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Tony Award-winning Musical to Rock the Stage

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: Southern Utah University's Department of Theatre Arts brings to their stage the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning rock musical *RENT*. This modern musical takes you through the lives of a group of young adults in New York City battling addictions, AIDS, and surviving the test of making their own way in the world. *RENT* plays April 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee on April 16 at 2 p.m. in the Randall L. Jones Theatre. *RENT* contains adult content, strong language, and sexual themes.

Celebrating 20 years since the New York debut, *RENT* portrays an important time in history as the AIDS epidemic takes hold of New York City's Bohemian Alphabet City. Become a part of this bohemian crowd as they fall in love, build friendships, and overcome society's expectations. Mark, Collins, Angel, Roger, Mimi, Maureen, and Joanne will bring laughter, frustration, tears, and happiness as they embark on this journey we call life. Please be advised that this production contains adult content, strong language, and sexual themes.

Directed by Melinda Pfundstein Vaughn, this production places you in a world that is avant-garde and strangely familiar. The cast brings real life and love to the production. Vaughn describes the production as, "a story of people who, in the face of great adversity, choose life, love, compassion, and connection over fear and hate. This show is full of reminders to choose love, but my favorite line is tucked in without fireworks or sweeping melody. After Angel's passing, Collins responds to his arguing friends with, 'Angel helped us believe in love. I can't believe you disagree.' To live love and that none of us is alone are two messages that make *RENT* as important for audiences today as it was when it was written."

Along with the performances of *RENT*, there will be three events to discuss the themes presented in the musical. The first will be held on April 14th, starting at 6:30pm in the Black Box

Theatre (Auditorium 108), titled "Then and Now: Artistic Bohemianism" with guest panelist Dr. Kyle Bishop, professor of English, and Rachel Bishop, director of Arts Administration Graduate Studies. The next panel will follow the Saturday matinee on April 16th, starting at about 4:30pm in the Randall L. Jones Theatre, entitled "Be a Part of the Conversation: LGBTQ Rights and Representation". This will be run by the Pride and Equality Club (PAEc) and Lindsey Murri, PAEc president. The final event entitled, "Become an Ally for the LGBTQ community" will be held on April 18th, starting at 6:30pm in the Auditorium Theatre, with the Allies on Campus, Jason Ramieriez, Dean of Students, and Jonathan Puente, Director for Access and Inclusion.

Tickets for *RENT* are \$15 for adults, \$12 for Alumni with their card, and \$7 for high school students and younger. Southern Utah University faculty, staff, and students are free with a valid ID card. Faculty and staff IDs are allowed one guest. Tickets are available at the SUU Ticket Office (435) 586-7872 on Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in person at the Centrum Ticket Office, or at suu.edu/pva.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The **Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts** is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as graduate programs in Arts Administration and Music and a Center for Shakespeare Studies. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Music Education and Master of Music in Music Technology graduate degrees. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents over 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), Utah Shakespeare Festival and SUU's Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit www.suu.edu/pva.

For Calendar Editors: Tony Award-winning Musical to Rock the Stage

What: *RENT*, Tony Award-winning rock musical documenting the lives of a group of friends in Bohemian New York City.

Content warning: Adult content, strong language, and sexual themes

Who: Department of Theatre Arts & Dance, Southern Utah University

When: April 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18 at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee April 16 at 2 p.m.

Where: Randall L. Jones Theatre, Southern Utah University campus, Cedar City, Utah

Tickets: Adults: \$15, Alumni with card: \$12, Youth: \$7 Southern Utah University faculty, staff, and students are free with a valid ID card. Faculty and staff IDs are allowed one guest. Tickets are available at the SUU Ticket Office (435) 586-7872 on Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in person at the Centrum Ticket Office, or at suu.edu/pva.

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