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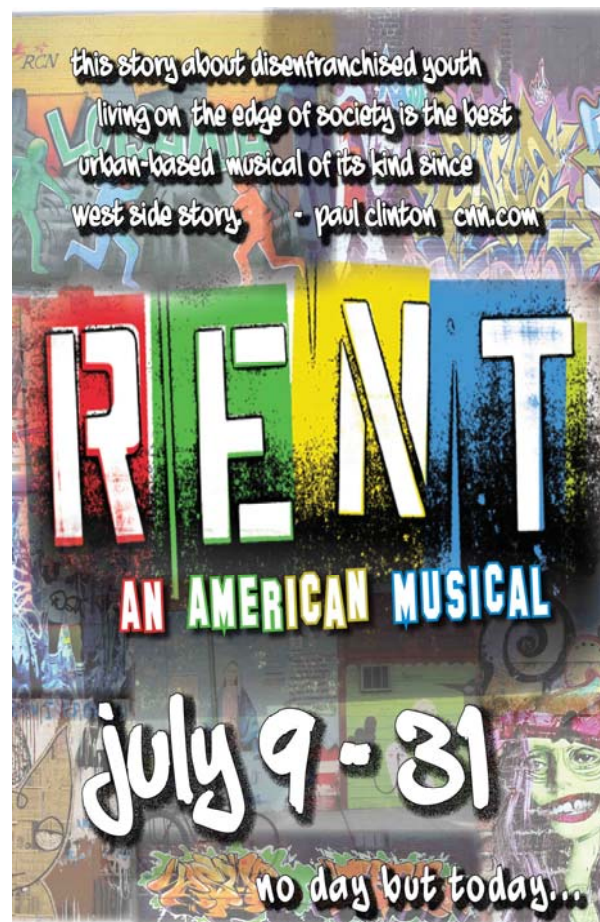
Lake Worth Playhouse Presents Jonathan Larson's Pulitzer Prize-Winning Musical Masterpiece, RENT

LAKE WORTH, Florida (June 15, 2010)

The Lake Worth Playhouse continues its reputation of offering vibrant summer musical selections with Jonathan Larson's **RENT**. This Pulitzer-prize winning Broadway musical based loosely on Puccini's opera, *La Bohème*, tells the story of eight friends living the disappearing Bohemian lifestyle in New York's East Village. The show runs July 9 through July 31 at the Playhouse, located at 713 Lake Avenue in downtown Lake Worth.

RENT first took shape at the 150-seat New York Theatre Workshop in January 1996 with simple staging, minimal scenery and a concert-style presentation. Following a sold-out limited engagement Off Broadway, the show transferred to the Nederlander Theatre in April 1996 where it won an astounding number of awards.

RENT follows one year in the lives of a close-knit group of penniless artists determined to continue reaching for their dreams even as they struggle to overcome the obstacles of poverty, AIDS and drug



addiction while surviving the mean streets of Alphabet City in the mid-1990s. This uniquely American musical had a 12+-year run on Broadway and also enjoyed popularity as a 2005 motion picture. The score features a mix of gritty rock ballads, bluesy soul music and pop melodies, including the driving anthem *Seasons of Love*, the poignant *I'll Cover You*, and the heart-wrenching *One Song Glory*. The book combines both humor and tragedy to create a compelling story with diverse characters. Other featured songs include *Light My Candle*, *What You Own*, *Without You* and *La Vie Bohème*.

The show's memorable music and lyrics were penned by the late Jonathon Larson, who died unexpectedly at the age of 35 just days before the show started previews Off Broadway. Mr. Larson never had the opportunity to enjoy the many accolades his show garnered, including the 1996 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, the Drama Desk Award, The Obie Award, and the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. **RENT** has been called a "breakthrough" by Time Magazine, "an exhilarating landmark" by the New York Times and "a raw and riveting milestone in musical theater" by Rolling Stone. Today, **RENT** has become a global phenomenon, packing houses in the United States, England, Japan, Australia, Germany and countless other countries around the world.

The Playhouse production of **RENT** is co-directed by Playhouse Artistic Director Jodie Dixon-Mears and Playhouse choreographer/dance teacher and community outreach performing arts teacher, Ricky Nahas, who also choreographs the show. Music direction is by Toni Stamos, who served as music director for last season's hit musicals *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Oklahoma*. The 22-member cast includes: **Shane Blanford** as Roger, **Joey DeChello** as Mark, **Gregory Johnson** as Tom, **Deshon Allen** as Benny, **Samantha Brown** as Joanne, **Robert Martes** as Angel, **Ashley Rodriguez** as Mimi and **Kaitrin Lynch** as Maureen.

ABOUT LAKE WORTH PLAYHOUSE

Lake Worth Playhouse is a non-profit community theatre with a diverse array of offerings, including award-winning dramas, comedies, musicals, area premieres, Broadway favorites, children's shows, ballets and operas on film, live concerts, improv comedy and alternative programming. In addition to its main stage theatrical fare, the Playhouse presents year-round independent and foreign films in the Stonzek Theatre, an intimate black-box style theatre equipped with a large viewing screen and high-definition projection. The Playhouse is proud to offer a variety of educational programs for adults and children, as well as community outreach initiatives that bring cultural programs into the neighborhoods of underserved youth and also make theatre available free of charge for disadvantaged citizens in the community.

The Lake Worth Playhouse 58th season opens in October 2010 with **Guys & Dolls** (October 8-24), and is followed by **Steel Magnolias** (November 19 – December 5, 2010), **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** (January 21 – February 6, 2011), **Biloxi Blues** (March 4-20, 2011) and **Annie** (April 15 – May 1) Prior to launching

the 2010-2011 season, the Playhouse will present a limited engagement fall comedy, **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare...Abridged** (September 2-11).

SCHEDULE

- **Preview Night** is Thursday, July 8 at 8:00 p.m.
- **Opening Night** is Friday, July 9 at 8:00 p.m.
- **Evening Performances** are on July 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30 and 31 at 8:00 p.m.
- **Matinee Performances** are on July 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 2:00 p.m.

- **Dinner & Show Night** is Thursday, July 8 at 6:00 p.m. and includes a pre-show dinner at Paradiso Italian Restaurant in downtown Lake Worth prior to the 8:00 p.m. performance. The all-inclusive dinner/show package price is \$50 and includes a three-course meal plus premium seats for the preview performance.

TICKETS

- **Individual** show tickets are \$25 and \$29 for opening night and all regular performances.
- **Preview Performance** tickets are \$22 and \$25.
- **Opening Night VIP** tickets are \$36 and include a pre-show reception.
- **Dinner & Show** tickets are \$50 and include a pre-show three-course dinner.
- **Subscriptions** for Season 2010-2011 are also available.

All tickets and subscriptions can be purchased through the Lake Worth Playhouse Box Office at **561-586-6410** or online at **lakeworthplayhouse.org**.

LOCATION

Lake Worth Playhouse is located at 713 Lake Avenue in Downtown Lake Worth. It is situated on the south side of Lake Avenue two blocks east of Dixie Highway. Free, well-lighted parking is available on Lake Avenue and surrounding side streets, with free parking lots located behind the Playhouse.

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