



68 Main Street, Torrington, CT 06790 www.warnertheatre.org (860) 489-7180

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Contact:

Steve Criss
Marketing Director
(860) 489-7180, x.125
scriss@warnertheatre.org

or

Lynn Gelormino
Public Relations Coordinator
(860) 489-7180 x 157
lgelormino@warnertheatre.org

Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-Winning Musical, RENT at the Warner Theatre

Torrington, CT – The 2010-2011 Main Stage Musical Series at the Warner Theatre continues with the Warner Stage Company's production of the Pulitzer Prize winning rock opera, RENT February 5-12.

Based on Puccini's opera La Boheme, RENT tells the story of a group of eight impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. The musical, written by playwright Billy Aronson with music and lyrics by Jonathon Larson opened on Broadway on January 25, 1996. The show gained critical acclaim and won a Pulitzer Prize, as well as a Tony Award for Best Musical. The Broadway production closed on September 7, 2008, after a 12-year run and 5,124 performances, making it the ninth-longest-running Broadway show by that time. Sadly, creator Jonathan Larson died suddenly the night before the Broadway premiere and never saw its success.

The Warner Stage Company's production will be directed by Deighna DeRiu with musical director Sean Lewis and choreographer Trisha Carr. Cast includes: Frank Beaudry (Collins), Alyssa Fontana (Maureen), Michelle Funaro (Mimi), Zack Heidorn (Mark), Tony Leone (Roger), Dan Porri (Benny), Gia Wright (Joanne) and Nick Rollo (Angel).

Broadway actor, Shaun Earl, who portrayed Angel and won a Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role, will attend the performance opening night. A Meet & Greet will be held following the performance on Saturday, February 5 for those patrons who wish to meet Mr. Earl and the cast.

Tickets for this production are \$19, \$22 \$25. Patrons wishing to attend the Opening Night Meet & Greet may do so for an additional \$25 fee. Proceeds from the Meet & Greet will help support the Warner Stage Company.

Check out specially designed T's of lower Manhattan for sale in the lobby concessions.

Sponsored by: Wolf Colorprint; Promotional Sponsor; Carmody & Torrance.

ABOUT THE WARNER THEATRE

Built by Warner Brothers Studios and opened in 1931 as a movie palace (1,772 seats), the Warner Theatre was described then as "Connecticut's Most Beautiful Theatre." Damaged extensively in a flood, the Warner was slated for demolition in the early 1980s until the non-profit Northwest Connecticut Association for the Arts (NCAA) was founded and purchased the theatre. The Warner reopened as a performing arts center in 1983, and restoration of the main lobbies and auditorium was completed in November 2002. In 2008, the new 50,000 square foot Carole and Ray Neag Performing Arts Center, which houses a 300 seat studio theatre, 200 seat restaurant and micro-brewery and expansive school for the arts, was completed. Today, the Warner is in operation year-round with more than 160 performances and 100,000 patrons passing through its doors each season. Over 10,000 students, pre K—adult, participate in arts education programs and classes. Together, with the support of the community, the Warner has raised close to \$17 million to revitalize its facilities. NCAA's mission is to preserve the Warner Theatre as an historic landmark, enhance its reputation as a center of artistic excellence and a focal point of community involvement, and satisfy the diverse cultural needs of the region. To learn more about the Warner Theatre, visit our website: www.warnertheatre.org.