



Department of
THEATRE and PERFORMANCE STUDIES presents

RENT

Music, Lyrics, and Book
by Jonathan Larson

Directed by Amanda Wansa Morgan

April 6-16, 2023

Stillwell Theater, Kennesaw Campus



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

great STORIES told

here

TheatreKSU.com

**WELCOME TO THE 2022-2023
THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES SEASON.
TIME TO TELL OUR STORIES.**

We're so glad you're here!

In the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, we train our students through a comprehensive B.A. curriculum, grounded in the professional practice of theatre, which we explore through our production season. We aim to provide spaces for meaningful connection between our student artists and our audiences, an extension of the wonderful work happening in our classrooms.

If you look at the slate of writers in our 2022-2023 season, you will see that the diversity of voices aim to reflect the diversity in our community. In selecting our season, we take a year to consider[TF3] : the learning outcomes for our student artists, the diversity of stories we present, and the range of style and genre that our entire community can explore and enjoy. In producing our season, we spend a year providing our students opportunities to perform, design, build, research, and – in some cases – produce. Our season reflects an attempt to train our students through that variety of experience while enriching our community with a variety of perspectives.

From the rich and iconic language of August Wilson to the contemporary rock score of *Rent*, we have a story for everyone. We are always proud to present our student-generated showcases as well as our unique TPS events like *The 10th Annual Coming Out Monologues*. We relish the quiet, pensive theatrical moments in the same way we welcome a full stage of dragon puppets. (Yes, there will be dragon puppets.) There will also be an entourage of singing boys from Broadway, a birthday fueled by Sondheim, blues music from Pittsburgh, and a lot of love and information.

This year we're going to tell our stories. In the process of doing that, we hope to reflect your stories too. That's what's powerful about live theatre: there's a significant connection between the audience and the artists. If we are passionate about what we are doing, you will feel it. We hope you feel the passion that makes its way from our classrooms to our stages, and we hope you continue to support our live, educational theatre all season long. Thank you for being here. Sit up, lean in, engage, and enjoy!

Chuck Meacham
TPS Chair

Amanda Wansa Morgan
Interim Artistic Director

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"We're dying in America to come into our own. But when you're dying in America at the end of the millenium, you're not alone" ~ "What You Own"

We've thought a lot about what *RENT* means to us in 2023. This play isn't about one thing or one theme. While the play addresses the HIV/AIDS crisis head on, the themes of *RENT* also directly address homelessness, poverty, and gentrification. Modern audiences know that being behind on rent isn't far-fetched because most people live paycheck to paycheck, regardless of their level of education or rigorous work ethic. As Americans, we don't have many opportunities to let our anger out against the structures that confine us... government, patriarchy, institutions, capitalism... the list goes on. So, instead of punching up, we punch to the side. Americans have become greatly polarized in their viewpoints and their politics. *RENT* reminds us how to handle these emotions and these challenges with joy, resourcefulness, and love, in every season.

At the time when *RENT* debuted, the term used to describe its multifaceted nature would have been "multiculturalism," defined as "the state of a society or the world in which there exists numerous distinct ethnic and cultural groups seen to be politically relevant." Nevertheless, we think "intersectionality" is the best term to describe the themes of the play because it recognizes that people can have overlapping marginalized identities, which can marginalize them even further. In *RENT*, there are many characters with intersectionalities. They humanize a variety of marginalized communities and help a modern audience to understand the privileges they have in order to use those privileges for good.

RENT is raw, much like its setting – the East Village and Lower East Side of Manhattan in the 1990s – and much like the group of students involved in our production. The show is unrefined, since its writer, Jonathan Larson, passed away the day of its debut Off-Broadway. With more time on this planet, we presume that Jonathan Larson would have been able to polish and update the piece as it moved to Broadway, to the regional markets, and through the changing times. The show has often been criticized for its plot holes, inconsistencies, and politically incorrect ways of documenting the intersectionalities of marginalized individuals. Our students understand these shortcomings and have attacked learning the piece with passion, curiosity, and humor. Our students certainly follow their impulses, whether it's filming the latest TikTok trend or having a heated debate over a political issue. Generation Z has grown up in the face of a lot of adversity, including the Covid-19 pandemic, and moves through the world with a lot of the weight already embedded in this script, this score, and these characters. Their raw hearts allow this rock score to truly soar with the grit and hormones, as the writer intended.

Upon entering the theater, you probably noticed quilts on either side of the stage. These are just two of the thousands of pieces of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. We are honored to be the only current hosts of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in the entire Southeast region of the United States. This quilt was built out of love for the human beings that we have lost too soon to AIDS. *RENT* attempts to humanize the stories of those affected by AIDS as well as additional ills of our society. Please take some time to check out the thorough dramaturgy materials in the lobby and on our website. Please take a moment to reflect with the quilt and your fellow audience members; we have student docents available to tell you more about the exhibit. Please sit up, lean in, and engage. Thanks for being here.

~ Director Amanda Wansa Morgan and Assistant Director/Lead Dramaturg Issa Solis

KSU Department of Theatre and Performance Studies Presents

RENT

Book, Music and Lyrics

by Jonathan Larson

Musical Arrangements
Steve Skinner

Original Concept/Additional Lyrics
Billy Aronson

Music Supervision and
Additional Arrangements
Tim Well

Dramaturg
Lynn Tomson

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

April 6-16, 2023

The Stillwell Theater

DIRECTION

Amanda Wansa Morgan

MUSIC DIRECTION

John-Michael d'Haviland

CHOREOGRAPHY

Timothy Ellis

SCENIC DESIGN

Ming Chen

COSTUME DESIGN

Ricky Greenwell

LIGHTING DESIGN

Mack Scales

**SOUND DESIGN AND
AUDIO ENGINEER**

Clay Garland

PROPERTIES MANAGER

Mace Gallagher

STAGE MANAGER

Eliza Craft

This production will be performed in two acts with one 15-minute intermission.

Rent is rated PG-14 and contains adult language as well as adult content and themes dealing with death, disease (HIV/AIDS), suicide, self-harm, homelessness, and addiction. This production will include: brief moments of flashing lights, loud rock music throughout, and actors entering audience area three times during the performance.

RENT

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

The College of the Arts at Kennesaw State University supports, defends, and promotes academic freedom of artistic expression as outlined by the American Association of University Professors and diversity of all kinds as outlined by the University's Human Relations.

The Department of Theatre and Performance Studies is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS ON ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

CAST

Mark	Jude Hilton	Roger	Kourage Cooper
Benny	Lance Avery Brown	Mimi	Mya Burns
Maureen	Reyanna Edwards	Joanne	Jessica Hilliard
Collins	Tyler Vanduvall	Angel	Deshawn Williams

Ensemble

Maurice Clermont (Squeegee Man, Waiter, Seasons Soloist), **Copeland** (Seasons Soloist), **Brooke Fleurimond** (Pam), **Sammy Giron** (Sammy/Cop), **Ebony Golden** (Paula/Mrs. Jefferson), **Naomi Green** (Moo Crew Dancer), **Jenna Livingston** (Mrs. Cohen), **Brisa Mendez** (Vanessa/Mrs. Mendez), **Christopher Nastasi** (Mr. Grey), **Ari Palmer** (Blanket Person), **Nicole Price** (Sue), **Joshua Shepherd** (Ammonia), **India Smith** (Cop/Moo Crew Dancer), **Amarih SoVann** (The Man), **Maisy Winn** (Alexi Darling)

Understudies and Swings

Anthony McDonald (Collins), **Ashlee McNeill** (Joanne), **Alisa Milan** (Mimi/Maureen), **Gabriel Ocasio** (Benny), **Maxwell Price** (Angel), **Søren Tucker** (Roger/Mark), **Tai Cossier** (Ensemble Swing), **Jordan Rivers** (Ensemble Swing)

MUSICIANS

Keyboard 1	John-Michael d’Haviland	Keyboard 2	John Lumapas
Guitar 1	Scott Lofranco	Guitar 2	Storm Steinke
Bass	Eisen Griffin	Drums	Ryan Pailthorpe

PRODUCTION AND DESIGN SUPPORT

Production Manager | Trevor Carrier

Assistant Director | Issa Solis

Assistant Music Director | Brayden Gailey

Assistant Choreographer | Ian J. Smith

Assistant Stage Managers | Madeline Conrad, Micah Martin

Fight and Intimacy Choreographer | Amanda Wansa Morgan

Fight and Intimacy Captains | Ari Palmer, India Smith

Dance Captain | Naomi Green

Show Crew Lead | Kayla Green

Show Crew | Jada Crowell, Olivia Williams

Technical Director | Daniel Terry

Assistant Technical Director | Ameer Hashem

Assistant Scenic Designers | Ameer Hashem, Dani Ramos

Scenic Charge | Ash Bingham

Assistant Properties | Micah Martin, Chloe Taylor

Scene Shop Production Assistants | Madeline Conrad, MJ Faulkner, Mace Gallagher,

Ameer Hashem, Ben Holmes, Caro Kok

Costume Shop Manager | Brittany Johnson
Assistant Costume Designers | Alanna Gordon, Michelle Lee
Draper | Andrew Hobson
Costume Shop Production Assistants | Michelle Lee, Brisa Mendez, Mercy Mondt,
Ashley Pedowitz, Emily Snatra, Indie Unnold
Wardrobe Crew Lead | Harley Normand
Wardrobe Crew | Tristan Kang, Ethan Volland

Lighting and Audio Supervisor | Steven Love
Assistant Lighting Designer | Kailee Wang
Faculty Lighting Design Mentor | Hernando Claros
Lighting Programmer | Ben Holmes
Lighting Production Assistants | Kailee Wang, Mack Scales
Light Board Operator | Lauren Brice
Spotlight Operators | Anthony Carruthers, Parker Rawson, Bryan Phillips

Assistant Sound Designer | Jade Roman
Audio Technicians | Paulty Chilmo, Alix Tehedor

Dramaturg | Tom Fish
Lead Assistant Dramaturg | Issa Solis
Assistant Dramaturgs | Macy Cardwell, Ebony Golden, Kayla Green,
Ana Sofia Pedroza Rodriguez

Production Shop — TPS 2713

Scene Shop

Eliza Craft, MJ Faulkner, Morgan Harrison, Aubrielle Haslam, Kamryn Jones,
Raechel Sigur, Christopher Nastasi, Dani Ramos, Jordan Rivers

Costume Shop

Costume Production Lab Supervisors | Ricky Greenwell, Brittany Johnson,
Amanda Blankson, Loren Cameron, Olivia Garrison, Sean Peavy, Abby Smith,
India Smith, Maya Steigerwald, Chance Stephens, Elena Vogler

Lighting and Sound

Wesley Hickman, Connor Maguire, Gracie Young

SPECIAL THANKS

**Free Mom Hugs, The National AIDS Memorial, The Jennie T. Anderson Theatre,
The Galloway School**

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Setting: December 24, 1991 - December 24, 1992.
The East Village, New York City, USA.

ACT ONE

1. *Tune Up #1 and Voice Mail #1* – Mark, Roger, Mark's Mother
2. *Tune Up #2* – Mark, Roger, Collins, Benny
3. *Rent* – Mark, Roger, Collins, Benny, Joanne, and Company
4. *Christmas Bells* – Company
5. *You Okay Honey?* – Angel, Collins
6. *Tune Up #3* – Mark, Roger
7. *One Song Glory* – Roger
8. *Light My Candle* – Mimi, Roger
9. *Voice Mail #2* – Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson
10. *Today 4 U* – Collins, Roger, Mark, Angel
11. *You'll See* – Benny, Mark, Roger, Collins, Angel
12. *Tango: Maureen* – Joanne, Mark
13. *Life Support* – Paul, Ammonia, Steve, Vanessa, Pam, Sue, Angel, Collins, Mark, Roger
14. *Out Tonight* – Mimi
15. *Another Day* – Mimi, Roger, Company
16. *Will I?* – Steve and Company
17. *On the Street* – Mark, Collins, Angel, Company
18. *Santa Fe* – Collins, Angel, Mark, Company
19. *I'll Cover You* – Angel, Collins
20. *We're Okay* – Joanne
21. *Christmas Bells* – Collins, Angel, Mark, Roger, Mimi, Benny, Company
22. *Over the Moon* – Maureen
23. *La Vie Bohème and I Should Tell You* – Mark, Roger, Collins, Benny, Mimi, Angel, Maureen, Joanne, Mimi, Roger, Mr. Grey, and Company

ACT TWO

24. *Seasons of Love A* – Company
25. *Happy New Year A* – Mimi, Roger, Mark, Maureen, Joanne, Collins, Angel
26. *Voice Mail #3* – Mark's Mother, Alexi Darling
27. *Voice Mail #4* – Alexi Darling
28. *Happy New Year B* – Maureen, Mark, Joanne, Roger, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Benny, The Man
29. *Valentine's Day Crossover* – Company
30. *Take Me or Leave Me* – Maureen, Joanne
31. *Seasons of Love B* – Company
32. *Without You* – Roger, Mimi
33. *Voice Mail #5* – Alexi Darling
34. *Contact* – Company
35. *I'll Cover You (Reprise)* – Collins and Company
36. *Halloween* – Mark
37. *Goodbye Love* – Mimi, Roger, Benny, Maureen, Joanne, Mark, Collins
38. *What You Own* – Mark, Roger, Ensemble
39. *Voice Mail #6* – Roger's Mother, Mimi's Mother, Mr. Jefferson, Mark's Mother
40. *Finale A* – Mark, Roger, Collins, Maureen, Joanne, Mimi, Company
41. *Your Eyes* – Roger
42. *Finale B* – Roger, Mimi, Mark, Maureen, Joanne, Collins, Company

CREATIVE

MING CHEN (Scenic Designer)

Ming Chen is a Professor in Scene Design at KSU. Her designs were seen at Prague Quadrennial, China's National Stage Design Exhibition, Beijing and Tokyo, Kennedy Center American College Dance Festivals in NYC and Washington D.C., Edinburgh Festival Fringe, U.K., Shanghai International Arts Festival and Shanghai Theatre Festival, China, and theaters in India, and in Atlanta, including Theatrical Outfit, True Colors Theatre, the Alliance Theatre, Horizon Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, 7 Stages, and Theatre in the Square.

JOHN-MICHAEL D'HAVILAND (Music Director)

John-Michael d'Haviland is the Music Theatre Department Coordinator at the Cobb County Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts at Pebblebrook High School. Lyric (Music Director): *Once On This Island*, *Next to Normal* (co-MD). Additional credits: Jennie T. Anderson Theater, Synchronicity Theatre, Kennesaw State University, Marietta Theatre Company, Act3 Productions, The Keegan Theatre (DC), NextStop Theatre (VA). IG: @conductingscores

TIMOTHY ELLIS (CHOREOGRAPHER)

Timothy is a Lecturer of Musical Theatre, teaching Private Voice, Acting in Musical Theatre, Musical Theatre Dance Workshop, Musical Theatre History, and other courses. He is also the Faculty Advisor for the Student Company for Musical Theatre. KSU Productions - *Company* (Director), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Choreographer), *The Spitfire Grill* (Director), *Bring It On!* (Co-Choreographer). He is so happy to get to collaborate, once again, with the incomparable Amanda Wansa Morgan, on *RENT!* It's a show he's been wanting to do for a few years, and now he gets to PLAY! He cannot thank his Assistant Choreographer enough--cheers, Ian J. Smith!! A few other shows Timothy has Directed and or Choreographed: *Camelot* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), *Rocky Horror Show* (Dad's Garage), *Show Boat* (Alhambra Theatre), *A Chorus Line* (LaGrange College), *West Side Story* (University of Central Florida). He appeared on Broadway in the 1998 revival of *Annie Get Your Gun*, the national tours of *Show Boat* and *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, a European tour of *Evita*, and on the stages of regional theaters across the country.

TOM FISH (Dramaturg)

Tom serves as Assistant Professor of Theatre History and as Resident Dramaturg at KSU. He regularly supervises a team of student dramaturgs who regularly provide production research and community outreach. Select credits include Mark Taper Forum, Matrix Theatre, Out Front Theatre, and numerous KSU productions including: *A Normal Heart*, *45 Plays for 45 Presidents*, *Water by the Spoonful*, *Polaroid Stories*, *Love and Information*, and *Mother Road*. Tom has a passion for new work, and has served as dramaturg, director, or actor supporting the development of over 30 new plays. To find out more about dramaturgy, or how to get involved, please reach out: tfish2@kennesaw.edu.

MACE GALLAGHER (PROPERTIES MANAGER)

Mace is a senior TPS major with a focus in Design/Tech. They specialize in scenic and properties production. They recently were the technical director for *Love and Information*, and the scenic designer for *She Kills Monsters*, both at KSU. Other local credits include scenic and properties for *Dragons Love Tacos* and *She Persisted* with Georgia Ensemble Theatre.

CLAY GARLAND (SOUND DESIGNER and AUDIO ENGINEER)

Clay Garland received his B.A. in Theatre in 2017 from Georgia College and State University. A newcomer to Atlanta, he recently became the Production Manager for City Springs Theatre Company. Credits include: *In the Heights* (Audio Mixer, City Springs Theatre Company '22), *Ride the Cyclone* (Sound Designer, GCSU '21), and *On The Town* (Sound Designer, City Springs Conservatory '22). Clay would like to thank his family for their constant support.

RICKY GREENWELL (Costume Designer)

Ricky Greenwell is proud to be the Assistant Professor of Theatre, Costume Design and Technology at Kennesaw State University. Ricky is a costume, hair, and makeup designer for the entertainment industry. His designs have brought over 150 productions to life. He holds an MFA from Wayne State University in Costume Design and Technology. He received a B.S. from Eastern Michigan University in Theatre. He is a cosmetologist and holds a make-up certification from Joe Blasco School of Makeup. Ricky is an active member of USITT.

AMANDA WANSA MORGAN (Director)

Amanda Wansa Morgan is an Atlanta-based director and music director who serves as Coordinator of Musical Theatre and Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University where she teaches classes in musical theatre performance. She previously taught at The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). Amanda has an MFA in Acting from the University of Central Florida, undergraduate degrees from Florida State, a 2018 Suzi Bass Award for her music direction of *The Color Purple*, and a 2022 BroadwayWorld Award for directing *Next to Normal*. She has professionally music directed at The Alliance Theatre, Six Flags Over Georgia, The Atlanta Lyric Theater, Actors Express, The Jennie T. Anderson Theater, Synchronicity Theater, Charleston Stage, Playhouse on the Square, Post Playhouse, and Osceola Center for the Arts. Special thanks to her amazing Assistant Director Issa Solis and her buddies and collaborators Timothy Ellis and John-Michael d'Haviland. www.amandawansamorgan.com.

MACK SCALES (Lighting Designer)

Mack Scales is a senior KSU TPS major with a Design/Tech concentration. Her previous KSU experience includes: *Wondrous Strange*, LD; *The SpongeBob Musical*, ASLD; *Polaroid Stories*, ALD; *Mother Road*, SD. Her Atlanta credits also include: The Alliance Theater: *Trading Places*, ALD; *A Christmas Carol*, ASLD. City Springs Theater: *Spamalot*, ALD. The Atlanta Opera: *The Steve Jobs Opera*, ALD. Special thanks to her mentors who have gotten her this far. Follow along for the ride: @mackscales.

PRODUCTION AND DESIGN SUPPORT

ASH BINGHAM (Scenic Charge)

Ash is an Atlanta-based artist who specializes in multiple aspects of stage production. She is currently the in-house scenic charge for Horizon Theatre and Kennesaw State's Theatre and Performance Studies. Notable past productions include *Once* (Horizon), *The Light* (Horizon), *Jitney* (KSU), *She Kills Monsters* (KSU), *Shout* (Legacy), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Center Stage). She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support! Website: ashleybingham.me IG:@ash_bingham_.

MADLINE CONRAD (Assistant Stage Manager)

Madeline Conrad is a junior TPS major with a Design/Tech Concentration. She has served as Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager on many shows at KSU, such as *The SpongeBob Musical*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Stupid F*cking Bird*, and *Everybody*. Her professional credits include *Matilda* and *Guys and Dolls* at The Atlanta Lyric Theatre. She hopes you enjoy the show!

ELIZA CRAFT (Stage Manager)

Eliza is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Design/Tech who will be graduating this spring. Previous KSU credits include *Jitney*, *The SpongeBob Musical*, and *The Spitfire Grill*. Her professional credits include *Bootycandy* at Actor's Express and *Guys and Dolls* at The Atlanta Lyric Theatre. She would like to thank her family and mentors for their endless support!

BRAYDEN GAILEY (Assistant Music Director)

Brayden is very excited for their second mainstage show with Kennesaw State University. They are a Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. They have worked as the Assistant Music Director on *Company* at KSU, *The Disney Cabaret* under Mya Burns, and for the student-written shows *Martha Was Right* and *Poncé*. They hope to have plenty more work in the upcoming years.

ALANNA GORDON (Assistant Costume Designer)

Alanna is a sophomore Theatre and Performance Studies Major in the Musical Theatre Concentration. At KSU, she's been in the *24 Hour Play Festival*, the *48 Hour Play Festival*, and SCMT cabarets. They are currently in *Greek Girls* (Ensemble and U/S), a student-led and student-written show. Most recently, they stage-managed *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*. She is also a liaison for the TPS department and loves combining her passions for singing, acting, and technical theatre.

AMEER HASHEM (Assistant Scenic Designer and Assistant Technical Director)
Ameer Hashem is a fourth year Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Design/Technology. Ameer enjoys exploring the many aspects of theatre, most recently lighting designing and performing in TPS' *Company* and *Love and Information*, respectively, and scenic designing for Stage Door Theatre's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*.

MICHELLE LEE (Assistant Costume Designer)
Michelle Lee is a Senior Design/Tech Major. She is honored to work as an Assistant Costume Designer for *RENT!* Selected KSU experience: *She Kills Monsters*, Costume Designer; *Water...Spoonful*, SM; *Ease on Down...*, SM; *Love and Information*, Scenic Designer. She works as a stitcher in the Costume Shop on campus and wants to continue designing and creating costumes for the stage professionally. She sends special thanks to all of her mentors throughout the four years she has served in productions and in class at KSU. IG: marionmlee.

MICAH MARTIN (Assistant Stage Manager and Assistant Properties)
Micah Martin (ASM) is a junior Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Design/Tech. At KSU, he has worked on *1.2.3. A Play About Abandonment and Ballroom Dancing* (SM); *The 10th Annual Coming Out Monologues* (SM); and is an active member of the KSU Tellers. Other credits include *Guys and Dolls* (Technical Intern) at the Atlanta Lyric Theatre. He is super grateful to have the opportunity to work on *RENT!* IG: Micah_Martin_21.

DANIELA RAMOS (Assistant Scenic Designer)
Dani Ramos is a senior TPS major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. She is thrilled to have served as Assistant Scenic Designer for *Rent*. Some of her past credits, including performance and tech, include Agnes in *She Kills Monsters*, ASM for *The Light* at Horizon Theatre Co. and ASM for various shows at 7 Stages. She is a proud KSU Tellers alumna!

JADE ROMAN (Assistant Sound Designer)
Jade Roman is a Junior Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. At KSU, she has been an A2 for *The SpongeBob Musical*, Sound Board Operator for *Genesis Redux* and *1,2,3*. Other credits include an internship with the Atlanta Lyric Theatre working on *Matilda: The Musical*.

IAN J. SMITH (Assistant Choreographer)
Ian J. Smith has been performing for as long as she can remember. They have amassed educational and professional theatre credits as an actor, student director, choreographer, and designer. As a third year Music and Entertainment Business and Theatre and Performance Studies student, Ian J. felt drawn to *RENT* because of their devotion to movement, queer storytelling, and ensemble-driven work. She is excited to see where her passion for performance and storytelling will take her.

ISSA SOLIS (Assistant Director and Lead Assistant Dramaturg)

Issa is a senior TPS major (Acting) with a Minor in Latin American Studies. Previous credits include Assistant Director of KSU's *Mother Road* (2021), Assistant Director of the Alliance Theatre's *Palefsky Collision Project* (2021), and Assistant Costume Designer for KSU's *The Spongebob Musical* (2022). She currently serves as the Lead Assistant for the KSU Dramaturgy Team and the student assistant of the KSU/Alliance Theatre/GA Juvenile Justice New Connections Collision Project.

CHLOE TAYLOR (Assistant Properties)

Chloe Taylor is a junior Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Design and Tech. This is their first year at KSU, after two years at Georgia State University. They have directed in the *48 Hour Play Festival* and the *10th Annual Coming Out Monologues*.

KAILEE WANG (Assistant Lighting Designer)

Kailee Wang is a second year Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Design and Technology. She is excited to be a part of her fifth main stage production at Kennesaw State University, which includes Assistant Stage Manager for *Mother Road* (2022); and Assistant Lighting Designer for *Jitney* (2022) and *Love and Information* (2023). Other credits include *Cassie's Ballad* (2022). She is so excited for everyone to witness incredible talent and hard work.

CAST

LANCE AVERY BROWN (Benny)

Lance Avery Brown (He/Him) is a junior TPS Major. Lance is proud to be touching the Kennesaw stage again with his talented peers. KSU productions: *Jitney*, *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Stupid F*****g Bird*, *Polaroid Stories* and writer of a new hip hop musical, *The Heist*. Film and TV: *Honk For Jesus*, *Snowfall (S7)*, *Se7en Da7s*, *Bloodstock*. Lance recently just started a freestyle improv troupe @LyricizeRhymes. Lance thanks God, his friends, and family (Philippians 4:13). All socials @LanceAveryBrown.

MYA BURNS (Mimi)

Mya is Senior with a Concentration in Musical Theater. Her last few credits at KSU: Susan in *Company* and Assistant Director for *Jitney*; and Mrs. Phelps in *Matilda: The Musical* with The Atlanta Lyric Theater. This is Mya's last show at KSU! She is so blessed to be ending her season here with a dream role! Also performing with amazing talented people and her best friends is a dream! She will miss you, TPS! Insta: @mya.burns_.

MAURICE CLERMONT (Ensemble)

Maurice Clermont is a freshman Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. He is very excited to be a part of *RENT* as Squeegie-man and the Restaurant Man, and hopes to be a representation in the performing arts for future generations. His other involvements at KSU include playing Jack Black in KSU's Black Musicians Coalition's *The Blueprint* and being an active cast member of SCMT for 2 semesters. He hopes that this show will reach someone in the audience, and that they can gain insight on a subject they may not have had knowledge about before.

KOURAGE COOPER (Roger)

Kourage Cooper is a junior at Kennesaw State University and double majoring in Pre-Medical Biology and Theatre and Performance Studies. He has played multiple roles at KSU, including Narcissus in *Polaroid Stories* and Martin in *Mother Road*. He has also worked professionally with the Atlanta-based theatre company Essential Theatre in their world-premiere production of *Calming the Man*. When not on stage, Kourage is an aspiring voice actor and enjoys music, anime, playing instruments, gaming, and narrative writing.

COPELAND (Ensemble)

Copeland is a freshman Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. This is their main stage show debut at KSU, but have been seen in *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* (Nora), and *The 10th Annual Coming Out Monologues*. Other credits include *On The Town* (Madame Dilly) at City Springs Conservatory; *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (logainne schwartzandgrubenierre); and *The Addams Family* (Morticia) at Lanier High School.

TARYSSA (TAI) COSSIER (Swing)

Tai Cossier is currently a double major senior in Kennesaw State University's Theatre and Performance Studies (Musical Theatre), and a Dance major (Modern). She has performed in student-led works at KSU, such as: *Ease on Down the Road Concert*, the KSU Black Music Collision's *The Blueprint: Black History Month Show 2021/2022*, *KSU Colors Showcase*, and *2019-2022 Choreolab*. She wants everyone reading to know no matter what: you matter, you are loved, and you were born for greatness!

TYLER VANDUVALL (Collins)

Tyler VanDuvall is a graduating senior Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. He has recently worked on *Company* (Bobby Understudy), *Jitney* (Becker), and *The Disney Showcase*. He is also a proud member and V.P. of KISS and President of KSU Colors.

REYANNA EDWARDS (Maureen)

Reyanna Edwards is a Junior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. At KSU she has been seen in *and.... then he looked at me* (Actor 1), August Wilson's *Jitney* (Understudy Rena), *Everybody* (Assistant Director) and is Co Vice President of KSU Colors. She is excited for her friends and family to see her growth as an artist and hopes you enjoy the show!

BROOKE FLEURIMOND (Ensemble)

Brooke Fleurimond is a sophomore Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. At KSU, they have been seen in the *24 Hour Play Festival*, several SCMT cabarets, and *The Disney Cabaret*. They are so proud to be a member of TPS.

SAMUEL GIRON (Ensemble)

Samuel Girón (Steve and Cop) is a Sophomore in the Bailey School of Music with a Concentration in Jazz. In other close area companies, Samuel has been in *Hello Dolly* (Horace Vandergelder).

EBONY GOLDEN (Ensemble)

Ebony Golden (she/her/hers) is a sophomore Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Acting. Recently, Ebony performed in the Black Musician Coalitions *Blueprint* show and she performed in the student-led *TPS Disney Cabaret*. At KSU, she has credits in *The Spitfire Grill* (Hannah Ferguson) and *Mother Road* (Chorus). Between her many classes and jobs, Ebony continues to perform and enrich her experience to excel. This spring, Ebony is thrilled to perform in the production of *RENT* on the Stillwell Theater stage.

NAOMI GREEN (Ensemble and Dance Captain)

Naomi Green is a junior Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance. Her recent credits have been *A Christmas Tradition* (The Strand Theatre), *Guys and Dolls* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), *Abba and BeeGees Revue* (The Strand Theatre), *The Wizard of Oz* (Atlanta Lyric Theatre), *Demonatrix Dancer* (Six flags Over Georgia Entertainment), and *Jukebox Giants Motown and More* (The Strand Theatre).

JESSICA HILLIARD (Joanne)

Jessica Hilliard is a junior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. At KSU, she has been seen in *Polaroid Stories* (Persephone), *Wondrous Strange* (9, W, Bonnet #1), and *The SpongeBob Musical* (Sandy Cheeks). Other credits include *Songs of Cinema* with The Atlanta Lyric Theatre (at The Strand Theatre) as a featured singer and other various student-led showcases. She is a proud E-Board member of KSU Colors!

JUDE HILTON (Mark)

Jude is a second year Theater and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Musical Theater. He has appeared on KSU's stages as a member of the ensemble of *Wondrous Strange*, as Harry in *Company*, and as a recurring troublemaker in *K.I.S.S.!* He would like to thank everyone who has made his journey to, and through, this show possible, especially YOU! Smile, you'll be on camera shortly!

JENNA LIVINGSTON (Ensemble)

Jenna is a junior double major in Theatre and Performance Studies (Musical Theatre) and History Education. She has been in *The SpongeBob Musical* (Electric Skate) and *Company* (Assistant Director; Swing for Marta/Amy/April/Sarah) at KSU. Other shows she has done include *Newsies* (Dance Newsie), *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (ASM), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (SM, Asst. Choreographer). She is excited to be back on the Stillwell Theater stage to show you there is no day but today.

ANTHONY MCDONALD (Understudy for Collins)

Anthony McDonald (he/him) is a freshman Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Musical Theater. He was born and raised in Prince George's County, Maryland and enjoys dancing, singing, and dogs. He is eternally grateful to work with such a talented team, cast, and crew to help bring this unique story to life. He would also like to thank his amazing family for all of their support and everlasting love.

ASHLEE MCNEILL (Understudy for Joanne)

Ashlee McNeill is a freshman Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. She has enjoyed working with her colleagues in previous shows, such as *Jitney* (Rena) and *The Blueprint* (Kamora), as well as student-led works such as SCMT and *The Disney Showcase*. She's so proud to be a part of *RENT* and is excited to be in more shows in the future.

BRISA MENDEZ (Ensemble)

Brisa Mendez is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies Major. She is excited to make her KSU musical debut with *RENT*! Her past credits have been costume-oriented, such as Wardrobe Head on *The SpongeBob Musical*, and Costume Designer for *Company*. She is also a proud KSU Costume Shop employee for over 3 years!

ALISA MILAN (Understudy for Mimi and Maureen)

Alisa Milan is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies major. She's done *The SpongeBob Musical* (Ms. Puff); student-led work: *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* (Nancy's Mother/Dora/Heather); and unconventional events: *The 48 Hour Play Festival* (Ensemble). *RENT* is close to Milan's heart, so she's delighted you've chosen to come experience the product of our journey as she has truly enjoyed embracing "la vie boheme." She hopes it stimulates you in all the right ways!! :p

CHRIS NASTASI (Ensemble)

Chris is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. This is his second mainstage show at KSU. He was most recently seen in *Company* (Paul), as well as in the SCMT showcase! He is honored to be working with an amazing cast, crew, and directors. He would like to thank his parents and his dog Maddie for their constant support. Enjoy the show!

GABRIEL OCASIO (Understudy for Benny)

Gabriel Ocasio is a freshman at KSU and is a Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. He has been seen most recently at KSU in the fall semester SCMT showcase singing "At the Ballet." He has played previous roles such as the Baker in *Into the Woods* and Creon in *Antigone*. He is excited to be in his first mainstage show and hopes "You'll See" glory in *RENT*!

ARIANNA PALMER (Ensemble and Fight/Intimacy Captain)

Arianna is a sophomore Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Musical Theatre Concentration. Some of the shows she has been in since being at KSU are: *Wondrous Strange* (Ensemble), *Genesis Redux* (Lady Eve), *She Kills Monsters* (Kaliope), SCMT 22-23, *The Disney Cabaret*, and *The 24 Hour Play Festival*! Arianna is so excited for you to watch *RENT*!

MAXWELL PRICE (Understudy for Angel)

Howdy y'all! Maxwell is a sophomore here at Kennesaw State University with the goal of majoring in theatre and performance studies. He's been in a multitude of TPS programs like SCMT and student-led projects. Also be on the lookout for his role as Tyler in his movie debut in *Cornsyrap*!

NICOLE PRICE (Ensemble)

Nicole is a second year Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Acting. She has performed in *Wondrous Strange* as a member of the ensemble, and has played Tilly's Understudy in *She Kills Monsters*. She is currently the social media manager of K.I.S.S and has performed in cabarets hosted by SCMT. She is so excited that you're here, and can't wait for you to see the show!

JORDAN RIVERS (Swing)

Jordan is a second year Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. This year, he's performed in the *Majestically Miscast SCMT Cabaret*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Disney Cabaret*, and served as a director for the *Love v. Hate SCMT Cabaret*. He'd like to thank the *RENT* team and his family for their love and support!

JOSHUA SHEPHERD (Ensemble)

Joshua is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. Joshua has also been featured in *She Kills Monsters* as Orcus in fall of 2022. Joshua would like to thank his family and support network for always pushing him to be his best and follow his heart!

INDIA SMITH (Ensemble and Intimacy Captain)

India Smith is a junior Theatre and Performance Studies Major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre as well as a film minor. At KSU, she has been in *Wondrous Strange (A)*, *Mother Road (Amelia)*, and *She Kills Monsters (Tilly)*. She also directed the student-led production of *Love, Loss and What I Wore* and was Movement Choreographer for *Love and Information!* She hopes you enjoy the show!

AMARIH SOVANN (Ensemble)

Amarih SoVann is a senior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Acting, President of Kennesaw Improv Society Stupid! (K.I.S.S.), and a filmmaker working to create his own content with his production company Triumphant Productions. Some of Amarih's performances include *Love (Everybody)*, and *Booster (Jitney)*. Amarih would like to thank his supportive parents, Eric and Leslie Matthews, and his loving sisters. He hopes you enjoy the show.

SØREN TUCKER (Understudy for Mark and Rodger)

Søren is a sophomore Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre and a minor in French. Previously seen at KSU in *Genesis Redux (The Serpent)* and *The Heist (Gabe)*. He is a proud member of SCMT, where he directs and performs. He sends love and thanks to his friends, family, and Snoopy.

DESHAWN WILLIAMS (Angel)

Deshawn is currently a junior Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre. Last year he had the opportunity to be a part of the Atlanta Lyric Theatre company production of *Matilda: The Musical* as the Doctor and in the ensemble. More recently, he was seen playing Kathy in Kennesaw State University's production of *Company*. He would like to thank all involved with this process and hope that you all enjoy *RENT!!!*

MAISY WINN (Ensemble)

Maisy is a sophomore Theatre and Performance Studies major, and could not be more excited to make her main stage KSU debut! Previous roles Nina (*Stupid F*****g Bird*) and 3 (123.) She hopes you enjoy the show!

artsKSU

470-578-6650 • arts.kennesaw.edu/theatre

College of the Arts

Prof. Harrison Long, Interim Dean

Dr. Peter Fielding, Associate Dean

Dr. Leslie J. Blackwell, Interim Associate Dean

Prof. Geo Sipp, Director, School of Art & Design

Prof. Marsha Barsky, Chair, Department of Dance

Dr. Julia Bullard, Interim Director, Bailey School of Music

Prof. Chuck Meacham, Chair, Department of Theatre & Performance Studies



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS