



VICTORIA GARDENS
CULTURAL
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knowledge bring
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NEWS RELEASE

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Broadway at the Gardens Presents “Rent” as its Second Annual Theatrical Event at the Lewis Family Playhouse

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2010

Rancho Cucamonga, California - The City of Rancho Cucamonga is pleased to announce the casting of Broadway at the Gardens production of Jonathan Larson’s Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning musical *Rent*, opening March 5th at the Lewis Family Playhouse at the Victoria Gardens Cultural Center.

This ground-breaking musical tells the story of a group of young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York’s Lower East Side. *Rent* tackles social issues of poverty, addiction, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and most of all, the transcending power of love. Come and see this inspiring story featuring some of the Inland Empire’s top theatrical talents.

Over 200 hopeful performers from greater Los Angeles and the Inland Empire vied for the 15 iconic roles which will be portrayed on the Lewis Family Playhouse stage by Dylan Hunter (Mark), Nicci Claspell (Mimi), Casey O’Farrell (Roger), Adrianna Lyons (Maureen), Tim Brown (Benny), Nicole Tillman (Joanne), Ben Alicea (Angel), and Loren Smith (Collins). Stephanie Duarde, Catherine Hwang, Caleb Shaw, Trance Thompson, Miguel Cardenas, Tim Woods, and Nataly Wright complete the cast playing multiple roles in the production.

The show’s creative team is headed by accomplished director and Broadway performer Ron Kellum (*Fosse*, *Dreamgirls*, and *Chicago*). Fellow Broadway veteran Courtney Corey (*Maureen* in original *Rent* National Tour and recent *Elphaba* understudy in Southern California’s *Wicked*) co-directs and is choreographer. Musical Director and Conductor David Lamoureux will lead the live band made up of the region’s top musicians.

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Broadway at the Gardens was created by the City of Rancho Cucamonga to provide adult audiences with a theatrical experience full of intensity, passion, and drama. Last year marked the first Broadway at the Gardens Theatrical Event with *Sweeney Todd* featuring John LaLonde and Debbie Prutsman in the leading roles.

Rent opens March 5th and continues through March 14th playing Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. All tickets are priced at \$33.50. *Rent* contains adult and mature subject matter and is not suitable for all audiences.

An intimate, 536-seat venue, the Lewis Family Playhouse is the crown jewel of the three-acre, 89,000-square foot Victoria Gardens Cultural Center. The complex at 12505 Cultural Center Drive is conveniently located off the I-15 at Foothill Boulevard, as a major anchor of Victoria Gardens. The Box Office is open Monday through Thursday from noon to 6:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with free parking available.

For More Information - For additional information or to purchase tickets, please call the Lewis Family Playhouse Box Office at (909) 477-2752 or (877) 858-8422, or visit www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com. To make reservations to the press opening on March 5th at 7:30 p.m., please contact Cultural Arts Coordinator Patrick Hediger via e-mail at Patrick.hediger@cityofrc.us.

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