

RENT

BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY
JONATHAN LARSON

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS
STEVE SKINNER

MUSIC SUPERVISION
ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
TIM WEIL

ORIGINAL CONCEPT
ADDITIONAL LYRICS
BILLY ARONSON

DRAMATURG
LYNN THOMSON

RENT WAS ORIGINALLY PRODUCED IN NEW YORK
BY NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP AND ON BROADWAY
BY JEFFREY SELLER, KEVIN MCCOLLUM, ALLAN S. GORDON
AND NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP

DIRECTED BY **MARIA-TANIA BANDES B. WEINGARDEN**

MUSICALLY DIRECTED BY **SHAWNA AVINGER**

CHOREOGRAPHED BY **ERIC CLAUSELL**



March 8-March 31, 2024

Evening Shows 7:30pm

Matinee Shows 2:00pm

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ASL Performance Sunday, March 31st at 2:00pm

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"We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language."



**Book, Music, and Lyrics by
Jonathan Larson**

**Musical Arrangements
Steve Skinner**

**Original Concept / Additional Lyrics
Billy Aronson**

**Music Supervision and
Additional Arrangements
Tim Weil**

**Dramaturg
Lynn Thomson**

RENT was originally produced in New York by New York Theatre Workshop and on Broadway by Jeffrey Seller, Kevin McCollum, Allan S. Gordon and New York Theatre Workshop

RENT is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
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No texting during the performance.
—Thank you**

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Maria-Tania Bandes B. Weingarden (Director)

Maria-Tania Bandes B. Weingarden is a Scholar, Director, and dramaturg. She is the author of *Echoes of Revolution: Nicaragua*, and most recently has a contribution in The Routledge Companion to Latine Theatre and Performance titled, *Erased or Stereotyped: Latine Bisexual Representation in the American Theatre*. She teaches in the Arts Media and Culture program at the University of Washington Tacoma where currently she is the only full time Theatre faculty; while she works diligently with other Arts faculty on the proposal of a new Interdisciplinary Visual and Performing Arts major. Her directing credits are varied and some of her favorites include *In The Next Room or The Vibrator Play*, *If Then*, *Mojada: a Mexican Medea*, and *Real Women Have Curves*. Most recently she directed *Rock of Ages* on the TLT stage. Some of her recent dramaturgy includes *Anna in the Tropics*, *Baldwin vs. Buckley*, *Water by the Spoonful*, and *In the Time of the Butterflies*. She is also on the board of Tacoma Arts Live and Tacoma Little Theatre where she advocates fiercely for diversifying the voices and stories told. Maria-Tania would like to thank her family for their patience during this process, particularly her wife, Michelle, whose support never wavers.

Shawna Avinger (Musical Director)

Shawna teaches voice and music theory, music directs, and performs around Seattle. She has degrees in Vocal Performance and Music History from UW, and Opera Performance and Pedagogy from the Maryland Opera Studio. Shawna founded the non profit Viva Vocalists in 2009 as a place for her voice students to explore performance and take vocal risks in a safe place. Shawna's teachers include Linda Mabbs, Charlie Riecker, Erich Parce, and Carmen Pelton. She served as voice and theory instructor at Music Center of the NW for eight years and as director of education for The Fisher Ensemble for four years. She is currently the education director for The Esoterics. Favorite operatic roles include the title role in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Nedda in *I Pagliacci*, Countess in *Marriage of Figaro*, Antonia in *Tales of Hoffmann*, Atalanta in *Xerxes*, Michaela in *Carmen*, and Vitellia in *La Clemenza di Tito*. Shawna has premiered roles in 15 new operas, performed the operatic works of Harry Partch, and appeared as a recitalist in Seattle, Santa Fe, Washington DC, Maryland, New York, and Colorado. Voiceover credits include video games, commercials, and film. Shawna has music directed *Les Mis*, *Urinetown*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The End of the Affair*, *Matilda*, *Into the Woods*, *Rent*, *Little Women*, *A Little Night Music*, many Shakespeare plays, and much more!

Eric Clausell (Choreographer)

Eric is thrilled to be a part of this production of *Rent*. Eric has choreographed several TLT productions, including *Seussical*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Scrooge*, and *A Chorus Line* (2020 & 2022), which he also directed. A member of Actors Equity Association, Eric's performed in musicals across the United States and abroad including *Rent* as Tom Collins. Eric dedicates this production to beloved friends and incredible artists lost to AIDS. All gone too soon, but not forgotten. Peace and Blessings. Enjoy the show!

Kay Meier (Stage Manager)

Kay is thrilled to be back at TLT, stage managing such an exciting show. Recent past productions include *The Thanksgiving Play* (FAL), *Rock of Ages* (TLT/UWT), *The Happiest Song Plays Last* (TLT/UWT), and *Next to Normal* (UWT). Kay would like to extend a heartfelt gratitude to family and friends for the the patience and support they have

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

shown through this rehearsal process and to thank the cast for sharing their kindness and talents every day.

Blake R. York (Technical Director/Scenic Designer/Visuals)

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 17 years. Blake serves as TLT's Technical Director, Set Designer, and Graphic Designer for the season posters. Favorite designs in the area include: *Sleuth, Sylvia, Scrooge! The Musical, A Christmas Story, Rabbit Hole, Cabaret* (TLT), *Oliver!, A Funny Thing...., The Lion in Winter* (Lakewood Playhouse), *Tom Sawyer, Pippi Longstocking* (TMP), and *The Tempest* (Olympia Little Theatre). Blake was named Best Director of the TLT production of *The Pillowman* at the 2019 AACT Regional Festival and won Best Scenic Designer in the AACT National Competition. He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, and friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him. In 2022, Blake was recognized as one of the 40 Under 40 by South Sound Business.

Dylan Twiner (Production Manager)

Dylan is glad to be a part of TLT. He grew up listening to old timey radio plays and has loved collaborative story telling ever since. His previous TLT sound credits include *Laura, A Doll's House, Macbeth, Blithe Spirit, Dracula,* and *The Pillowman*. He has also been seen onstage in several productions in the area over the past decade, including with the improvised theatre group Muh Grog Zoo. Thank you for coming to see this show and supporting live theatre.

Morgan Morgans (Costume Designer)

This is Morgan's third show with Tacoma Little Theatre. You may recognize their name from Centerstage's *Sleeping Beauty, A Holiday Panto* or most recently *Spiders Web*. Outside theatre they are also a performer and costumer with Star Wars costume and choreographed lightsaber performance group, Saber Guild Kamino Temple (based in Seattle with chapters around the world). They'd like to thank Dr. B for getting them into theatre with *The Happiest Song Plays Last* while they attended UWT. They hope you enjoy *Rent!*

Frank Roberts (Properties Designer/Lead Carpenter)

Frank is excited to continue at TLT as their Lead Carpenter and Properties Manager. His work with TLT started as a volunteer during the run of *Gypsy* and he enjoys the dynamic work and communal experience that this fine theatre provides. Frank wishes to thank Nate Lovitt, Blake York and Jill Heinecke for all their contributions big and small. Additional thanks to his friends, family, Jill, and all who support local theatre. Frank would like to extend a special thanks to D Haberdashery for the generous loan of several props for this production of *Rent*.

Michelle Weingarden-Bandes (Lighting Designer)

Michelle is thrilled to be designing for TLT again. A few of her most notable lighting designs include *The Grapes of Wrath, Hair, The Producers,* and *Seussical* all produced in California. Here in Washington, some of Michelle's favorite projects have been *The Hatmaker's Wife* (Centerstage Theatre), *God Said This* (Dukesbay Theatre) and here at TLT, *The Happiest Song Plays Last, Rock of Ages* and *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Michelle is no stranger to the world of theatre as she also designs sound and sets, she is a vocal

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

director and even shows up occasionally on stage to feed the acting/singing bug. When Michelle is not lighting up our local stages, you will find her at Pierce College in Puyallup teaching up and coming nursing students as they work towards their nursing degrees. Michelle would like to thank her family for letting her be gone so many nights, and her beautiful wife for, not only trusting me with this project, but being more supportive than she could have asked for.

Chandler Garry (Sound Designer and Board Operator)

Chandler excitedly brings his skills as a sound designer and soundboard operator to his 10th show at Tacoma Little Theatre. Some of his most recent theatrical works include, *The Murder on the Orient Express*, *A Christmas Story*, *The Shawsbank Redemption*, and *The Play That Goes Wrong*. In 2023, the Heilman and Haver Theatre Awards nominated and awarded Chandler Best Sound Design in a Play, for his sound design of *Significant Other*, directed by Chris Serface. Chandler would like to thank his family for their support of his theatrical endeavors, as he looks forward to his next 10 shows at TLT!

Jen York (Scenic Artist)

Jen has been a part of the local theatre community for over 15 years, serving as director, scenic artist, actor, stage manager, prop master, and youth educator for many of the area's theatres. Her most recent directorial credits include: *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Seussical*, *The Underpants*, and *A Christmas Story* at Tacoma Little Theatre and *Inspecting Carol*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, and *Narnia* at the Lakewood Playhouse. She would like to offer love and thanks to her family and friends for their unwavering support of all of her theatrical endeavors- both well planned and hare-brained. -xoxo

Madison Bleiler (Hair and Wig Consultant)

This is Madison's second show with TLT and first show doing hair and makeup design. She is so honored to be able to bring her passion for hair design on stage and work with the wonderful community that is TLT. Madison has done hair behind the chair in the Seattle/Tacoma area for seven years. She wants to thank her husband for all his love and support on and off the stage

Noelle McEwen (Assistant Stage Manager)

RENT is Noelle's first show at TLT, she is a senior in high school and a full time running start student. She has previously stage managed for CSH and will stage manage for *Clue* later this year. She had an amazing time with the cast and loved this production. She wants to thank her friends and family for seeing the show and her girlfriend Kaelynn for always being there for her.

Trevor Owens (Assistant Stage Manager)

This is Trevor's second show at TLT and first as an Assistant Stage Manager. He has in many shows including his most recent appearance at Dukesbay Productions as Percy Buck in *Andelana*. Trevor is in his third year at the UW Tacoma studying business, but loves getting involved in the theatre program. He would like to thank his loving parents, family, and everyone supporting him along the way. He would also like to send a special thank you to his favorite professor and director, Dr. Maria-Tania, for giving him the opportunity to learn and grow as an actor and leader.

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directed by Melanie Gladstone

*A father with Alzheimer's Disease
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Can his daughters help his journey be a gentle one?*

March 22 - April 7, 2024

The Dukesbay Theater

508 6th Ave. #10 Tacoma, WA 98402
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Tickets \$15 - [DukesbayTakingLeave.bpt.me](https://dukesbaytakingleave.bpt.me)

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UWT Theatre lives within the division of Culture, Arts and Communication (CAC) at the University of Washington Tacoma. In the division of CAC, the coursework is interdisciplinary and rooted in culture, examining both historical contexts and the changing world we live in. The division of CAC contains several majors including Communication, Spanish Language and Culture, Writing Studies, and Arts, Media and Culture. Theatre is part of the **Arts Media and Culture** major (AMC).

AMC focuses on how the fields of art and media operate within culture and how they transform it. An Arts, Media and Culture degree prepares students for a range of careers including publishing, the arts, media, museum work, public relations and public history. It is also appropriate for students pursuing broad cultural literacy, as well as for those planning to continue their education in advanced study in performing and visual arts or the humanities. AMC has several tracks including Literature, American Studies, Film and Media, Comparative Arts, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Theatre, within the Visual and Performing Arts track, is an emerging program that has seen significant growth in the past several years, despite the pandemic. Students are eager for more opportunities to perform and to further their technical theatre skills.

UWT Theatre is committed to socially relevant work that engages the community. Its mission includes educating students by producing work from communities often silenced and telling the stories that rarely get told.

UWT theatre's community partners are essential to its success. The Program often partners with outside organizations for access to performance space as well as has members of the community, both individual and organizations, engage with students by not only participating with the actors and technical students in productions, but also by serving as mentors.

UWT Theatre would like to acknowledge TLT and their effort to serve the Tacoma community, including providing a space where UWT students were able to learn, dream, and create.

OUR WONDERFUL UW TACOMA THEATRE STUDENTS

<u>Student</u>	<u>Year</u>
Finn Henwood	First Year
Lizzie Mclam	Senior
Alexandria Melville	Junior
Leah Munoz	Junior
Trevor Owens	Junior
Sc Pearce	Junior
Jada Noelle Williams	Sophomore
Katy Jones	Senior

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

<i>Tune Up A</i>	Mark & Roger
<i>Voice Mail #1</i>	Mark's Mother
<i>Tune Up B</i>	Mark, Roger, Collins & Benny
<i>Rent</i>	Company
<i>Christmas Bells</i>	Homeless
<i>You Okay, Honey</i>	Angel & Collins
<i>One Song Glory</i>	Roger
<i>Light My Candle</i>	Mimi & Roger
<i>Voice Mail #2</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson
<i>Today For You</i>	Collins, Mark, Roger & Angel
<i>You'll See</i>	Benny, Mark, Roger, Collins & Angel
<i>Tango Maureen</i>	Mark & Joanne
<i>Support Group</i>	Company
<i>Out Tonight</i>	Mimi
<i>Another Day</i>	Mimi, Roger & Company
<i>Will I</i>	Company
<i>On The Street</i>	Company
<i>Santa Fe</i>	Collins, Angel & Mark
<i>I'll Cover You</i>	Angel & Collins
<i>We're Okay</i>	Joanne
<i>Over The Moon</i>	Maureen
<i>La Vie Bohème/I Should Tell You</i>	Company

ACT TWO

<i>Seasons of Love</i>	Stacie with Company
<i>Happy New Year</i>	Roger, Mark, Mimi, Collins, Angel, Maureen, Joanne & Benny
<i>Voice Mail #3</i>	Mark's Mother
<i>Voice Mail #4</i>	Alexi Darling
<i>Take Me or Leave Me</i>	Maureen & Joanne
<i>Without You</i>	Roger & Mimi
<i>Voice Mail #5</i>	Alexi Darling
<i>Contact</i>	Company
<i>I'll Cover You (Reprise)</i>	Collins with Company
<i>Halloween</i>	Mark
<i>Goodbye Love</i>	Mark, Roger, Mimi, Collins, Maureen, Joanne & Benny
<i>What You Own</i>	Roger & Mark
<i>Voice Mail #6</i>	Roger's Mother, Mimi's Mother, Mark's Mother & Mr. Jefferson
<i>Your Eyes</i>	Roger
<i>Finale</i>	Company

THE RENT BAND

Conductor.....	Shawna Avinger
Keyboard.....	Will Sanders
Guitar.....	Cam Schneider
Bass.....	Peter Vosshall
Drums.....	Scot Sexton

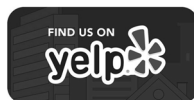
CAST LIST

Roger Davis.....	Terence Mejos
Mark Cohen	Zack Fowler
Tom Collins	Darryin B. Cunningham
Benjamin Coffin III	Nick Ono
Joanne Jefferson	Allison Fortenberry
Angel Dumott Schunard	Erik Davis
Mimi Marquez.....	Alison Rucker
Maureen Johnson	Em Castle
Ensemble.....	Jada Bayhon
Ensemble.....	Araquin Boome
Ensemble.....	Camren Bleiler
Ensemble.....	Christine Choate
Ensemble.....	Kiley Dollymore
Ensemble.....	Christine Dove
Ensemble.....	Finn Henwood
Ensemble.....	Katy Jones
Ensemble.....	Kyle Laird
Ensemble.....	Kyle Murphy
Ensemble.....	Eric Strachan

Act One: 1 hour, 20 minutes

15-minute intermission

Act Two: 58 minutes



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CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Jada Bayhon (Ensemble)

Jada is ecstatic to be making her Tacoma Little Theatre debut. Although she hasn't been in a production since high school, she loves musical theatre and decided to jump back into the theatre world after having her daughter. Jada hopes to inspire her daughter to never give up on her passions no matter how old or how long it has been.



Camren Bleiler (Ensemble)

RENT is the second TLT musical Camren has had the pleasure to be a part of; 2023's *Rock of Ages* being the first. He finds theatre to be a limitless escape from the mundanity of everyday life. Theatre and birdwatching. And his wife. Thank you for your time.



Araquin Boome (Ensemble)

Araquin is absolutely thrilled to be performing in his first show on the TLT stage! You may have seen him in a few shows around Tacoma such as *Cabaret*, *Kinky Boots*, and *Cats* (TMP). He would like to thank his cat (and y'know... his family) for staying by his side throughout this whole process!



Em Castle (Maureen Johnson)

Em recently moved to Tacoma after graduating from WWU last winter with a degree in music education. Their recent credits include Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*. They are so excited to be making their TLT debut.



Christine Choate (Ensemble)

Christine is elated to make her Tacoma Little Theatre debut with this outstanding cast. Recent stage credits include *Andelana* (Christina) and *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* (Elizabeth) with Dukesbay Productions as well as *Head Over Heels* (Mopsa) with Lakewood Playhouse. When she isn't on stage or helping behind the scenes, she can be found crocheting, reading, and doting on her cat. Christine extends her immeasurable gratitude to her fiancé, to her mom, and especially to the audience for supporting local theatre.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Darryin B. Cunningham (Tom Collins)

Darryin is excited to make his TLT debut! He has a BA in Acting and Directing and a minor in English writing. Some past credits include, TonTon in *Once on This Island* (TMP), Coalhouse in *Ragtime* (LPH) and Troy Maxson in *Fences* (PLU). Darryin would like to thank TLT for giving him the honor of portraying Thomas B. Collins. He would like to dedicate his performance to anyone who has loved and anyone who has lost.



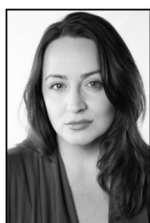
Erik Davis (Angel Dumott Schunard)

This is Erik's third show at TLT. Their previous shows here were *The Wizard of Oz* in the ensemble and *A Little Night Music* as one of the Liebeslieder singers. Recently they were last seen in *Head Over Heels* at Lakewood Playhouse as Musidorus/Cleophila. They would like to thank their family and partner for their endless and constant support and the people who come out to support the arts and theatre.



Kiley Dollymore (Ensemble)

Kiley is thrilled to be making her Tacoma Little Theatre debut! She has been involved in musical theatre for many years, but this is the first show she's been a part of since the COVID-19 pandemic. She is looking forward to future productions.



Christine Dove (Ensemble)

Christine is excited to return to the TLT stage! Recent credits include ensemble in TLT's *Rock Of Ages*, Desiree in *A Little Night Music*, and Marmee in *Little Women* with Viva Vocalists. She has been a member of the Seattle-based contemporary choral ensemble, The Esoterics, for fourteen years, and currently serves as President of the Board. Christine holds a vocal performance degree from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, WA.



Allison Fortenberry (Joanne Jefferson)

Allison is ecstatic to make her Tacoma Little Theatre debut in *RENT*! Other recent credits include Jo March in *Little Women*, the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, Petra in *A Little Night Music*, Little Sally in *Urinetown*, and Olive's Mom in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Allison has also performed as a featured soloist with The Esoterics and Rainbow City Performing Arts. When Allison is not acting and singing, she works in drug development for Huntington's Disease.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Zack Fowler (Mark Cohen)

Zack is honored to make his Washington state theatrical debut with TLT and UW Tacoma. Originally from North Carolina, Zack has been both on the stage and behind it as a Director, Technical Director, and Actor. Favorite past credits include St. Jimmy in *American Idiot*, Georg in *Spring Awakening*, and Sam Byck in *Assassins*. He would like to thank his incredible partner of 12 years, Madelaine, whom he did meet in their high school theatre class.



Finn Henwood (Ensemble)

RENT will be Finn's (they/them) first performance at Tacoma Little Theatre. Finn moved to Tacoma in the fall as a first year college student at UWT pursuing a degree in Psychology. They've been in theatre for most of their life and are so grateful for this opportunity. They would like to thank the cast for welcoming them with open arms and the stage managers for all the work they do. They hope to see some friends and family in the audience!



Katy Jones (Ensemble)

This is Katy's fourth show with Tacoma Little Theatre and she is thrilled to be a part of *RENT*! You could have last seen her as Clarice in TLT's production of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. She is in her senior year as an acting student at University of Washington Tacoma. She would like to thank her family for all of their support.



Kyle Laird (Ensemble)

Kyle is so excited to be making his TLT debut. Previous credits include: TMP's *Cabaret*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *In the Heights*. Kyle also sings tenor with Symphony Tacoma. Off of the stage, Kyle works for a local non-profit organization. He is so grateful to share his love for the arts, God given gifts, and for the support of his amazing partner, family, and friends. @kaiuh18



Kyle Murphy (Ensemble)

Kyle Murphy is an Olympia based actor, singer, and producer. Favorite roles include The Old Man in *Hairspray*, JD's old man in *Heathers*, and Michelangelo the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle in an *Improbable Peck of Plays*. Kyle co-founded Oly Theater, a black box theater in the Capital Mall in Olympia. Thank you Danielle. Music is everything!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Terence Mejos (Roger Davis)

Terence is a Seattle based singer whose performances span from classical to contemporary genres. Mejos studied vocal performance at WWU. He later moved to Seattle and has had the privilege to work for companies, including Tacoma Opera and Vashon Opera in their productions' chorus, and with local theatres including T.U.P.A.C. and the Tacoma Revels. *RENT* will mark his return to TLT after his 2022 debut as Elliot in *The Happiest Song Plays Last*.



Nick Ono (Benjamin Coffin III)

Nick (he/him) is a California native and this production marks his TLT and Washington debut. Credits include: *The Light in the Piazza* (Fabrizio), *Newsies* (Jack Kelly), *Bonnie and Clyde* (Clyde), *In the Heights* (Usnavi), *Parade* (Leo Frank), *The Last Five Years* (Jamie), *Cinderella* (Jean Michel), *West Side Story* (Bernardo), *A Chorus Line* (Paul), Mary Poppins (Bert), *Bright Star* (Billy), *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo) and *The Crucible* (John Proctor). Love to Tania, Michelle and the entire TLT and UWT crew for making this possible.



Alison Rucker (Mimi Marquez)

Alison is a fourth year Musical Theatre Major, Dance Minor at Pacific Lutheran University. Alison's credits include Rumbleteazer in *Cats* (TMP), Choreographer for Dance 2023 (PLU), and Leading Player in *Pippin* (PLU). Alison is so thankful the TLT and UW Tacoma community welcomed her with open arms. She wants to thank her family, her partner Logan, and her friends for always supporting her.



Eric Strachan (Ensemble)

This is Eric's fourth production with the amazing team at TLT. But *RENT* definitely hits different. For nearly 20 years, Eric provided psychological care to people living with HIV/AIDS at Harborview Hospital's Madison Clinic and his research team was the first to show that fear of disclosing HIV status is a chronic stressor that negatively impacts immune system functioning—a double whammy if there ever was one. Huge thanks to M-T, Shawna, and Eric for this opportunity and love to Jenny, Oliver, and Elliott!

Immediately following the performances on Sunday, March 10th and Saturday, March 23rd, TLT will host a talkback moderated by Russell Campbell, the director of HANC (HIV/AIDS Network Coordination) based at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. These talkbacks are open to the entire community.

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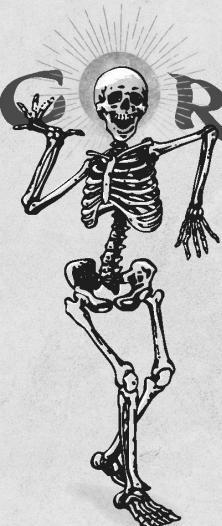


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