



April 2024

Hello and welcome to Commonwealth Artists Student Theatre (CAST)!

We are extremely excited of summer season!!!

Our musical is ***Rent*** with the book, music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson. ***Rent*** will take place over two weekends with six performances on Friday, July 12th thru Sunday, July 14th and Friday, July 19th thru Sunday, July 21st at Turpin High School located at 2650 Bartels Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45244.

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* 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.

We are looking to fill the role of Mimi.

We are accepting video auditions for vocal/acting and dance. Video submissions are due by Sunday, May 12th by 11:59pm.

Any actor who is interested in auditioning for the role of Mimi. We would like them to learn [this section of Out Tonight](#). Here is the [original soundtrack for reference](#) and [here is the accompaniment track](#) to use for recording purposes. You will also need to learn a dance audition [that can be found here](#).

Please submit video auditions to our Artistic Director, Jason Burgess, at jasonburgess@caststages.org. If the files are too big, you may share them though a Google Drive link, Dropbox or other platform. If you have any questions about video submissions, please contact our Artistic Director, Jason Burgess, at jasonburgess@caststages.org.

Please make sure to fill out an [audition form located here](#).

The rehearsal/work day schedule will not be completed until we cast/crew the show and look at everyone's conflicts. Rehearsals/work days will be held in the evening until high schools are out of session and then they could be held during the day except for the week of the show opening then rehearsals will be in the evening. Crew sessions will be held predominantly in the evenings and possibly include some weekend times.

The first rehearsal/parent meeting for *Rent* has been set and it will be Tuesday, May 14th from 6pm to 9pm.

We understand that participating in this musical requires a commitment. Please consider all activities and work schedules when thinking about joining this production. Make sure that this is an activity you can commit to before auditioning and/or interviewing. Please note that mandatory rehearsals will occur the week before the show opens and the production week of the show.

**Note: If you are concerned about your conflicts, please talk to us. Lots of things can be worked around and figured out. We will do our best to have you be a part of our productions!*

Thank you for your interest and we hope to see you at the auditions and interviews!!!

A Note About the Casting Process!

Thank you all for your interest in **Commonwealth Artists Student Theatre (CAST)** production of ***Rent***. We can speak for our whole team when we tell you how thrilled we are to finally be auditioning for this production. We have been working on the show for a while now and have assembled a great creative team. Break a Leg!

As you prepare for the audition, please remember the following:

- You must be an incoming high school freshman (Fall 2024) to a graduating high school senior (Spring 2024) to audition for *Rent*.
- Any student from any school in the tri-state area (Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky) may audition for *Rent*.
- Every student will be required to pay an activity fee to participate in *Rent*. The payment will be collected at the first rehearsal/parent meeting in order to participate in all activities related to CAST. The activity fee is \$100. The activity includes participation in the production(s), a t-shirt, a recording of the show, and keepsake gift. If your family has financial hardships, please contact us at amyburgess@caststages.org, we have scholarships available.
- Students may audition to be cast in the play and/or musical AND also interview for a crew position.
- Anyone under the age of 18 MUST have a parent's signature on the Parental Consent Form.
- Final casting/crew decisions are made by the production team. Decisions are final, and the team has chosen not to offer feedback on the process, individual auditions, or deliberations. Please respect this and understand that the casting process is difficult for all those involved.
- By auditioning, you are obligating yourself to a considerable rehearsal and performance process. Please be certain that you are willing and able to make this commitment (double and triple check the time commitment).