



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRON CROW THEATRE MAKES HISTORY: RENT EXTENDS RUN DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND! TRANSFERS TO THE NEW M&T BANK EXCHANGE AT THE FRANCE MERRICK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, HOME OF THE HIPPODROME!

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Monday, February 5, 2024: Iron Crow Theatre announced over the weekend an extension of their sold-out, critically acclaimed, and award-winning production of *RENT* due to overwhelming popular demand. This triumphant production, daringly re-envisioned, and having received rave reviews, is not just breaking records; it's making history with a historic transfer to the newly renovated M&T Bank Exchange at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center - home of the Hippodrome. *RENT* is the first theatrical event slated for the newly renovated state-of-the-art space, marking a historic first for the venue, and a monumental milestone for both Iron Crow Theatre and the city of Baltimore.

After bringing audiences to their feet night after night, *RENT* continues to solidify its status as a cultural phenomenon. The acclaimed production, which has been a sensation at Baltimore Theatre Project will now run at the new M&T Bank Exchange for 5 more performances from February 16 - 18, 2024.

"We could not be more honored to partner with the Exchange and become the first theatre company to perform in this gorgeous, historic space," said Dr. Natka Bianchini, Managing Director of Iron Crow Theatre. "At its best, live theatre is a radical act of community and a gift to the audience. This special production deserves to be seen by the biggest audience possible; its success is a testament to the reservoir of talent we have right here in Charm City. This is a win for Iron Crow Theatre, but more importantly, it is a win for small professional theatre in Baltimore."

"This historic transfer stands as a testament to Iron Crow Theatre's commitment to artistic excellence," said Artistic Director, Sean Elias. "*RENT* is more than just a production; it's a tribute to the power of passion, creativity, and the enduring tenacity of small arts organizations here in Baltimore. We are honored to be the pioneers at the new M&T Bank Exchange, and are so grateful for the dedication of our talented cast and crew who are the ones making this Cinderella story come true!"

Ron Legler, a member of Iron Crow Theatre's Community Advisory Board and the President of the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, home of the M&T Bank Exchange and Hippodrome Theatre said, "We congratulate Iron Crow Theatre on their hit production of *RENT* and are thrilled for their transfer to the Exchange!"

"This is an exciting time for the M&T Bank Exchange as we welcome our first theatrical production. This is an important step in fulfilling our mission to support the Maryland arts community and provide space for companies like Iron Crow Theatre to flourish right here in Baltimore", said Andrew Springer, Executive Director of the M&T Bank Exchange.

"We are so grateful to the people who worked so quickly and thoughtfully to make this wonderful opportunity possible, especially our staff here at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center", said Chris Mahan, Vice President. "We hope that this is the first of many theatre events in the Exchange."

Iron Crow Board of Directors President Jessica Lanzillotti echoed these comments, "I'm really proud of the hard work and dedication that our company has put into this production, on stage and off. It is fulfilling to see this work recognized by being the inaugural production at the new M&T Bank Exchange."

Don't miss your chance to be part of the excitement – *RENT* at the new M&T Bank Exchange is more than just a show; it's a Baltimore cultural event that promises to leave an indelible mark on the city's theatrical landscape.

CAST

Featuring **Nicholas Miles**⁺ as Angel Dumott Schunard.

Carter Crosby as Roger, **Natalia Fyfe** as Mimi, **Jeremy Allen Crawford** as Mark, **Terrell Chambers** as Collins, **Rachel Cahoon** as Maureen, **Breanne Sensenig** as Joanne, **Anwar Thomas** as Benny, and ensemble members **Landon Black**, **Jessica Ramon**, **Sam Slottow**, **Tyler White**, and **Teddy Wright**.

CREATIVE TEAM

Book, Music, and Lyrics by **Jonathan Larson**. Directed by **Sean Elias**^{* +}. Assistant direction and choreography by **Quae Simpson**^{* +}. Musical direction by **Rachel Sandler** with intimacy direction and Safer Spaces training provided by **Shawna Potter**⁺. Stage management provided by **Monique Chambers-Sledjeski** with assistant stage management by Emily Coccovizzo. Set design by **Thomas Jenkeleit** with technical direction by **Bruce Kapplin**⁺ and **Jericho Stage**, lighting design by **Thomas P. Gardner**⁺, costume design by **Camille Lerner**, assistant costume design by **April Forrer**, and audio engineering by **JJ Nichols**.

BAND

Conductor/Keys 1: **Catina McLagan**, Guitar 1: **Nick Jewett**, Guitar 2/Keys 2: **Jamie Williams**, Bass: **Nate Royer**, Drums: **Jack Naden**, **Brett Schatz**.

* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association, the professional union for actors and stage managers in the United States. // + Denotes Iron Crow Theatre Resident Artist.

PERFORMANCES & TICKETS

Tickets are available for purchase online at www.ironcrowtheatre.org/rent. All performances take place at the M&T Bank Exchange at the France Merrick Performing Arts Center, 401 W. Fayette St., Baltimore MD 21201

Friday, February 16

8:00 PM opening performance of *RENT*

Saturday, February 17

2:00 PM performance of *RENT*

8:00 PM performance of *RENT*

Sunday, February 18

1:00 PM performance of *RENT*

6:30 PM closing performance of *RENT*

INDIVIDUAL TICKET PRICES FOR *RENT*

Tickets are available for purchase online at www.ironcrowtheatre.org/rent.

VIP Floor Seats: \$65

Enjoy unobstructed views of the breathtaking stage, and savor a truly VIP experience at the heart of the theatrical magic.

Orchestra: \$50

A front-and-center, pitch-perfect experience.

Mezzanine: Standing Room: \$35

Elevate your experience with our Mezzanine Standing Room tickets, placing you above the action at a great vantage point with access to your own private bar.

A lottery ticket system will be implemented for all performances. Lottery winners receive best available seating at \$25 per ticket for that day's performance. More information can be found at www.ironcrowtheatre.org/rent.

Any individual with difficulty attending a production at the ticket prices set are encouraged to reach out to the theatre directly at boxoffice@ironcrowtheatre.org as additional discounts and sponsorship opportunities may be available.

Iron Crow Theatre is a proud member of the Playwrights Welcome program providing free tickets to members of the professional dramatists union, the Dramatists Guild of America.

IRON CROW THEATRE is Baltimore's award-winning professional queer theatre and produces queer theatre for a queer city, celebrating the renegade and the unorthodox in all of us.

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Natka Bianchini, Ph.D., Managing Director

IRON CROW THEATRE

Baltimore's Award-Winning Professional Queer Theatre

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