**Set in the East Village of New York City, Rent School Edition is about falling in love, finding your voice and living for today. Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, it has become a pop cultural phenomenon with songs that rock and a story that resonates with audiences of all ages.**

**Based loosely on Puccini's La Boheme, Rent School Edition follows a year in the life of a group of impoverished young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. The physical and emotional complications of the disease pervade the lives of Roger, Mimi, Tom and Angel. Maureen deals with her chronic infidelity through performance art; her partner, Joanne, wonders if their relationship is worth the trouble. Benny has sold out his Bohemian ideals in exchange for a hefty income and is on the outs with his former friends. Mark, an aspiring filmmaker, feels like an outsider to life in general. How these young bohemians negotiate their dreams, loves and conflicts provides the narrative thread to this groundbreaking musical.**

**Character Breakdown**

**Mark Cohen**

**Filmmaker and video artist. Knee deep in his own soul-searching, Mark is the typical young artist. He and Roger are roommates in the loft. A bit of a nerd.**

**Gender: male**

**Age: 20 to 30**

**Vocal range top: G#4**

**Vocal range bottom: C3**

**Roger Davis**

**A struggling musician and former drug addict. He is reminiscent of Kurt Cobain. Roommates with Mark in the loft and battles with being HIV-positive.**

**Gender: male**

**Age: 20 to 25**

**Vocal range top: A4**

**Vocal range bottom: F#2**

**Tom Collins**

**A computer genius and liberal professor. He is a nurturer with a smooth and relaxed disposition. Used to be a roommate in the loft and is HIV-positive.**

**Gender: male**

**Age: 25 to 35**

**Vocal range top: A4**

**Vocal range bottom: F#2**

**Benjamin Coffin Iii**

**The landlord of Mark and Roger's apartment building. A former roommate in the loft, Benny traded in his personal morals for power and wealth.**

**Gender: male**

**Age: 25 to 35**

**Vocal range top: F#4**

**Vocal range bottom: D3**

**Joanne Jefferson**

**A public interest lawyer and headstrong lesbian. She is smart and purposeful in all her decisions. Carries on a tumultuous relationship with Maureen.**

**Gender: female**

**Age: 25 to 40**

**Vocal range top: E5**

**Vocal range bottom: G3**

**Angel Dumott Schunard**

**The eccentric HIV-positive street drummer. A drag queen with an incredible gift of dance and a magnetic personality. He becomes Tom's lover.**

**Gender: male**

**Age: 20 to 30**

**Vocal range top: D5**

**Vocal range bottom: C3**

**Mimi Marquez**

**An HIV-positive stripper with drug addictions. Slender and sickly, she conceals it all at her job in the local strip club. She lives in the same building as the loft.**

**Gender: female**

**Age: 18 to 21**

**Vocal range top: E5**

**Vocal range bottom: F#3**

**Maureen Johnson**

**An unpredictably zany performance artist. Maureen oozes sexuality and used to live in the loft. She has recently dumped Mark for Joanne.**

**Gender: female**

**Age: 20 to 25**

**Vocal range top: F5**

**Vocal range bottom: G3**

**Ensemble: Cops; Vendors; Support Group (Paul, Steve, Gordon, Pam, Ali, Sue); Homeless People (Squeegieman, Blanket Person); Junkies; Parents (Mrs. Cohen, Mr. And Mrs. Jefferson, Roger's Mom, Mimi's Mother); "Leap Of Faith" Backups; Bohemians**