

AUDITION ANNOUNCEMENT: RENT

Call for performers – cast and band!

Get ready to light up the stage with Lethbridge Musical Theatre and Theatre Outré's production of *RENT* running from October 22-31, 2026, at the Yates Memorial Centre. We are excited to join together to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Broadway debut of Jonathan Larson's iconic Tony & Pulitzer Prize-winning musical in Lethbridge!

RENT is the story of a group of friends living in New York City during the height of the AIDS epidemic. The musical explores themes of sexuality, poverty, homelessness, addiction, disease, mental health, and more, but is ultimately about the forces of love and human spirit that bond a community together. *RENT* is a pop cultural phenomenon, with songs that rock and a story that resonates with audiences of all ages.

We are searching for passionate performers to bring this iconic rock musical to life, and we welcome artists of all backgrounds and experiences. For this production, we have particular interest in voices and talents from individuals who identify as trans, non-binary, queer, 2-spirit, or otherwise fall under the LGBTQ2+ umbrella.

Creative Team

Drew Andreachuk, Director

Jillian Bracken, Music Director

Jessica Ens, Choreographer

Brent Clark, Intimacy Coordinator

Cast Audition Requirements

We strongly encourage anyone who is interested in auditioning to be familiar with the show prior to auditions. A full recording can be found online [here](#). *RENT* contains explicit sexual language and reference to drug use, suicide, and trauma experienced by people who were houseless and were living with HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and 1990s in New York City. Furthermore, *RENT* features characters with specific ethnic and queer identities, expressed both directly and implicitly, which will be taken into consideration when casting.

For this production, we will only be accepting auditions from performers who will be over 18 years of age at the start of our rehearsal period (August 23, 2026.)

All auditioners must fill out [this intake form](#).

In-person auditions will take place:

- Monday, April 13, 5-8pm, Room 480 Rehearsal Studio, Centre for the Arts, University of Lethbridge ([Parking information](#))
- Tuesday, April 14, 5-8pm, Community Room, Casa (230 8 St S)

Please prepare the following for the auditions:

- A 90-second song excerpt from a musical in a style similar to RENT. Please do not sing a song from RENT.
- A second 90-second song, either a contrasting musical theatre piece or a pop/rock song, in case we'd like to hear more.

We ask that you not go over the times listed above so that we can run efficient auditions and be respectful of everyone's time.

You will not be asked to read or dance at initial auditions.

You will have the option of hooking up a device by Bluetooth for your backing track. Live piano accompaniment will also be available if you prefer to audition with a pianist. Having a backing track or performing with the pianist are preferred. You may sing acapella, but if you choose to sing acapella you will be asked to do pitch-matching exercises during your audition.

Callbacks will take place on Friday, April 17 from 5-8pm in the Community Room at Casa. If you cannot attend callbacks in person, you cannot be considered for a role in this production. You will be provided with materials to prepare (music and sides) for callbacks if invited to participate. Materials will be circulated by email on Wednesday, April 15 to all those invited to callbacks. You will be asked to sing, read sides, and learn a short movement sequence during callbacks. Not all parts require a callback. If you do not get a callback, it does not necessarily mean that you will not be offered a part in the show.

Video Submissions

Though we love to see auditioners in person, we understand that it may be a barrier for some. If this is the case for you, we can accept video auditions with the same requirements as noted above. We welcome submissions from anywhere, but please note that you must be able to attend rehearsals and performances in Lethbridge. You must also be available to attend callbacks in-person. Video auditioners must complete an audition intake form. Video submissions can be emailed to lethmt.auditions@gmail.com. Videos must be received by 8pm on Monday, April 13.

Characters

Anticipated cast size is approximately 18: eight lead characters and ten ensemble members who will play a variety of roles. *REGARDING AGES: Ages are how the character will be perceived and not necessarily the age of the actual actor.*

ROGER DAVIS – male presenting. Age: 20-30. Voice type: Rock Tenor. A once successful now struggling musician and former drug addict, Roger discovered he had HIV/AIDS in a note his girlfriend left him before she took her own life. His main goal is to write one great song before he dies. He is Mark's roommate and best friend. Often depressed and sullen, Roger battles with being HIV-positive, but he can be expressive and passionate at times. He is reminiscent of Kurt Cobain. Guitar skills are desired, but not essential.

MARK COHEN – male presenting. Age: 20-30. Voice type: Baritone/Second Tenor. A filmmaker and video artist, Mark has left behind his affluent upbringing to pursue his craft. He narrates the show

as he films the lives of his friends. He is Roger's best friend and was once Maureen's boyfriend (who left him for Joanne). Knee deep in his own soul-searching, Mark is the typical young artist. Quite a nerdy and quirky character, he is more comfortable viewing the world through his lens than in actively engaging in it.

TOM COLLINS – male presenting. Age: 25-35. Voice type: Baritone/Tenor. A nurturer with a smooth and relaxed disposition, Collins is a gay computer genius, anarchist, and liberal professor who was recently expelled from MIT. Former roommate of Mark, Roger, and Benny, he is brave enough to allow himself to fall in love with Angel in the knowledge that they are both HIV positive. Collins and Angel's relationship is the heart of the show, as the genuine love and devotion they have for one another brings hope and inspiration to the rest of the group. The actor must be comfortable with same sex-physical intimacy.

BENJAMIN COFFIN III – male presenting. Age: 25-35. Voice type: Baritone/Second Tenor. Married into a wealthy family involved in real estate, Benny is now the landlord of Mark and Roger's apartment building. He had been letting Roger and Mark live in the apartment for free but is now forcing them to pay rent or be evicted. Roger and Mark consider him a yuppie sell-out. His background is intertwined with the other main characters having gone to college with Mark, lived with Roger, Collins, Mark and Maureen and had an affair with Mimi before she dated Roger. Benny traded in his personal morals for power and wealth, but he realizes his friends are more important.

JOANNE JEFFERSON - female presenting. Age: 25-40. Voice type: Mezzo/Pop Belt. An activist and headstrong lesbian, Joanne is a Harvard-educated lawyer. Though raised in an affluent, political family, she is committed to helping those less fortunate. Joanne has an insecure relationship with Maureen and struggles not to be jealous of Maureen's flirtatious nature with others. Competent, organized, dedicated, and a bit of a control freak, Joanne loves "margins and discipline" and "makes lists in her sleep." She's happiest when she has control, which happens frequently in her professional life but less often in her personal one. The actor must be comfortable with same sex-physical intimacy.

ANGEL DUMOTT SCHUNARD – male or female presenting. Age 18-30. Voice type: High Tenor with good falsetto. A drag queen and street percussionist, Angel is outgoing, flamboyant, yet an honest and caring individual. He has a magnetic personality, and people are naturally drawn to him. Angel is the most generous and selfless character in the show. He meets and falls in love with Collins and, despite being HIV positive, embraces life and lives each day to the fullest. Collins and Angel's relationship is the heart of the show and the genuine love and devotion they have for one another offers hope and inspiration to the rest of the group. The actor must be comfortable with same-sex physical intimacy, and possess a drag queen persona, including dancing in heels. Percussionist skills desired but not required.

MIMI MARQUEZ - female presenting. Age: 18-21. Voice type: Soprano/Mezzo Belt. A dancer in a strip club, Mimi struggles with her addiction to heroin which has resulted in her contraction of HIV. She is an extremely sexy, optimistic, and likeable character but holds dark secrets. She lives in the same building as Roger and Mark and subsequently falls in love with Roger. She is also Benny's ex-girlfriend. Though Mimi has "lived life", she still sees the world through the eyes of a young woman and intends to make the most of every day. The role requires an actor with the ability to convincingly

portray the struggles of heroin addiction, sexual promiscuity, and HIV/AIDS, whilst maintaining the optimism of youth. Must be able to play a girl of 19 as sung in "Light My Candle".

MAUREEN JOHNSON - female presenting. Age: 20-30. Voice Type: Mezzo Belt. A zany, bisexual performance artist, Maureen used to live in the loft and is Mark's ex-girlfriend. She recently dumped Mark for her new girlfriend Joanne. Confident, sexy, funny, fickle, and very self-centered, Maureen is proud of her diva status and sees no reason to change her behavior to please others. She loves creating conflict, shocking people, and challenging the status quo. She is bold, speaks her mind and is not afraid to take on the establishment and fight for what she believes in. The actor must be comfortable with same sex-physical intimacy.

Ensemble (approximately 10 people)

RENT offers featured performance opportunities to all ensemble members. All genders, identities, ages, and vocal ranges are welcome. Ensemble members will play multiple roles, including:

- Carolers: Homeless men and women who appear throughout the show sarcastically singing Christmas carols.
- Mrs. Cohen: Mark's stereotypical Jewish mother. Her voicemail messages are the basis for the songs Voicemail #1, Voicemail #3, and Voicemail #5.
- Alexi Darling: The producer of Buzzline who tries to employ Mark after his footage of the riot makes primetime. Sings Voicemail #3 and Voicemail #4.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson: The wealthy parents of Joanne Jefferson, they leave her Voicemail #2. Mr. Jefferson is also one of the a cappella singers in Voicemail #5.
- Mrs. Davis: Roger's confused mother who calls in Voicemail #5, asking continuously, "Roger, where are you?"
- Mrs. Marquez: Mimi's Spanish-speaking mother who sings in Voicemail #5, wondering, in Spanish, where she is.
- Mr. Grey: Benny's father-in-law who wants to buy out the lot.
- The Man: The local drug dealer whom Mimi buys from, and Roger used to buy from.
- Life Support Group: Paul, Gordon, Steve, Ali, Pam and Sue.
- Squeegee Man: A homeless person who chants "Honest living!" repeatedly.
- Homeless Woman: She gets harassed by police and Mark films it. She first yells at Mark but then asks him for a dollar.
- Waiter: Waits on the cast and has solo lines in La Vie Boheme.

There are also many other non-named roles such as the Preacher, Seasons of Love soloists, Cops, Bohemians, Vendors, and Homeless People.

Band Auditions

RENT will feature a live band. We are seeking the following players: one electric guitar, one electric bass, one drumkit, and one keyboard. Performers must be versatile as the show features both loud, energetic numbers and intimate ballads. Performers should have strong music reading skills and be able to perform with limited rehearsal. Music does not need to be memorized for performance. Performers must be over 18 years of age at the start of the rehearsal period. Band members must provide their own instrument. An honorarium will be provided for each member of the band.

To audition for the band, please email lethmt.auditions@gmail.com to express interest in performing in the band by April 30, 2026. Include in your email:

- A concise resume, CV, or list of relevant experience and training.
- A link to video showing you playing a maximum 90-second clip of something from the musical theatre canon or a pop/rock song similar in style to *RENT*.
- Confirmation that you have reviewed the tech week and performance schedules and that you are available for the required dates. The band will meet for 3-4 rehearsals separate from the cast during the September-October 2026 rehearsal period leading up to tech week.

Tentative Schedule

A detailed rehearsal schedule will be provided to all performers. The rehearsal schedule is subject to change. Tech rehearsal dates and performance dates are not subject to change.

August 2026: Unofficial rehearsal start date = August 23. From August 23-31 there is potential for a full cast meeting and read-through, and/or music rehearsals to be scheduled based on availability. Official rehearsal start date = August 30.

September 2026: Rehearsals may be scheduled Monday-Friday evenings (anticipated 6-9pm) and Saturdays and Sundays afternoons and/or evenings (anticipated 1-9pm.) Not all performers will be called to all rehearsals. Breaks will be provided. Scheduling will be done to accommodate availability as much as possible, recognizing that cast members are volunteers.

October 2026: Rehearsals may be scheduled Monday through Friday evenings (anticipated 6-9pm) and Saturdays and Sundays afternoons and/or evenings (anticipated 1-9pm.) Rehearsals may run longer during tech week.

Tech Week and Dress Rehearsals: Performers (cast and band) must be available for all tech and dress rehearsal dates. Call schedules will be confirmed closer to the dates.

- October 15-16 evenings (6-10pm) – theatre move-in, crew and band integration.
- October 17-18 long days (10am-10pm) – cue-to-cue, tech rehearsals.
- October 19-21 dress rehearsals evenings (6-10pm.)

Performances: Performers (cast and band) must be able to commit to all performance dates. Call schedules will be confirmed closer to the dates.

- October 22 – 7:00pm
- October 23 – 7:00pm
- October 24 – 1:00pm and 7:00pm
- October 25 – 1:00pm
- October 28 – 7:00pm
- October 29 – 7:00pm
- October 30 – 7:00pm
- October 31 – 1:00pm