpad, synths!) ever since. Unpacking each number of *Rent* with the cast and band members has been an amazing journey, and she is enthralled to finally share this story tonight!

Courtney Liu (Choreographer) is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Elon University, a vacation swing at *The Phantom of the Opera* and a proud double Dukie (BA 2013, MFA 2021). Credits include Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake*, the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, *Queen of the Night*, Peridance Contemporary Dance Company, Norwegian Cruise Lines and the Cincinnati Ballet. Courtney has taught dance in university and community settings for 15+ years, and her pedagogical research has been presented at the National Dance Educators Organization, the Appearance Matters Conference, the CORPS de Ballet International Conference and the Embodied Learning Summit. Her choreographic research explores her mixed-race heritage and has been commissioned by the Ciompi Quartet, Thistle Dance and the American Dance Festival. Courtney would like to thank Chauntee', Jayce and the brilliant Elon and Duke students who assisted in the creative process: Alexandria Edwards, Faythe Kelly, Gabriela Salas, Hannah Kevitt, Jen Gobaira and Renell Taylor!

Will Lopez (he/they) (Ensemble) is a senior who is ecstatic to share our production of *Rent*. Theater has been a staple in his life off and on since he was seven years old, and the world has always seemed a little bit brighter when he was involved in a production. For that reason he is a bit melancholy that this might be his chance to act on stage, though you never know what the future may hold. He is off to New York City next year to start his career and experience life in the city while he is young. He would like to thank his parents and siblings for stoking his creative spirit and supporting him all these years. Additionally, he would like to thank Chauntee', Jayce, Courtney, Jen, Rianna, Harper, Lexi and the entire cast and crew for elevating his craft to new heights and making this an unforgettable senior spring.

Elliott Loverin (Ensemble) is a junior Psychology major from western Massachusetts. He is so grateful and excited to make his debut in this Mainstage production! You may also have seen him in *Rocky Horror* with Hoof 'n' Horn, as Kurt in Duke Players' *Heathers* or in a D.U.M.B. outfit. His music, including his latest EP, *Housatonic*, is available under his name on most streaming platforms. Thanks to the crew of the CRV for keeping me sane! "Love has to be reinvented, that's certain."

Avery Lythcott-Haims (they/she) (Joanne Cover/Ensemble) is an emerging choreographer and performer who will be graduating this spring with degrees in Dance and Cultural Anthropology. Having choreographed *Into the Woods* and *Once on This Island* and performed in *Between the Lines* and *The Rocky Horror Show*, Avery is proud to make *Rent* their fifth and final show at Duke... and hopefully the first in a long line of professional(ish) work. Avery would like to thank (and hug and kiss) their beautiful castmates and directors for creating such a valuable work of art. They hope you enjoy the show!

Jane Mattingly (Dramaturg) is a theater artist and teacher based in Louisville, KY. With backgrounds in acting, directing and arts journalism, she holds an MFA in Theatre Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she specialized in dramaturgy and new works. While in Richmond, she served as the production dramaturg for *River Ditty* at Virginia Repertory Theatre, *Rhinoceros* at VCU, and *Desire Under the Elms* and *Invalid* (which she co-adapted) at Firehouse Theatre. In addition to acting, directing and teaching throughout Louisville, she has written for the *Louisville Eccentric Observer* and *Arts-Louisville*. She is grateful to Chauntee' for bringing her on board and is delighted to work with this energetic and brilliant new generation of theater makers!

Isa Mellody (she/her) (Ensemble) is a junior from New York City who is absolutely thrilled to be performing in her favorite musical of all time. She's not gonna write her major here, but take a wild guess. When she is not singing or struggling to meet academic deadlines, you can find her reading, writing, sleeping, knitting, trying to teach herself guitar or overthinking. Isa would like to thank her roommate, her friends, her family, the amazing directorial and design teams, and the cast of *Rent* for brightening her Monday through Thursday nights (and Saturdays 10-6) this semester.

Jayce (Jason) Mulligan (Music Director) is an award-winning composer and collaborative pianist. He served as a music director and rehearsal pianist for various university, community and youth productions before pivoting to focus on curating cross-genre cabaret performances and recitals that bring together opera, musical theater, pop and jazz repertoire under one program. As a composer his music has been performed around the country as well as internationally, and in 2020 he was awarded a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He holds master's degrees from Peabody Conservatory and Duke University, where he studied with Kevin Puts and Stephen Jaffe, respectively. Jayce would like to thank Chauntée' for opening the door to his "post-pandemic" return to musical theater as well as the entire production team, cast and crew for making this process an unforgettable experience.

Anna Muthalaly (Mimi) is a Public Policy major from Alabama who is shocked and honored to find herself in *Rent*. A long-term actress (last seen in the Duke Theater Studies Mainstage *Golem*), she is inexpressibly grateful to play Mimi in such a beautiful, thoughtful production. She would like to thank many people who loved her into the end of college, but especially her elder sister Rebekah, who supported Anna as an artist and performer long before she was any good. Anna dedicates this show to her sister, the great champion of her life.

Nishant Namboothiry (Roger) is a first-year student studying Biomedical Engineering on the premedical track. He is thrilled to join the *Rent* team in his first theatrical production at Duke. He would like to thank the Department of Theater Studies and the Duke fine arts community for their immense love and acceptance. He would also like to thank his close friends and family for being so supportive throughout his first theatrical undertaking at Duke. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Thom Quintas (Production Manager) specializes in production and stage management. From 2012 to 2020, he was the production manager and head of the stage management program at Indiana University in Bloomington. Prior, Thom worked in Los Angeles in film and event management for Disney, Universal, Warner Brothers and Panasonic at various trade shows and conventions, including San Diego Comic-Con and CES. Thom is also a member of Actors Equity and IATSE. He earned an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts.

Tess Redman (Assistant Intimacy Coordinator) is a junior majoring in Psychology and minoring in Creative Writing and Spanish Studies. *Rent* is her second Mainstage production and her first Hoof 'n' Horn production. She was most recently seen in *She Kills Monsters* as Tilly Evans/Tilius the Paladin. This is Tess's first time working in intimacy direction, and she's had an amazing time working with this cast and crew!

Josafath Reynoso (Scenic Design) was born in Mexico. He was awarded the Gold Medal for Scenic Design at World Stage Design 2017 in Taiwan for his production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, the 2021 Virginia Theatre Critics Circle Award, 2015 USITT Scenic Design Award, 2014 SETC Scenic Design Award and the 2013 Regional BroadwayWorld Award, among others. In the US, he has designed for Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, ZACH Theatre, Virginia Stage Company, Clarence Brown Theatre, Serenbe Playhouse, Warehouse Theatre, Triad Stage and Lexington Children's Theatre. International credits include new productions for Teatro Salvador Novo, Foro Antonio Lopez Mancera, UNAM Facultad de Arquitectura and Teatro Esperanza Iris in Mexico; Teatro del Bordo in Argentina; Escena 8 in Venezuela; and KCDC in Israel.

Gabriela Salas (Assistant Choreographer) is a freshman from the Charlotte area. She has been involved in dance and musical theater throughout her life. Gabriela has performed in numerous shows but only began choreography five years ago. She has thoroughly enjoyed every phase of this production of *Rent*, and she cannot wait for everyone to see the cast's and crew's hard work. She would like to thank the Duke faculty for an excellent experience, and her mother Jessica for being a wealth of knowledge, advice and encouragement.

Jack Sanitate (Mark Cover/Ensemble) is a sophomore from Michigan studying Public Policy and Environmental Science. He is excited to be in his third Hoof 'n' Horn production. You may remember him as Dr. Frank 'n' Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show* and The Witch in *Into the Woods*. Other recent favorite roles are SpongeBob in *SpongeBob the Musical*, Cornelius Hackl in *Hello Dolly* and Henry in *Next to Normal*. He would like to thank this amazing cast and crew, Dr. Cotton, Jayce, Courtney and, of course, our Queen Chauntée'.

Sam Savitt (Assistant Sound Designer) is a sophomore from New York studying Mechanical/Aerospace Engineering and a potential Theater Studies minor. He was the lighting designer for two Hoof 'n' Horn productions (*The Rocky Horror Show*, *Into the Woods*) last year and is excited to get into sound with *Rent*. Outside of theater, Sam is involved with Duke Aviators, Duke AERO, and is on the Club Ski and Snowboard Team. He is thankful to the entire *Rent* company and Hoof 'n' Horn for a great experience putting on the show!

Chauntee' Schuler Irving (Director) is thrilled to be directing the fabulous cast of *Rent*! She is a professor and actor who has taken on lead roles in Broadway, Off Broadway, New York and regional productions as well as on television and in national commercials. Favorite credits include: *The Lion King*, *Dreamgirls*, *Applause*, *Murder Ballad*, *Everyday Rapture*, *Party Come Here* and *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*. She has trained with The Actors' Studio Drama School, The Barrow Group Theater Company and The Ailey School prior to receiving her MFA in Theatre Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is a member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA. *Chauntee.com*

Tommy Shen (Angel) is a senior Program II Major ("Performing Sexual and Gender Diverse Health: Reducing Stigma Through Theater") from the suburbs of Philadelphia. Having performed in theater since he was five, Tommy has notably played Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*, Billy Flynn in *Chicago* and (recently) The Emcee in *Cabaret*. Tommy is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this production and would like to express his gratitude to his fellow cast members. He would also like to dedicate his performance to his lifelong supporter who has never missed a performance of his: his mom! Love you, mama!

Hannah Shuffer (Ensemble) is a senior from Cleveland, OH. Her bio is not in fact, missing information; this is simply her first show. She is incredibly grateful for this experience and getting to work with all the wonderful people on the *Rent* team.

Alexandria (Ally) Thomas (Mimi Cover/Ensemble) is a freshman from Bear, Delaware, studying Political Science and Theater Studies. Ally was in the ensemble of Hoof 'n' Horn's 9 to 5 last fall. Though this is her second Hoof 'n' Horn show, it is her first production with Theater Studies. She's incredibly grateful to work with so many talented performers and directors and can't wait for more collaborations!

Bill Webb (Lighting Design) is thrilled to be the Lighting Designer for *Rent* at Duke University. Bill is a native of Alfred, NY, where he received his Bachelor of the Arts in Theatre from Alfred University in 1988. He continued training at The University of North Carolina School of the Arts where he earned his Master of Fine Arts in Scenic Technology in 1994. Since 1996, Bill has been on faculty at Elon University where he serves as the Lighting Designer/Production Manager for the Performing Arts Department. In addition to his lighting design work at Elon, Bill has designed lights throughout the southeastern United States for companies such as Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Mill Mountain Theatre and The University of North Carolina School of the Arts. In addition to his lighting design career, Bill has worked throughout the United States for companies such as Cirque Du Soleil, Iweiss and Bungalow Scenic Studios.

Erin M. West (Costume Design/Costume Shop Supervisor) has worked as a costume designer, technician, costume shop manager and wardrobe manager for regional and university theaters, and has extensive experience designing, patterning and building costumes for theater and dance. Erin holds an MFA in Costume Design from The Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University and a BA in Studio Art from James Madison University. She has worked with Washington & Lee University, James Madison University, Westminster College, American Dance Festival, Salt Lake Acting Company, Tuacahn Center for the Arts, The Virginia Repertory Dance Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and The American Shakespeare Center, among others.

Branch Worsham (Collins) is a queer Ecuadorian-American junior from Long Island, NY, studying Mechanical Engineering. In their free time, they enjoy doing their makeup and spending time outdoors with friends. They practice classical voice with the Duke vocal faculty, and they enjoy more free and less structured music sessions – like singing with their sisters and dad who helped them get into music! This is their first show at Duke, and they are very excited to play Tom Collins. They would like to thank their family, especially their mom, and friends who always support them and their creative pursuits.

Iris Wu (2nd Assistant Director-Film) has developed a strong interest in theater through her previous experience in acting. As a first-year student, she is considering a major in Economics and Cinematic Arts. With this precious opportunity offered by the *Rent* production, she decided to build her unique experience by combining her two interests – theater and filmmaking.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATER STUDIES

FACULTY

Sarah Beckwith
Neal Bell
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Each semester the Department of Theater Studies presents a Mainstage production directed by a faculty member, designed by professional theater artists and built by Theater Operations staff and students. Auditions are open to all students, who can get academic credit for participating as cast or crew in classes centered on the Mainstage experience. In addition, the Department stages productions by our professional visiting artists and by our student group, Duke Players, which produces student-directed events each semester. Theater Studies supports Duke's other student theater groups, such as Hoof 'n' Horn, Duke Chinese Theater, Me Too Monologues and Duke Asian American Theater, by providing rehearsal space, access to our costume and prop collections, promotion and financial support.

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Hoof 'n' Horn strives to bring exceptional musical theater to the Duke and Durham communities, and we need your help to bring our mission to life.

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