



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

MEDIA ALERT

New Village Arts announces the Iconic Hit Musical **RENT**

Book, Music & Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

Directed by Kym Pappas | Music Direction by Elena Correia

Choreography by Tamara Rodriguez

Performances: October 31st through December 24th, 2025

Previews: October 31st through November 7th, 2025

Opening Night: November 8th, 2025

Dea Hurston Industry Night: December 8th, 2025

For immediate release: September 26th, 2025

Contact Olivia Pence, Manager of Marketing & Communications: olivia@newvillagearts.org

Carlsbad, CA – New Village Arts (NVA) is proud to announce its upcoming production of the groundbreaking rock musical **RENT**. Directed by **KYM PAPPAS** with music direction by **ELENA CORREIA** and choreography by **TAMARA RODRIGUEZ**, this bold reimagining of **JONATHAN LARSON'S** Tony Award– and Pulitzer Prize–winning musical will bring to life the grit, hope, and community of 1990s New York's East Village just in time for the holiday season. Performances on the Ray Charles Stage will run **OCTOBER 31ST THROUGH DECEMBER 24TH, 2025** at the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center in Carlsbad Village. Previews are **OCTOBER 31ST THROUGH NOVEMBER 7TH**, with an Opening Night champagne reception and Handel's Ice Cream on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2025**.

Jonathan Larson's **RENT** changed the face of musical theatre, bringing rock music and the struggles of a generation to the Broadway stage. The show follows a group of young bohemian friends as they navigate love, loss, and the height of the AIDS crisis with courage and hope. Featuring iconic and unforgettable songs like "Seasons of Love," "La Vie Bohème," and "Take Me or Leave Me," **RENT** became a global phenomenon, later inspiring a 2005 film that introduced the story to an even wider audience. More than a musical, **RENT** is a cultural revolution: a testament to Larson's vision of living and loving without fear.



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

New Village Arts' production is helmed by an all-star creative team. KYM PAPPAS directs, returning to NVA after directing acclaimed productions such as FUN HOME (2024) and THE HALF-LIFE OF MARIE CURIE (2025), as well as performing in numerous NVA shows. TAMARA RODRIGUEZ, who recently co-choreographed NVA's celebrated production of LA HAVANA MADRID (2025), brings her signature style to the choreography. Making her NVA debut is ELENA CORREIA as music director, guiding Jonathan Larson's iconic rock score with fresh energy and passion.

"RENT is not passive theatre; it requires an act of participation from its audience," says RENT director Kym Pappas. "It is intimate and urgent and demands presence. In these very uncertain and demanding times, it is my hope that it will remind us all to see beyond our differences... to reach out to each other and find community... and choose love, even when it all feels impossible. RENT reminds us that together is the only way we're going to survive."

The design team for RENT brings together a powerhouse of creative talent: CHRISTOPHER SCOTT MURILLO and CARTER VICKERS both return to NVA as Scenic & Props Designers, respectively. MURILLO & VICKERS have collaborated on numerous recent NVA productions including THE MOUNTAINTOP, LA HAVANA MADRID, THE HALF-LIFE OF MARIE CURIE, and many more. The show is also shaped by CURTIS MUELLER as Lighting Designer, and JORDAN GRAY as Sound Designer, with NVA Technical Theatre Manager MARCUS RICO as Sound Engineer. JESS MORENO CAYCHO returns after costuming last season's LA HAVANA MADRID, while local drag queen AMBER ST. JAMES serves as Wig Designer and Show Consultant, ensuring authenticity and flair. JOEL CASTELLAW joins Amber as Show Consultant, helping infuse the production with honesty and heart. KANDACE CRYSTAL joins the creative team as Intimacy Director. The production is guided behind the scenes by NATHAN WAITS as stage manager and JERUEL CANDA+ as assistant stage manager, both dedicated to making this production unforgettable. The production is also supported by ZACHARY ELLIOTT, Scenic Painter, and GREG ERTEL, Master Carpenter.

"RENT endures not only because of the strength of the music and storytelling. It endures because it continues to resonate culturally," says Joel Castellaw, Cultural Consultant. "A brutal epidemic, the scourge of drug addiction, the challenges faced by our LGBTQ+ communities, social stratification leaving people desperate to find housing – these social conditions from 30 years ago are all still with us today, and we continue to need cause to hope that they can be overcome."

RENT will feature an incredible group of onstage artists bringing this iconic musical to life. Recent [SDUT Fall Arts Guide featured artist](#) LENA CEJA will captivate audiences in the role of Mimi, returning to the NVA stage after appearing in last season's LA HAVANA MADRID. XAVIER J. BUSH returns in the role of Angel; they last delighted audiences as Cosmo Brown in SINGIN' IN THE RAIN in 2023. Another NVA favorite EBONI MUSE, recognized for her standout performances in THE COLOR PURPLE, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, and SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ, will bring brilliance to Joanne. JOSH BRADFORD also returns to NVA



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

as Roger; he was last seen at NVA ten years ago in the stage adaptation of LORD OF THE FLIES in 2015. Additionally, the principal cast includes a few NVA debut actors: VAN ANGELO as Collins, SHANNON MCCARTHY as Maureen, JUWAN STANFORD as Benny, and BRENNEN WINSPEAR as Mark. SHELBY GARZA**, GRIFFIN HANSON**, TYLER MARTINEZ**, EMELYSSE PAEZ** will complete the vibrant and dynamic ensemble. TOMMY TRAN and MAYA EFRAT will appear as swings.

"I feel compelled to tell the story of RENT because it's not just a period piece; it's a mirror. It shows us the beauty and heartbreak of living authentically in a world that isn't always kind. It's a story of people who choose love, creation, community, and hope." says Brennen Winspear, who will play Mark.

"I am so excited to return to NVA for this beautiful show! Rent reminds us all how important it is to lean on our community during difficult times. As well as not waiting for tomorrow, but instead taking advantage of today." says Josh Bradford, our Roger.

**We are also thrilled to announce GARZA, HANSON, MARTINEZ, and PAEZ as the inaugural members of the brand-new [NVA COLLEGE ACTING APPRENTICESHIP](#), a program built in community with Oceanside Theatre Company that we are thrilled to launch as part of this production. Their inclusion reflects NVA's commitment to fostering emerging talent while bringing fresh energy to the *RENT* stage.

+JERUEL CANDA joins the creative team through the inaugural [PHIFER-COLLINS STAGE MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP](#). The Fellowship provides hands-on, paid experience for early-career theatre professionals pursuing a career in stage management. Through this fellowship, we aim to support the next generation of diverse theatre artists and provide access to professional experiences for ANYONE that has the passion for creating a career in the theatre.

Corporate and Individual Sponsorships for **RENT** are available. Please email Trevor Rex, Interim Patron Services & Philanthropy Manager at trevor@newvillagearts.org to inquire.

RENT COMPANY

VAN ANGELO	Collins
JOSH BRADFORD	Roger
XAVIER J. BUSH	Angel
LENA CEJA	Mimi
MAYA EFRAT	Swing & Joanne U/S
SHELBY GARZA**	Ensemble & Maureen U/S
GRIFFIN HANSON**	Ensemble & Mark U/S
TYLER MARTINEZ**	Ensemble & Benny U/S
SHANNON MCCARTHY	Maureen
EBONI MUSE	Joanne



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

EMELYSSE PAEZ **
JUWAN STANFORD
TOMMY TRAN
BRENNEN WINSPEAR

Ensemble & Mimi U/S
Benny
Swing & Roger/Collins/Angel U/S
Mark

RENT CREATIVES

KYM PAPPAS	Director
ELENA CORREIA	Music Director
TAMARA RODRIGUEZ	Choreographer
NATHAN WAITS	Stage Manager
CHRISTOPHER SCOTT MURILLO*	Scenic Designer
CARTER VICKERS	Props Designer
JESS MORRENO CAYCHO	Costume Designer
CURTIS MUELLER	Lighting Designer
JORDAN GRAY	Sound Designer
AMBER ST. JAMES	Wig Designer & Show Consultant
JOEL CASTELLAW	Cultural Consultant
KANDANCE CRYSTAL	Intimacy Director
JERUEL CANDA +	Assistant Stage Manager
JACOB ALVAREZ-ALABA	Rehearsal Accompanist
MARCUS RICO	Sound Engineer
ELIJAH HOWLETT	Videographer
JONAH GERCKE	Video Editor
MARYKATE REEVES-HOCHE	Costume Assistant
ZACHARY ELLIOTT	Scenic Painter
GREG ERTEL	Master Carpenter

*Member of IATSE, United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829

**NVA College Acting Apprentice

+Phifer-Collins Stage Management Fellow

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Choreography by Tamara Rodriguez

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Opening Night: November 8, 2025

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NEW VILLAGE ARTS

October 31-December 24, 2025

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 is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS 24th SEASON 2025-2026

[title of show]: An Original Broadway Musical

Music & Lyrics by Jeff Bowen

Book by Hunter Bell

Directed by Desireé Clarke Miller

Music Direction by Erin Vanderhyde

Movement by Kevin “Blax” Borroughs

Previews: August 8-15, 2025

Opening Night: August 16, 2025

Dea Hurston Industry Night: September 15th, 2025

August 8-September 21, 2025

RENT

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October 31-December 24, 2025

The Apiary

Written by Kate Douglas

Directed by Founder and Executive Artistic Director, Kristianne Kurner

Previews: January 23-30, 2026

Opening Night: January 31, 2026

Dea Hurston Industry Night: February 16th, 2026

January 23-February 22, 2026

Matt & Ben



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

Written by Mindy Kaling & Brenda Withers

Directed by Patrice Amon, Dea Hurston Professional Fellow

Previews: March 27-April 3, 2026

Opening Night: April 4, 2026

Dea Hurston Industry Night: April 20, 2026

March 27-April 26, 2026

Hairspray

Book By Thomas Meehan and Mark O'Donnell

Music By Marc Shaiman

Lyrics By Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman

Based on the New Line Cinema film, written and directed by John Waters

Directed by Artistic Producer, Kali Boston

Choreography by Kevin "Blax" Burroughs

Previews: June 5-12, 2026

Opening Night: June 13, 2026

Dea Hurston Industry Night: July 13, 2026

June 5-July 19, 2026

Performance Days and Times

Friday, Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2:00pm

Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evenings at 7:30pm

Tickets and Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the season range from \$135 to \$342, with 3, 4, and 5-Show Subscriptions available. Single tickets range from \$30 to \$70 for plays and \$35 to \$80 for musicals. Tickets are now available online or through our Box Office.

About New Village Arts

Celebrating 24 years of award-winning professional theatre and thriving education and outreach programs, New Village Arts (NVA) has truly become the cultural hub of North County San Diego. NVA attracts more than 30,000 patrons each year to experience professional theatre, music and art events in the heart of Carlsbad Village. In addition to full seasons of plays and musicals featuring some of the best artistic talent in Southern California, NVA hosts talkback discussions and other supplementary events designed to create conversation and cultivate community. The White Family Next Stage in the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center presents a series of music,



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

comedy, and improv events throughout the year. NVA offers robust theatre programs in partnership with local schools and strongly believes that theatre and arts experiences should be accessible to all people, becoming a recognized leader in equity, diversity, and inclusion in San Diego. NVA has been fortunate to receive support from the City of Carlsbad and other local businesses, who recognize the importance of a resident professional theatre company as a crucial component of an inclusive and creative community. In turn NVA prioritizes serving its community by presenting works that respect its diversity, engaging every citizen with relevant and inspiring stories.

New Village Arts is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization listed
under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS.

New Village Arts, Inc.
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