

Elmira City School District



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MEDIA ALERT

March 20, 2019

Elmira City School District

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Elmira NY, March 20, 2019- The Footlighters of Elmira High School will present the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning musical RENT in the Jerome R. O'Dell Theater at Elmira High School on March 22 & 23 at 7pm. Directed by Jessica LiBrizzi and Rick Pirozzolo, the production involves over two dozen student performers and scores of other student and adult volunteers.



One of the longest-running shows in Broadway history, RENT is a rock musical based on Giacomo Puccini's opera La Boheme. It tells the story of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create art in New York City's Lower East Side in the thriving days of the Bohemian Alphabet City, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"It's a challenging and controversial musical that really means a great deal to EHS students," said Pirozzolo. Jessica LiBrizzi has worked diligently to create both a moving onstage narrative and a true educational experience for all involved."

LiBrizzi arranged learning sessions throughout the three-month rehearsal process, engaging human service organizations in evening-long presentations for the musical's Company to discuss the topics addressed in the script. Representatives visited rehearsals for evening-long education seminars, sharing their experiences and resources, answering questions, hearing concerns and supporting students.

She added, "RENT brings so many important topics relevant to students' lives. I'm proud of the story we are presenting onstage and pleased at the impact our team has made offstage as well."

The same partner organizations will be available for audiences, presenting information in the theater lobby before and after performances.

Members of the Company also chose to create awareness ribbons as a way to make statements of support for causes that are meaningful to them and to their characters. They will offer ribbons for sale in the lobby, raising money for AIDS awareness, LGBTQ+ issues, addiction education and addressing the homelessness crisis.

Proceeds will be donated to the Human Rights Campaign.

Jessica LiBrizzi adds, "The story is incredibly touching and the music is amazing. This production is the whole package!

Tickets for RENT are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, and are available online at www.showtix4u/events/16312 or by phone at 607.735.3288. Please note that this show includes mature subject matter and may not be suitable for younger viewers.

ABOUT THE ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Elmira City School District is a dynamic and innovative learning organization dedicated to developing learners of character who value their educational experience and can compete globally and contribute locally by collaborating with students, families, and community partners to provide meaningful opportunities in a safe and engaging environment for all.

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