RENT
Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson
directed by Robert J. Vrtis
Original Concept / Additional Lyrics Billy Aronson
Musical Arrangements Steve Skinner
Dramaturg Lynn Thompson
Music Supervision and Additional Arrangements Tim Will

LUTHER COLLEGE JEWEL THEATRE

NOVEMBER 10 @7:30PM
NOVEMBER 11 @7:30PM
NOVEMBER 12 @7:30PM
NOVEMBER 17 @7:30PM
NOVEMBER 18 @1:30PM
NOVEMBER 19 @1:30PM

GENERAL ADMISSION $15 – FREE WITH LUTHER ID
TICKETS VIA LUTHER BOX OFFICE OR TICKETS.LUTHER.EDU

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
RENT

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

Book, Music and Lyrics by
Jonathan Larson

Music Arrangements
Steve Skinner

Original Concept/ Additional Lyrics
Billy Aronson

Music and Supervision and Additional Arrangements
Tim Weil

Dramaturg
Lynn Thomson

RENT is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 423 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019
Tel.: (212) 541-4684 Fax: (212) 397-4684 www.MTIShows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
CAST

Roger Davis
Mark Cohen
Tom Collins
Benjamin Coffin III
Joanne Jefferson
Angel Dumott Schunard
Mimi Marquez
Maureen Johnson
Ensemble

Parker Fretheim
Understudy: Alex Granfield
Noah Tiegs*
Garret Baumler*
Zach Loving
Understudy: Matthew Espey
William John Krageschmidt
Understudy: Erik Mandsager
Janet Irankunda*
Amy Pham*
Trevor Haren
Understudy: Matthew Espey
Mayalyn Cott*
Tamar Tedla*
Mikaela Hanrahan*
Grace Huber*
Elizabeth Budahn
Kelsey Chang
Matthew Espey
Maddie Flom-Staab
Aijah Goetting
Alex Granfield
Sakchham Karki
Adrienne Lee
Erik Mandsager
Claire Palmquist
Laila Sahir
Alex Schlesinger
Hope Shishilla
Daniel Suhr
Emma Withers

*performs November 10, 16, 18
*performs November 11, 17, 19
**MUSICIANS**

- **Piano/Keyboard**: Mitchell Stevens
- **Guitar 1**: Andrew Murray
- **Keyboard/Guitar 2**: Andrew Moore
- **Bass**: Elliot Douma
- **Percussion**: Thomas Perkins

For Act 2 of the November 19 performance, Andrew Moore will play Guitar 1, Chris O’Connell will play Keyboard, and Joshua Van Sant will play Percussion.

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Dr. Bobby Vrtis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Miranda Poncelet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Director/Conductor</td>
<td>Jonathon Struve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Music Director/Conductor</td>
<td>Chris O’Connell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choreographer</td>
<td>Danica Kafton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Choreographer</td>
<td>Abby Suhr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Director</td>
<td>Tom Berger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scenic/Lighting Design</td>
<td>Jeff Dintaman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Lighting Design</td>
<td>Barbara Stier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costume Design</td>
<td>Lisa Lantz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage Manager</td>
<td>Meghan Gaffney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Stage Manager</td>
<td>Claire Twedt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production Manager</td>
<td>Laila Sahir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing and Publicity Coordinator</td>
<td>Morgan Fanning</td>
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<tr>
<td>House Manager</td>
<td>Melissa Kirby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic Design</td>
<td>Joschuwa Setiawan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Content Liaison</td>
<td>Grace Huber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CREW**

- **Light Board Operator**: Andrew Tiede
- **Sound Board Operator**: Sanna Berdahl
- **Spotlight Operator**: Amanda Brobst

- **Backstage Crew**: Gunnar Ehlers
- **Dresser**: Annika Peterson
- **Assistant Dresser**: Elliot Rickert

- **Graphic Design**: Natalie Nelson
- **Web Content Liaison**: Emma Brashear
- **Production Manager**: Natalie Nelson
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  
You’ll See  
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  
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

This show contains mature content; audience discretion is advised.

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts. Talkback discussions will be held following each matinee performance.
Garret Baumler is a sophomore majoring in vocal performance and minoring in theatre. This is his first on-stage production here at Luther, but he has been involved in behind-the-scenes positions in *Twelfth Night* and SPIN Theatre productions as an assistant stage manager. He would love to thank his family and friends for their undying support and sincerely hopes you enjoy the show!

Elizabeth Budahn is so excited to be a part of this wonderful production with such wonderful cast mates. She is excited to be performing her second musical here at Luther, the first being *Sunday in the Park with George* two years ago. Elizabeth is a senior music education major looking forward to spending her next semester as a student teacher. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their love and support.

Kelsey Chang is a sophomore studying Spanish, linguistics, and education with hopes to be a speech pathologist. Kelsey has been in theatre since she was in sixth grade and is thrilled to be in her first production at Luther! Outside of theatre, Kelsey is on the Dance Marathon Executive Board, participates in Cantorei, and is a member of Tau Delta Gamma. She would like to thank her family and friends for their never ending love and support.

Mayalyn Cott is in her third year here at Luther studying music and education. She has been seen in last year’s opera, *The Gondoliers* and with Acting Out Theatre Company in *Beauty and the Beast* (2017) and *Sweeney Todd* (2016). She would like to thank her voice professor, Carla Hanson, for showing her the love of performing and her AOTC family in Illinois for giving her so much support from miles away.
Matthew Espey is a junior theatre major. Some of his past credits include Oscar Delancey in the regional premiere of Disney’s Newsies, and Bustopher Jones in Cats at the Clinton Area Showboat Theatre; Sir Toby Belch in Twelfth Night, and Mr. in Sunday... George here at Luther. Matthew sincerely hopes you enjoy one of his favorite shows put on by some of his favorite people!

Maddie Flom-Staab is a sophomore German and psychology major who loves to dance and sing her booty off. She has been in productions of Urinetown, Hairspray, West Side Story, Mamma Mia! and Legally Blonde. She would like to thank her parents for coming to every single production she’s been in, even if it’s across the pond.

Parker Fretheim is excited to be part of this production. In the past, he has often participated in various musicals, both at Luther and around the area, such as Sunday in the Park with George, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, and Spamatlot! Parker is currently a junior at Luther College, and is double-majoring in both music and theatre. He hopes that you enjoy the show, and that his guitar stays in tune for more than twenty minutes.

Alijah Goetting is a junior majoring in music performance and art and is enthusiastic about working where the two crafts combine! This is the first musical that Alijah has performed in since high school. In the past, she has participated in Fall Opera Scenes (2016) and the Spring Opera The Gondoliers (2017).
Alex Granfield is a first year student majoring in music education for voice. He is a member of Norsemen and was also last seen in SPIN’s musical theatre cabaret. Alex would like to thank Dr. Bobby and Dr. Struve for all their hard work and for giving him this fantastic opportunity, and he hopes you enjoy the show.

Mikaela Hanrahan is a first year majoring in music and theatre with a minor in management. She sings in Aurora, participates in SPIN Theatre, and is a member of the Performing Arts Committee. Mikaela would like to thank her wonderful family and friends, as well as the amazing cast that has made her first VPA performance so memorable.

Trevor Haren is a first year majoring in music performance. A few of Trevor’s past roles have included, Joseph and The Amazing Tech, Dreamcoat, The Addams Family, Seussical, and The Sound of Music. Trevor is also a runner on Luther’s cross country team. He would like to thank his parents and siblings for being a supportive bunch, and Jeff and Elisabeth Bieber for giving him guidance, confidence, and a passion for music and theatre.

Grace Huber is a sophomore music major with education and theatre minors. Last year, Grace performed in the theatre program’s Twelfth Night, as well as a few productions with SPIN. Grace sings in Nordic Choir and likes to bake cupcakes in the dorm kitchen. She wants to thank the whole cast and crew for a wonderful show; as always, she dedicates her performance to her sister, Lily.
Janet Irankunda is a junior music major from Coon Rapids, Minnesota. This is her first production with the VPA. On campus, she is a part of Student Senate, Collegiate Chorale, Gospel Choir, and more. Janet would like to thank her fellow cast members for being so supportive through the preparation process, and is thankful for the friends she’s made.

Sakchham Karki is a first year and an international student from Nepal. He loves Luther and the opportunities it offers him. In addition to theatre, he is a member of the tennis team on campus. He loves keeping himself busy.

William John Krageschmidt is a senior music major at Luther College. RENT is the first production that Will has been involved in during his time at Luther. He would like to thank his fellow cast members for their support and encouragement.

Adrienne Lee is a junior elementary education major. She has previously appeared in Twelfth Night (Sir Andrew), the 1440 Minute Musicals, Eurydice, Most Massive Woman Wins, Love and Information, and Top Banana. She would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her.
Zach Loving is a junior studying music education. This is his first musical at Luther, but he has performed in both community and high school productions in the past. Zach would like to thank all the wonderful people who have made this show possible.

Erik Mandsager is an English major with an education minor. His latest accomplishments include eating 4 rolls of Koreana sushi in one sitting, and watching all of Gossip Girl in 2 days. He’d like to thank his friends and family for supporting him in all his endeavors.

Claire Palmquist is a junior pursuing a psychology major and theatre minor. She sings in Collegiate Chorale and leads the drama team at Sunday night worship. Past performances at Luther include The Man Who and Twelfth Night. She is so thankful for her unconditionally-loving and supportive family and friends, along with her deepening relationship with God over her time here at Luther.

Amy Pham Amy Pham is a senior music education major, and is super excited to perform one last time before student teaching in the spring. RENT is her first collegiate theater production, and she had a blast working with such a talented cast and crew! Thanks everybody for coming out to see a musical about finding love through life and creation!
Laila Sahir is a senior theatre and psychology major with a music minor. Her past productions at Luther include *Twelfth Night, The Illusion, The Invitation Game, Sunday in the Park with George, The Man Who,* and *The Glass Menagerie.* She would like to thank the cast and production team for sharing this experience with her and her family for their support throughout the journey.

Alex Schlesinger is a first year studying physics with a music minor. He had appeared in high school productions of *Honk!, Little Mermaid Jr., Oklahoma!* (Curly), and *Music Man!* (Jacey). He would like to thank his brother and sister for getting him interested in music and theater!

Hope Shishilla is a first year at Luther College and is planning on getting a double major in art and psychology to become an art therapist. She has been in 16 shows throughout her life; most recently she was in *The Glass Menagerie* as Amanda Wingfield and in *The Sparrow* as Joyce McGuckin. She is thrilled to be a part of *RENT* as it is her first time performing with Luther College.

Daniel Suhr is a sophomore studying computer science and theatre. *RENT* is Daniel’s debut VPA performance. He is also involved in food council and ultimate frisbee here at Luther. He would like to thank his parents for first getting him on the stage in middle school.
Tamar Tedla is a sophomore majoring in social work and sociology. This is her first theater production at Luther, but she was very active in theater during her high school career. She was in Thoroughly Modern Millie, Guys and Dolls, A Christmas Carol, Curtains, and many more shows! She would like to thank her loving parents and friends for their endless support and unconditional love. She couldn’t have done it without you guys. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Noah Tiegs is a sophomore studying Spanish, education, and theatre. In addition to the VPA he is involved in choir, SPIN Theatre, and a miscellany of other projects. Noah dedicates his performance to his grandparents, Jim and Joanne. Enjoy RENT!

Emma Withers is a senior studying art education, elementary education, and theatre. Her previous roles at Luther have included: the Therapist (and others) in Metamorphoses, Marie in Sunday in the Park with George, Matamore in The Illusion, musician and songwriter in the band Fruitmouse for the production of Twelfth Night, and Iris in The Nether. She loves the arts at Luther. A lot.
Meghan Gaffney is a senior studying history, English, and theatre. Her past Luther productions include stage managing for *The Illusion* and assistant stage managing for *Twelfth Night* and *Sunday in the Park with George*. Many thanks to Dr. Bobby and her amazing support system of family and friends. A special note of gratitude to her Dad for playing nothing but musical theatre soundtracks on repeat in the car.

Claire Twedt is a first year computer science major. She has been a musician for many shows as a reed doubler, and an actor in improv as well as Shakespeare, and, most recently, a dresser for *The Life of Galileo*. She is super excited to be involved with stage management for the first time.

Danica Kafton is a senior dance and athletic training double major. She has been involved in previous shows such as *The Invitation Game*, *Body of Water*, and *Trust Me*, and she has choreographed for SPIN Theatre’s 1440 production of *Legally Blonde, Jr.* and Orchesis Contemporary Dance Group. She would like to thank Dr. Bobby and the cast and crew for allowing her to choreograph for the show.

Abby Suhr is a senior dance major with a psychology minor. She has been in numerous Luther productions, with her favorites being *The Invitation Game* and *Forgiveness Lunch*. She is a part of Orchesis dance team, Cantorei choir, and Alpha Beta Psi. Psalms 30: 11-12
Miranda Poncelet is a music education major with a theatre minor. She has participated in *Sunday in the Park with George*, *The Nether*, and *In the Next Room*. She is very excited to be behind the scenes with the production of *RENT* and hopes you all enjoy the show!

Chris O’Connell is a senior studying music education with the plan of teaching high school band upon graduating and continuing education in graduate conducting school. He has worked as a music director at the Rochester Repertory Theater for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* as well as for the Rochester Civic Theater Camps and Rochester Catholic School Theater Camps. In his free time you can find him enjoying the outdoors through backpacking, canoeing, or rock climbing.
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

In recent weeks, I’ve often been asked about how we decided to do RENT and how I feel about it. I don’t like to express how many doubts I had about it from the start. I like to point out, when talking about producing this show, that we wouldn’t be staging RENT at all if it wasn’t for our students. If it wasn’t for their belief that we could.
I admittedly didn’t think it was going to happen, having doubts upon doubts about whether it was a show that we could manage.

Doubts and (what I’d like to think of as) pragmatism hold back innovation, creative solutions, and our ability to change our world. It justifies our (my) aversion to risk.

In a year when our theatre season is struggling with the theme revolution and reformation, it is fitting to note that this willingness to risk coupled with an unwillingness to accept the world as it is are vital components to revolution, and that optimism about our ability to match the strength of our efforts to the strength of our convictions is necessary to re-form our world.

Over the past few weeks I’ve wondered if it is the brashness of youth alone that allows this spirit to thrive.
I hope not.
I hope that what is ever youthful in us keeps this spirit alive if we can only bypass our calcified doubts.
COSTUME CREW
Liz Bolthouse
Linnea Lee-Brown
Emma Brashear
Mikaela Hanrahan
Emmalee Knoch
Genevieve Heimer-Lang
Annika Peterson
Sophia Nystrom
Rosalie Munroe
Miranda Poncelet (Costume Storage Coordinator)
Jennifer Anderson (Costume Storage Coordinator)

SET CONSTRUCTION CREW
Inga Aleckson
Collin Boyle
Gunnar Ehlers
Meghan Gaffney
Aliah Goetting
Tanner Huppert
Andrew Kane
Isaac Logeman
Abby Mark
Samson Masanga
Karl Nycklemoe
Jenna Reimann
Barbara Stier
Andrew Tiede
Nathan Baldwin
Jorge Chavez
Bailey Fields
Cleo Garza
Winter Hawley-Bourcier
Isabella Jenkinson
Jonathan Kuehner
Noah Manke
William Marroquin-Haslett
Keaton Meyer
Miranda Poncelet
Emma Schlabach
Daniel Suhr
Noah Tiegs

SPECIAL THANKS
Steve Arneson and George Hamilton, Madeline Geier; Luther College Facility Services, William Marroquin-Haslett, Maya Dunson, Rachel Storlie, Brooke Joyce, Iris Johnson, Morgan Seemann, Matthew Guttorson, Brittany Todd, Gracie Griffiths
The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival 50th, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; and Beatrice and Anthony Welters and the AnBryce Foundation.

KCACTF is part of JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy, inspired by five enduring ideals often ascribed to JFK: Courage, Freedom, Justice, Service, and Gratitude. Support for JKFC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy is provided by Ambassador Elizabeth Bagley, Chevron, the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, and Target.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President’s Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
The Minnesota AIDS Project envisions a Minnesota where new HIV infections are eliminated and individuals with HIV live long and healthy lives. We opened our doors in 1983, during the early years of the AIDS crisis. For over three decades, we’ve led Minnesota’s fight to stop HIV through prevention, advocacy, awareness, and direct services.

Today, in partnership with over 1,000 volunteers, the Minnesota AIDS Project provides compassionate, confidential and non-discriminatory services to people living with HIV across the state of Minnesota. Our dedicated staff also reaches people who don’t have HIV through prevention education, HIV testing, and outreach to communities facing the greatest risk for transmission. In 2018 MAP will be opening a Mental Health Clinic, and merging with Rainbow Health Initiative to better meet the overall needs of our clients.

So long as people living with HIV experience stigma, discrimination, and chronic illness, we will be leading the fight to stop this disease. To learn more, visit https://www.mnaidsproject.org/
Luther Theatre and Dance
2017-2018

The Life of Galileo
By Bertolt Brecht
October 5-7, 2017

RENT
By Jonathan Larson
November 10-19, 2017

Marie Antoinette
By David Adjmi
May 3-12, 2018

Soil Turning
Choreographed by Andrea Vazquez-Aguirre
May 4-12, 2018

Faculty and Staff
Tom Berger
Lisa Lantz
Jeff Dintaman
Jane Hawley
Andre Vazquez-Aguirre
Paul Rude
Robert J. Larson
Dr. Bobby Vrtis