

Contact:
Karyn Dunn
Marketing Manager
(812) 855-0640
karyndun@indiana.edu



**IU AUDITORIUM HOSTS WORLD DEBUT OF *RENT*'s 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
SEPT 12–14**

Tickets on sale to this and all IU Auditorium season events Friday, 8/26.

WHAT: RENT

WHEN: September 12–14, 8 p.m.

WHERE: IU Auditorium

TICKETS: \$22–\$45 for IU Bloomington students with a valid student ID and \$40–\$66 for the general public, on sale Friday, August 26 at 10 a.m. Recommended for mature audiences only. Individual tickets may be purchased online at IUauditorium.com, in person at the IU Auditorium Box Office, as well as through Ticketmaster.com or charge by phone at (800) 745-3000. The IU Auditorium Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8/23/16

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – *RENT*, the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway musical, debuts its brand-new 20th anniversary touring production at IU Auditorium September 12–14. Performances begin at 8 p.m. Single tickets to this event and all events scheduled for the IU Auditorium 2016–2017 season go on sale Friday, August 26 at 10 a.m.

Composer and playwright Jonathan Larson's edgy and electric rock musical follows the lives of six young artists living in the East Village of New York City during the concurrent Bohemian movement and HIV/AIDS crisis of the late 1980s. With iconic ensemble anthems such as "La Vie Boheme" and "Seasons of Love," and direction by Tony Award nominee Michael Greif, this highly-anticipated touring production brings Jonathan Larson's beloved show and vibrant score that redefined Broadway back to life for "RENT-heads" across the nation.

RENT debuted on Broadway at the Nederlander Theatre in 1996, shortly after Larson's sudden death, and continued its run for 12 years—earning its place as the 11th longest-running Broadway show of all time. The original Broadway production took home four Tony Awards including Best Musical and won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama during its debut year.

The show's energy and emotional conviction led to its acclaim, praised with paving the way for the new modern musical. Upon its debut in 1996, *Variety* called it "joyously important" and *The New York Times* said the show "restores spontaneity and depth of feeling to a discipline that sorely needs them."

IU Auditorium was the first venue in Indiana to welcome *RENT* to its stage in 1999, at a time when many theatres still shied away from presenting the show due to its controversial content.

“Being the first Indiana venue to host the touring production back in 1999, we can’t wait to bring *RENT* to IU Auditorium to celebrate its 20th anniversary,” said IU Auditorium Director Doug Booher. “IU Auditorium upholds a tradition of being open to representations of all ideas, lifestyles, and beliefs. We are proud to have been the first venue to accept such a historic show, and seeing it performed live on our stage for this world debut will make the experience nothing less than spectacular.”

In addition to the performance, the company of *RENT* will also be participating in education and outreach activities while in town during their rehearsal for the tour—including a post-performance Q&A session on the tour’s opening night on Monday, September 12. Check IUauditorium.com for details on this and other activities as they are announced.

For more information on *RENT* and the rest of the 2016–2017 season, visit IUauditorium.com. The website features video clips and a selection of songs from this season’s performances, in addition to a direct link to the IU Auditorium Facebook and Twitter pages, whose members receive exclusive benefits throughout the year.

RENT at IU Auditorium is presented by our show partners The Indiana Memorial Union, Classic Touch Limousine Service Inc., and Uptown Café. IU Auditorium’s 2016–2017 season is presented by Curry Auto Center, B97, *The Herald-Times*, IU Division of Residential Programs and Services, and French Lick Resort.

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RENT At-a-Glance

WHAT: *RENT*: 20th Anniversary Tour

WHEN: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, September 12, 13, and 14, 8 p.m.

WHERE: IU Auditorium

TICKETS: On sale at 10 a.m. Friday, August 26 at IUauditorium.com, the IU Auditorium Box Office, and Ticketmaster.

- IUB students and children \$22–\$45
- General public \$40–\$66

RENT Outreach Programming

- Post-show Q&A with the cast after the performance Monday, 9/12. Other activities TBA. Check IUauditorium.com for updates.

RENT Fun Facts

- In 1999, IU Auditorium was the first Indiana venue to host the show.
- This presentation is the world debut of the new 20th Anniversary Tour, and the cast and crew will be at the Auditorium rehearsing in the weeks leading up to the opening performance 9/12.
- This is the recipient of the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Drama

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