

**ASPECT THEATRE
2025 MUSICAL**

RENT

**PRODUCTION & AUDITION
INFORMATION PACK**



RENT

**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**

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

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

PRODUCTION & AUDITION INFORMATION PACK

Please read the following information before booking your audition time.

[Register for your audition here:](#)

AUDITION TIMES:

Date	Time	Location
Monday 17th February	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Camberwell
Thursday 20th February	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Camberwell
Sunday 23rd February	2:00pm - 7:00pm	Aspendale Gardens
Monday 24th February	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Camberwell
Sunday 2nd March	CALL BACKS	TBC

Please follow signage on arrival.

Camberwell	East Camberwell Baptist Church 139 Highfield Road, Camberwell East, VIC 3124
Aspendale	Aspendale Gardens Community Centre 03/105 Kearney Dr, Aspendale Gardens VIC 3195

Call Backs & Other Important Dates:

Role call backs will be held as necessary over the audition period. Please be available for call backs on Sunday 2nd March, 10:00am - 5:00pm. Auditionees will be contacted and the cast list announced between Monday 3rd - Monday 10th March.

Applicants will be emailed with their confirmed time to attend their audition. Please check your junk/spam folder after submitting an application as this email is auto-generated. The audition process may take up to 20 minutes.

All applicants will be required to attend a group dance/movement audition on either Sunday 23rd February (2:00pm - 3:00pm) or Monday 24th February (7:00pm - 8:00pm), chosen during audition registration. Even if you have minimal or no dance experience, please do not let this deter you from auditioning.

Performance dates for this production include:

9th June: Tech Rehearsal

10th June: Dress Rehearsal

Performance Dates:

- 12th June
- 13th June
- 14th June
- 15th June
- 19th June
- 20th June
- 21st June

Performances will be held at the Shirley Burke Theatre, Parkdale.

Roles are open to people aged 18 years and up.

ASPECT Theatre welcomes applications from all people aged 18 years and over. We aim to honour the original production of RENT with an inclusive and diverse cast. We welcome anyone who identifies as a person with disability, is culturally diverse, First Nations, Gender Diverse, LGBTIQA+, and/or Neurodiverse. to our auditions, shows, workshops, and other programs.

Please note: Aspect takes safety seriously. Every member of Aspect Theatre, including cast and crew, must hold a valid Working With Children Check (WWCC), and must register Aspect as a listed organisation on the WWCC portal.

Aspect has zero tolerance for bullying, harassment, violence, or intimidation.

This is a community theatre production. All roles are non-paid and a cast fee of \$65 will be charged to each member of the cast. This is contribution towards associated production costs including insurance for the cast member.

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Director: Cody Riker
Assistant Director: Manda Rozen-Flannery
Music Director: Jessica West
Assistant Music Director: Charlotte Greenslade

What to prepare for your audition:

Please arrive at least 20 minutes prior to your audition time.

SINGING

Please prepare two pieces to sing for your audition: one 2-minute cut of a song in the style of the show, and [one excerpt from the show as provided in this linked folder](#). Excerpts are listed below:

Character	Excerpt
Roger Davis	<i>One Song Glory</i> , b.79 - end
Mimi Marquez	<i>Out Tonight</i> , b.191 - end
Maureen Johnson	<i>Over The Moon</i> , b.27-45
Mark Cohen	<i>What You Own</i> , b.31-62
Tom Collins	<i>I'll Cover You (Reprise)</i> , b.22-41
Angel Dumott Schunard	<i>I'll Cover You</i> , b.4-19
Joanne Jefferson	<i>We're Okay</i> , b.43 - end
Benjamin Coffin III	<i>You'll See</i> , b.57-69
Steve / Paul / Gordon	<i>Life Support</i> , b.44-58
Ensemble	<i>Seasons of Love</i> , b.37-52

Live accompaniment will be required for your audition. Please bring in piano sheet music for your piece, in a display folder with clearly marked bar numbers and hand this to an Aspect team member upon arrival. Aspect will provide an accompanist for your audition.

DANCE/MOVEMENT AUDITION

Please come prepared in comfortable clothes appropriate for a dance/movement workshop. This should involve closed-toed shoes (e.g. sneaker), and clothing that won't inhibit movement. This

audition will take place in a group setting, and you will be asked to learn approximately 30 seconds of character-driven choreography. Levels of difficulty will be available for people of all dance experiences and abilities.

Please note that auditions may be filmed to allow our production team to make informed casting decisions. Footage will not be kept.

ACTING SCRIPT

You may be asked to read from a script during your audition.

THE PANEL

You will be auditioning for a panel including the RENT creative team, including Director/Assistant Director, and Musical Director/Assistant Musical Director. Please note a member/s of the Aspect Committee and/or other individuals including production team members may be present at some stage of the process.

BUILD, CREW, COSTUME & FRONT OF HOUSE ROLES

If you are interested in helping with creation of sets or costumes, providing logistics support, or would like to be part of our stellar front of house team, please reach out! We are always open to new volunteers, who play a crucial role in Aspect Theatre productions and community. Simply email: info@aspecttheatre.org.au

YOUR COMMITMENT TO REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

If you are offered and accept a position as a member of the cast for RENT, you accept and agree to:

- be available for the entire theatre season, rehearsals, etc as per the dates specified in this audition information pack. You must contact the Director, Cody Riker, if you cannot attend due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Provide your own hosiery, make-up and shoes.
- Agree to, sign and uphold Aspect's code of conduct, which includes expectations for behaviour in the rehearsal room.
- Pay a show fee of \$65.

RENT: PLOT

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*, Jonathan Larson's *Rent* 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. The physical and emotional complications of the disease pervade the lives of Roger, Mimi, Tom and Angel. Maureen

deals with her chronic infidelity through performance art; her partner, Joanne, wonders if their relationship is worth the trouble. Benny has sold out his Bohemian ideals in exchange for a hefty income and is on the outs with his former friends. Mark, an aspiring filmmaker, feels like an outsider to life in general. How these young bohemians negotiate their dreams, loves and conflicts provides the narrative thread to this groundbreaking musical.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

ASPECT Theatre welcomes applications from all people aged 18 years and over. Character ages listed below are playing ages only - we welcome auditions from actors outside the stated age range.

We aim to honour the original production of RENT with an inclusive and diverse cast. We welcome anyone who identifies as a person with disability, is culturally diverse, First Nations, Gender Diverse, LGBTIQ+, and/or Neurodiverse. Please note that character genders are prescribed by the RENT licensing agreement.

If you would like support to ensure your audition is accessible, or would like to discuss how we can create a safe and inclusive space for you, please contact our Production Manager, Jayden, at: admin@aspecttheatre.org.au or 0447 991 705.

CHARACTER		PLAYING AGE	VOCAL TYPE
Roger Davis	A struggling musician and former drug addict. He is reminiscent of Kurt Cobain. Roommates with Mark in the loft and battles with being HIV-positive. Foundation guitar skills are required for this role. This character is male presenting.	20 - 25	Vocal range top: A4 Vocal range bottom: F2
Mark Cohen	Filmmaker and video artist. Knee deep in his own soul-searching, Mark is the typical young artist. He and Roger are roommates in the loft. A bit of a nerd. Good movement/dance skills are favoured. We strongly encourage those of Ashkenazi/Jewish descent to audition for this role. This character is male presenting.	20 - 30	Vocal range top: G4 Vocal range bottom: A2
Tom Collins	A computer genius and liberal professor. He is a nurturer with a smooth and relaxed disposition. Used to be a roommate in the loft and is HIV-positive. This character is male presenting.	25 - 35	Vocal range top: A4 Vocal range bottom: F#2
Benjamin Coffin III	The landlord of Mark and Roger's apartment building. A former roommate in the loft, Benny traded in his personal	25 - 35	Vocal range top: F#4 Vocal range bottom: Bb2

	<p>morals for power and wealth.</p> <p>This character is male presenting.</p>		
Joanne Jefferson	<p>A public interest lawyer, Joanne is smart and purposeful in all her decisions. She carries on a tumultuous relationship with Maureen Johnson.</p> <p>This character is female presenting.</p>	25 - 40	Vocal range top: E5 Vocal range bottom: G3
Angel Dumott Schunard	<p>The eccentric HIV-positive street drummer. A drag queen with an incredible gift of dance and a magnetic personality. He becomes Tom's lover. This role requires the ability to dance in heels.</p> <p>Drumming/percussion skills are highly favoured.</p> <p>This character is variably male/female presenting.</p>	20 - 30	Vocal range top: A4 Vocal range bottom: C3
Mimi Marquez	<p>An HIV-positive stripper with drug addictions. She conceals it all at her job in the local strip club. She lives in the same building as the loft.</p> <p>This role would ideally be played by a hispanic/afro-latina actor</p> <p>This character is female presenting.</p>	18 - 21	Vocal range top: E5 Vocal range bottom: Eb3
Maureen Johnson	<p>An unpredictably zany performance artist. Maureen oozes sexuality and used to live in the loft. She has recently dumped Mark for Joanne.</p> <p>This character is female presenting.</p>	20 - 25	Vocal range top: F5 Vocal range bottom: C4
Ensemble	Homeless Men & Women, Junkies, Parents (Mrs Cohen, Mr & Mrs Jefferson, Mimi's Mother), Support Group, Business People.	18+	Various

Ensemble Cast:

The Ensemble of this world is incredibly valuable and provides the foundation and full structure that holds and supports the stories Rent has to share. The following breakdowns are mapped accordingly with room for growth and adjustments as we meet the individuals who encompass them. Soul, Rock, and R&B vocal stylings of the late 80s/early 90s are encouraged. Gender-Nonconforming/Non-Binary Actors are welcomed and encouraged to submit for any and all of the roles below with the understanding that there are individual characters that may identify as a woman or man. An ensemble of diverse races, age, identities, expressions and abilities is welcomed.

Please note ensemble members are not limited to the roles listed below.

Person #1: This track is proposed to play multiple people within the world including Alexi Darling (a Producer with Buzzline a tabloid-esq TV show). Age: 30 to 60 | Vocal range top: D5 | Vocal range bottom: F3

Person #2: This track is proposed to play multiple people within the world including the Person with Coats (a member of the un-housed community selling clothing/goods to their community). Age: 30 to 60 | Vocal range top: D5 | Vocal range bottom: F3

Person #3: This track is proposed to play multiple people within the world including Mrs. Cohen (Mark Cohen's mother). Age: 45 to 65 | Vocal range top: C5 | Vocal range bottom: E3

Person #4: This track is proposed to play multiple people within the world including Mrs. Jefferson (Joanne Jefferson's mother) as well as cover gospel inspired solo work within Seasons Of Love. Age: 40 to 60 | Vocal range top: C6 | Vocal range bottom: C3.

Person #5: This track is proposed to play multiple people within the world including Mimi Marquez's Mother. Age: 40 to 60 | Vocal range top: E5 | Vocal range bottom: G3.

Person #6: This track is proposed to play multiple people within the world including the Drug Dealer, Gordon (client the group therapy scene), and Steve ("Will I" soloist). Age: 30 to 60 | Vocal range top: A4 | Vocal range bottom: F2. These roles may be played by the same actor or multiple actors.

Person #7: This track is proposed to play multiple people within the world including the Pastor, Mr. Grey (Benny's Father in Law who owns the neighborhood bar and is responsible for gentrification in the community). Age: 35 to 70 | Vocal range top: G4 | Vocal range bottom: F2

Person #8: This track is proposed to play multiple people within the world including Paul (counselor leading the Life Support Group). Age: 30 to 60 | Vocal range top: G4 | Vocal range bottom: F2

Person #9: This track is proposed to play multiple people within the world including Mr. Jefferson (Joanne's dad), and featured soloist in Seasons Of Love. Age: 40 to 60 | Vocal range top: A4 | Vocal range bottom: E2. Ideally this track will be played by an actor who identifies as BIPOC, Asian, Hispanic, or non-white.

Featured dancers: Featured dancers are proposed to play multiple people within the world. These are very movement forward tracks with experience in heel work, hip-hop, and/or contemporary dance encouraged. Age: 18+.

RENT PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
MARCH						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 REH
	17 REH	18	19	20 REH	21	22	23 REH
	24 REH	25	26	27 REH	28	29	30 REH
APRIL	31 REH	1	2	3 REH	4	5	6 REH
	7 REH	8	9	10 REH	11	12	13 REH
	14 REH	15	16	17 REH (TBC)	18 Good Friday	19	20 Easter Sun
	21 Easter Mon	22	23	24 REH	25	26	27 REH
MAY	28 REH	29	30	1 REH	2	3	4 REH
	5 REH	6	7	8 REH	9	10	11 REH
	12 REH	13	14	15 REH	16	17	18 REH
	19 REH	20	21	22 REH	23	24	25 REH
	26 REH	27	28	29 REH	30	31	1 REH
JUNE	2 REH	3	4	5 SITZPROBE	6	7	8 BUMP IN & REH
	9 TECH REH	10 DRESS REH	11	12 SHOW	13 SHOW	14 SHOW	15 SHOW
	16	17	18	19 SHOW	20 SHOW	21 SHOW	22 SHOW / BUMP OUT

Most rehearsals will take place in Hawthorn/Camberwell (VIC) and occasional rehearsals in Aspendale/Chelsea (VIC), with performances at Shirley Burke Theatre, Parkdale.

Please note the Tech Rehearsal on 9th June falls on the Kings Birthday Public Holiday in Victoria. Rehearsal on 17th April is tentative, dependent on availability due to the upcoming Easter holiday.

ASPECT THEATRE

Aspect Theatre is a community-based theatre company providing opportunity for people to experience the thrill and enjoyment of theatre. Formed in 1998, Aspect originated in St Louis de Montfort Parish, Aspendale with a production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Since then, the company has performed:

1999	St Louis in Cabaret
2000	The Mikado
2001	Guys & Dolls
2002	Pirates of Penzance
2003	Godspell
2004	Sherwoodstock
2005	Bye Bye Birdie
2006	Sweet Charity
2007	South Pacific
2008	The Pyjama Game
2009	Oklahoma
2010	Cabaret
2011	Man of La Mancha
2012	Best Little Whorehouse in Texas
2013	Hairspray
2014	Blood Brothers
2015	The Wedding Singer
2016	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat
2017	Into the Woods
2018	Beauty and the Beast
2019	Oliver
2023	Stage Door
2024	Relative Values

For more information about Aspect Theatre, visit www.aspecttheatre.org.au or contact info@aspecttheatre.org.au