

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

**Due to popular demand...**

**“RENT”**

**Extends thru August 27th!**

**The acclaimed intimate production of Jonathan Larson’s masterpiece will have four more performances at Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken theater arts Center**

**ANAHEIM, CA:** Chance Theater, Anaheim’s official resident theater company, is pleased to announce that its production of “RENT” will be extending thru August 27th on the Cripe Stage at the Bette Aitken theater arts Center. With Music, Book, and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson, directed by Matthew McCray, music directed by Lex Leigh, and choreographed by Mo Goodfellow, this landmark rock opera has been playing to full houses while getting raves from both critics and audiences.

"PHENOMENAL CAST... this production of RENT could make a rabid fan out of you" -- *Broadway World*

"an intimate, but fully fleshed take on one of the great sprawling glories of the American canon."

-- *Orange County Register*

"VIBRANT & VITAL... as perfect a production of Jonathan Larson’s chef-d’oeuvre as any diehard Renthead could wish for." -- *StageSceneLA*

RECOMMENDED! “This isn’t a production you want to miss.” – *Orange Curtain Review*

“STELLAR... first-rate ensemble cast” – *JordanRYoung.com*

“a revival as fresh and exciting as the original one.” - *Glamgical*

The “RENT” design team includes director **Matthew McCray** (“Next to Normal”), music director **Lex Leigh** (“Ride the Cyclone”), choreographer **Mo Goodfellow** (Chance Debut), scenic designer **Joe Holbrook** (“Next to Normal”), costume designer **Bradley Allen Lock** (“Ride the Cyclone”), lighting designer **Zach Moore** (Chance Debut), sound designer **Dave Mickey** (“The Big Meal”), projection designer **Nick Santiago** (“Ride the Cyclone”), and stage manager **Cynthia C. Espinoza** (“Green Day’s American Idiot”).

The cast of “Rent” features a slew of new faces to the Chance. – **Luc Clopton** (Chance Debut) is Mark Cohen, **Gavin Cole** (“Emma, The Musical”) is Roger Davis, **Lena Ceja** (Chance Debut) is Mimi Marquez, **JoeJoe McKinney** (Chance Debut) plays Tom Collins, **Adam Leiva** (Chance Debut) is Angel Dumott Schunard, **Lily Targett** (Chance Debut) will play Maureen Johnson, **Frankie Ripley** (Chance Debut) is Joanne Jefferson, and **Christopher D. Baker** (Chance Debut) is Benjamin Coffin III. In the ensemble, we have **Jack Aitken** (“Green Day’s American Idiot”), **Micah K. Blanks** (Chance Debut), **Ayani Dorsey** (Chance Debut), **Autumn Kirkpatrick** (Chance Debut), **Patrick McCormick** (Chance Debut), **Mikey Miro** (Chance Debut), and **Gemma Pedersen** (Chance Debut).

Linda & Tod White are the Executive Producers for this production and the Associate Producers are Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller and Laurie Smits Staude. Bette & Wylie Aitken are producers for the entire 2023 Season and The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar are this season’s associate producers.

To schedule press interviews, arrange for press comps, request press photos, or for any additional information regarding this production, please contact Casey Long, the Chance’s managing director, at (626) 523-7151 or [casey@chancetheater.com](mailto:casey@chancetheater.com).

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## ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

Proud to be one of the leading ensemble-driven theatre companies in Southern California, CHANCE THEATER has received the National Theatre Company grant from American Theatre Wing for “nurturing a community of artists in ways that strengthen and demonstrate the quality, diversity, and dynamism of American theatre.” The Chance recently won 14 OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical (*Next to Normal*) and Outstanding Production of a Play (*Cry It Out*). Previously, Chance Theater has won eight OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical (*Fun Home*), eight Ovation Awards, including four for Best Production of a Musical (Intimate Theatre), and four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. The Anaheim City Council named Chance Theater “the Official Resident

Theater Company of Anaheim” in 2014, and Arts Orange County has twice named the Chance as “Outstanding Arts Organization.” Known for using bold and personal storytelling to promote dialogue and connection within the Southern California theatrical landscape, the Chance is committed to contributing to a more compassionate, connected and creative community. As a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group, The Theatrical Producers League of Los Angeles, and OC Theatre Guild, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

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## **CALENDAR LISTING**

**WHAT: Rent**

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” is 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,” the musical follows a year in the life of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York’s Lower East Side, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. This is theater at its best – exuberant, passionate and joyous.

**WHEN:** EXTENDED thru August 27, 2023; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. & 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m.

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**RUNNING TIME:** 2 hour, 30 minutes, with intermission

**WHERE:** Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken theater arts Center on the Cripe Stage  
5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

**TICKETS:** \$25-\$49

**MORE INFO:** [www.ChanceTheater.com](http://www.ChanceTheater.com) or call (888) 455-4212

**COVID POLICY:** Masks are strongly recommended while inside our building, but we are no longer requiring mask-wearing or proof of vaccination to attend a general performance.

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