



STARRING BUFFALO

*Unforgettable performances by Broadway stars,
Unique educational opportunities for Buffalo students!*

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Starring Buffalo's RENT In Concert Plays May 9th at Shea's Buffalo Theatre

**Ben Jackson Walker, Alyssa Wray and Kennedy Kanagawa Lead
Starring Buffalo's RENT**

Casting has been announced and tickets are on sale for **Starring Buffalo's RENT In Concert, May 9th, 2026** at the historic Shea's Buffalo Theater in downtown Buffalo, NY. The show will feature a principal cast of Broadway and Buffalo's best, alongside the Starring Buffalo community chorus.

Leading the cast are Drama Desk Award-Nominee Kennedy Kanagawa (Into the Woods) as Mark, Broadway's Ben Jackson Walker (& Juliet) as Roger, and American Idol's Alyssa Wray as Mimi. Joining them are Buffalo stars George L. Brown (Once On This Island – Tour), Jake Hayes, Alexandra McArthur, Kayla McSorley (NCL's Six), Blaise Mercedes, Jennifer Mysliwy, Joe Russi, and Josh Wilde.

Nearly 300 people auditioned, and 130 Western New Yorkers have been selected for the Starring Buffalo Community Chorus. They will be joined by professional and local student dancers.

RENT, the pop culture phenomenon about falling in love, finding your voice and living for today, will be performed in Starring Buffalo's signature staged concert format. Direction is by Drew Fornarola, with music direction by Karen Saxon, choreography by Chanon Judson, and stage management by Ally Hasselback. Emily Glick and Michael Russo are line producers.

"We are overwhelmed by the community interest in performing RENT at Shea's," said Starring Buffalo Artistic Director Drew Fornarola. "The talent in our community is incredible, and we are excited to be able to feature so many incredible singers from so many different walks of life alongside Broadway's best in Buffalo's greatest theater."

Tickets begin at just \$35 and are available at Shea's Box Office at 650 Main Street in Buffalo or online at: www.sheas.org/performances/starring-buffalo-rent-in-concert. For additional information visit StarringBuffalo.org.

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More about Starring Buffalo:

STARRING BUFFALO offers Buffalo audiences unrivaled access to the world's greatest theater artists, while providing Western New York students the chance to learn from, work alongside, and be inspired in both master class and concert environments. Recent guest artists have included Tony Award Winner Matt Doyle (Company), Tony Award Nominee Josh Young (Jesus Christ Superstar), Tony Award Nominee Sidney DuPont (Paradise Square), American Idol's Alyssa Wray, Emily Koch (Waitress), Lindsey Nicole Chambers (Kinky Boots), and many more.

Graphic: [Starring Buffalo rent cast .PNG](#)