



# Audition pack

Thank you for your interest in GAOS's Spring Show 2024, RENT (Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson).

Everything you need to prepare for your audition is in this pack, so please read the following pages carefully before signing up for your audition.

**To Audition for RENT, please:**

- 1. Read this information pack.**
- 2. Fill out the [registration form](#) and sign up for an audition time slot.**
- 3. Prepare one of the songs.**

## SYNOPSIS

Rent is the Pulitzer Prize and Tony award winning rock opera loosely based on Puccini's *La Bohème*. Jonathan Larson's *Rent* chronicles a year in the life of a group of friends all striving to live life on their own terms in the tumultuous '90s. The setting is in New York City's Lower East Side neighbourhood that is home to artists, musicians, drug addicts, homeless and the poor all struggling to survive. Living and dying in the ever growing HIV/AIDS crisis and looming gentrification of their neighbourhood, the inhabitants fiercely cling to the idea of hope, love and acceptance.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Team	
Director	Deborah Hill
Assistant Director	Philip Tuffs
Musical Director/Assistant:	Chelsea Middleton
Choreography	Muriel Pivk
Technical Coordinator	Jo Beveridge
Costume Design:	Margaret Mathieson
Set Design	Amanda Linden / Set Philippe Bouchet / Painter
Lighting Design	Derek Mathieson / Adam Mathieson
Construction/ Stage Manager	David Wrigley
Props Manager	Clea Karmilof
Sound	Nicki Power / Bojan Ugrinovski
Production Secretary	Nicki Power / Wenona Arndt

## AUDITIONS

Auditions will take place at [GAOS Headquarters, rue du Pré de la Fontaine 10, 1242 Satigny](#). This link also has parking and public transport information.

Music Scores, and Backing Tracks to help you prepare can be found on the [audition materials page](#).

## DATES AND TIMES

Please sign up for one time slot on your audition form. There will be a maximum of 10 people per audition time slot.

Date	Time	Who
Wednesday 22-Nov-2023	19:00 - 20:30	Slot 1
	20:45 - 22:15	Slot 2
Friday 24-Nov-2023	19:00 - 20:30	Slot 3
	20:45 - 22:15	Slot 4
Saturday 25-Nov-2023	14:00 - 15:30	Slot 5
	15:45 - 17:15	Slot 6
Sunday 26-Nov-2023	18:00 - 20:00	Call backs (if required)

Each audition will consist of:

- **The Information session:** This will be your opportunity to meet the directors and crew and find out how they plan to execute their vision. It is also your chance to ask questions.
- **Group dance audition:** Everyone will be taught a short dance and will perform this in small groups. Wear comfortable clothing.
- **Singing:** Following will be an individual audition consisting of vocalisation and performances of your chosen song. You will sing your song with the backing track provided in the audition materials. Feel free to use the sheet music if you wish.

**NB:** The Musical Director may not need you to sing the whole song, so please be prepared that they may cut it short.

**Please arrive 10 minutes before your audition time slot.**

## **SPECIAL AUDITION NOTES**

- **Rent features many adult themes, you must be over 18 at time of auditions. No exceptions.**
- **Rent is an entirely sung through musical and therefore we will not have “cold readings”. Please be prepared to showcase your acting through your vocal performance.**
- **All principals must be able to easily move and dance.**

## **REGISTRATION**

Please go to [www.gaos.ch/auditions](http://www.gaos.ch/auditions) to complete the online audition registration form.

## **REHEARSALS**

Rehearsals will commence on Saturday 3rd February where EVERYONE will be expected to attend as we will be reading through the script and running small workshops.

**LOCATION:** GAOS Headquarters in Satigny.

## **DATES AND TIMES**

Tuesday & Thursday evenings (from Feb 6th to the show) PLUS five weekends (Saturdays and Sundays should be reserved). Not all rehearsals will require all cast members. Detailed schedules of who is required to attend each rehearsal will be sent out ahead of time, closer to the rehearsal date.

**Please arrive 10-15 minutes before each rehearsal call time, so we can begin on time.**

## **ABSENCES**

Please see the attached [Rehearsal Schedule](#). If you are unavailable on any of these dates, please note these on your audition form. Unexplained absences of two or more rehearsals may result in exclusion from production.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

You must be a [fully paid up member](#) of GAOS to participate in any capacity in this production. You do not need to be a member to audition.

## **PERFORMANCE FEE**

There will be no Performance fee. Please bring your own snacks and drinks to rehearsals. There will be a 5 CHF fee for use of the Backstage Bar during performances and everyone is encouraged to bring food to share at the Bar.

## **SCRIPTS AND MUSIC**

You will be provided with a paper copy that **MUST** be returned after the show in perfect condition, with no markings. Any marked, damaged or non returned copies will be at your own cost, as determined by MTI.

## **PERFORMANCES**

Performances will be at Théâtre de Marens, route du Stand 5, 1260 Nyon from May 23rd to 26th 2024. Attendance is mandatory at all tech rehearsals and dress rehearsals in the week running up to the show.

Please remember to fill out the [Audition Form](#) & sign up for an audition time slot.

If you have any questions, please email: [auditions@gaos.ch](mailto:auditions@gaos.ch).

We look forward to meeting you at the auditions!

## ROLES

**ALL principal roles are open to all sexualities, genders and ethnicities.**

**ALL principal roles could be played by an actor out of the character's age range. However, only if the actor can realistically portray the character's age range.**

### **Roger Davis**

A recovering drug addict, living with HIV/AIDS, Roger spends his days hidden away in the loft he shares with Mark. A once successful musician, he tries in vain to write one more song before his time runs out. He is Mimi's love interest.

- **Gender:** Male
- **Character's Age:** 25-30's
- **Range:** Top A4 Bottom F2, Grunge Rock Tenor with strong rock belt,

### **Mark Cohen**

A struggling Jewish-American documentary filmmaker and video artist. Mark is the witness to all the turmoil going on around him. Although he comes from privilege, he strives to scrape by on his own merit. He's Roger's roommate and ex boyfriend to Maureen.

- **Gender:** Male
- **Stage Age:** 25-30's
- **Range:** Top G4 Bottom A2

### **Tom Collins**

A gay computer genius, activist, and philosophy professor who is HIV/AIDS positive. Mature, warm, and strong; he is emotionally vulnerable in his relationship with Angel as well as with his friends.

- **Gender:** Ideally a gay man of colour
- **Stage Age:** 30-35 yrs old
- **Range:** Bass/Baritone Gb2 – A4.

## **Benjamin Coffin III**

A former roommate of Mark and Roger, Benny traded in his personal morals for power and wealth. Charming and charismatic but at times slick and intimidating with complex motives. He and Mimi were involved in the past.

- **Gender:** Male
- **Stage Age:** 28-35 yrs old
- **Range:** Top F4 Bottom Bb2

## **Joanne Jefferson**

Joanne is an accomplished public interest lawyer and lesbian; tough and no nonsense, she is smart and purposeful in all her decisions. Unafraid to back down from a confrontation but good hearted, smart, mature, with a wry humor. She and Mauren are lovers.

- **Gender:** Female, ideally a woman of colour
- **Stage Age:** 30-40 yrs old
- **Range:** Top E4 Bottom G3

## **Angel Dumott Schunard**

A young street percussionist who is HIV/AIDS-positive with their own personal style. Although they have had a difficult life, they exude kindness and generosity to all who encounter them. They and Tom Collins meet and become lovers. Must be able to dance in heels.

- **Gender:** Ideally a Gender non-conforming person of colour
- **Stage Age:** 25-30 yrs old
- **Range:** Top A4 Bottom C3

## **Mimi Marquez**

Mimi is a stripper struggling with a heroin addiction and HIV/AIDS. She lives life on the razor's edge, searching for the next fix. Mimi's addiction and intentions are often at odds. She desperately tries to make the best of life in whatever way she can. She and Roger are lovers. She has also had an affair with Benny, before meeting Roger.

- **Gender:** Ideally Female Latinx or woman of colour
- **Stage Age:** 20-25 yrs old

- **Range:** Top F5 Bottom C4

## **Maureen Johnson**

A super confident and an unpredictable bisexual performance artist. Needs to be fearless and able to pull out all the stops. Maureen oozes sexuality; provocative, and flirty while also striking, bold, brash, dramatic, and outspoken to the point of narcissism. She and Maureen are lovers.

- **Gender:** Female
- **Stage Age:** 25-35
- **Range:** Mezzo Soprano C4-F5. Belting/Rock vocals

**Any small parts will be cast from within the ensemble: please let us know on the audition form if you're interested in being considered for a small singing role.**

## **ENSEMBLE**

Homeless Men & Women; Junkies, Parents (Mrs. Cohen, Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson); Support Group (Steve, Gordon)

- **Ages 18-60**
- **All ensemble roles are open to all sexualities, genders and ethnicities.**
- **All ensemble members must be able to move and dance easily.**