

**Michael Blackburn** (Tom Collins) is thrilled to be performing the role of Collins in MPC's cast of RENT. He was last seen in Pacific Repertory's production of The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Michael is a musician as well, and spends much of his time musically directing, especially children's musical theatre.

**Warwick Cruz** (Ensemble) is a versatile performer whose artistic career started very early with playing drums and up until recently was in a local rock band. He has also trained in many dances, including jazz, ballet, tap, and ballroom competitions. He has performed in many productions with The Western Stage that include On The Town, Kiss Me Kate, Anything Goes, how to Success in Business Without Really Trying, The Waiting Room, and many more. He is thrilled to be making his debut with the MPC Theatre Company in Rent. Love and Thanks always to his family and friends for their continued support.

**Camila de la Llata** (Mimi Marquez) is 20 years old and going into her third year at Cal State, Fullerton. She has grown up doing theater in the area. She was part of PacRep's High School Musical team, performing as Taylor during its three year marathon. This is her third show at MPC. Camila was in Guys and Dolls (Hot Box Dancer/Havanna Dancer) and the Producers (Showgirl). She is very excited to be playing one of her dream roles in RENT and being reunited on stage with some of her oldest friends. This has been such a wonderful cast to work with, and she is so excited to be a part of this production. No Day But Today.

**Beth Elderkin** (Maureen Johnson) is relatively new to the MPC Theatre Community, but has many years of experience in music, theater, and dance. She is perhaps best known as the lead singer, guitarist, and lyricist for her all-sister rock band Third Eclipse. She was also a founding member of the Santa Cruz improv troupe Room for Improvement, and has performed in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Hans Christian Anderson's The Little Mermaid, The Fan, and several short works. She wrote and directed Next on Croc's Tame Adventures for MPC's Festival of Shorts in 2005, and has choreographed and performed dances for Cabrillo College, MPC and Hartnell College. She will be attending San Diego State University this Fall to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Journalism with a focus in wine and food writing.

**Ayla Glim** (Ensemble) is so thankful for the opportunity to be in this phenomenal, amazing, and awe-inspiring show. She has loved every aspect of performing that she has encountered, from jazz dance to marching band, drama class to powerhouse musicals. Recent shows include Beauty and the Beast and The Wizard of Oz at the outdoor Forest Theatre. She was last seen as Martha Cox in High School Musical 2 at the Pacific Repertory Theatre in Carmel. She sends her love out to her parents, lovely friends, and wonderful boyfriend for tolerating the incessant singing and supporting her every move.

**Natalie Hall** (Joanne Jefferson) received her BFA in Drama from NYU's Experimental theater wing in the Tisch School of the Arts, and a Certificate in Shakespeare from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. Before college, she spent a lot of time playing men at Santa Catalina High School, the most exciting of which was Fagin in Oliver!. Favorite roles include Joan in Melancholy Play, Jess (Natalie) in The Complete Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (abridged), Evilline in The Wiz, and Bertram in All's Well That Ends Well (playing a man again, but this time not in high school). Natalie is thrilled to be Joanne in RENT, and thanks Gary for welcoming her to the MPC community. She intends to pursue a graduate degree in Arts Administration.

**Nick Kelley** (Ensemble) joined the MPC family last year with The Producers. While having dabbled in all spectrs of the stage, orchestra, set building, tech, swordfight choreography, puppeteering (and even a brief stint as at directing), his acting roles are almost exclusively in musicals. His favorite role so far has been the Cowardly Lion in The Wizard of Oz. After Rent, there are only 3 more musicals on the "bucket list"; Chicago (Amos), Reefer Madness (Ralph), and Little Shop of Horrors (Audrey II). Fingers Crossed!

**Tara Marie Lucido** (Ensemble) most recently starred as the quiet, promiscuous Billie Joe in the remake of the 1974 motion picture *Buster and Billie*. Notable as one of the earliest mainstream teenage angst movies to have male frontal nudity and notable now as one of 8 films shot with the revolutionary Canon 5D Mark II. Latest regional credits with Pacific Repertory Theatre – The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Marcy Park), PRT's Hyperion play project *Curtain Call* (Gwen), and the *Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy). Favorite shows at MPC include *Company* (April), *Kiss me Kate* (Lois Lane), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *Noises Off* (Poppy), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Sally), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Columbia), and *Grease* (Jan).

**Kenneth Allen Neely** (Roger Davis) is delighted to be joining the MPC Theatre Company's production of *RENT*. A resident of LA, though born and raised on the Monterey Peninsula, Kenneth would like to thank the cast and crew, particularly Gary, Don, Susan, Ana, Shannon and Gloria for all their hard work to make this production the success that it is.

**Daniel Joseph Renfer** (Mark Cohen) got his start in musical theater as a child with Ariel Theatrical in Salinas. He has also worked with Pacific Repertory Theater and El Teatro Campesino on projects such as *Zoot Suit* and Disney's *High School Musical 1 & 2*. Daniel is transferring to MPC this fall to pursue his degree in Kinesiology with the intent of attending a postgraduate program to become a Physician Assistant. Daniel is very excited to be making his MPC Theater debut in *RENT* as Mark, a character he has always had great interest in playing.

**Tomás Reyes** (Ensemble) is very happy to be a part of this amazing cast of MPC's production of *RENT*. This is his first time performing with the MPC Theater group and hopefully not his last. Tomás has also worked with theater groups such as Pacific Repertory Theater, and the Western Stage. Some of his favorite roles so far have been Pedro (*Man of la Mancha*), Sidney (*American Clock*), and Steve in the support group for *RENT*. Tomás, aside from theater, also likes playing music, long walks on the beach, big squeezes, and film. Tomás would like to thank his friends and family for their support and wishes everyone to enjoy the SHOW!!!

**Erin Rae Shields** (Ensemble) discovered a deep and strange love for the theatre at a very young age. She has since taken many classes both in high school and at MPC to hone her skills. She is aiming toward an Associates' Degree in Acting. Her theatre credits include appearing as B.J. in *The Late Great Me* at the Paper Wing Theatre Company, and as Roxanne in *Rumplestiltskin* at MPC's Storybook Theater. She is absolutely thrilled to be a part of one of her favorite shows, *RENT*, and could not ask for a better family of castmates with whom to share the experience.

**Reina Cruz Vazquez** (Ensemble) is thrilled to make her MPC debut with this amazing show! Credits include: *Cabaret* (Iulu), *Anything Goes* (Bonnie LaTour), *The Heart's Desire* (Rosie) at The Western Stage in Salinas. Reina is blessed to have the continued support of her family and friends, and is so grateful for the opportunity to perform such a powerful piece of theater with such a fantastic group of individuals.

**Tyler Vocolka** *Benjamin Coffin III* - Tyler attended Children's Experimental Theater at the Indoor Forest Theater for 3 years prior to writing and directing the first student-run show ever produced at North Monterey County High School, where he became president of the Drama club his senior year. Earlier this year, he appeared in *ANYTHING GOES* at MPC, where he is currently pursuing 3 Associates Degrees in Acting, Directing, and Technical Theater.

**Corinne Walker** (Ensemble) appeared in last year's performance of "The Producers" as a dancer/ensemble member. *RENT* is her second show at MPC. Corinne is currently attending CSU Northridge, where she is working toward her Bachelor's Degree in Journalism with a minor in Theater.

Some of her previous credits include; *My Fair Lady*, *Evita*, and *Grease*. Corinne is so happy to be able to be home for the summer, and to be a part of this brilliant cast. Being somewhat of a "Renthead," this has been an experience that she will cherish always. "Forget regret, or life is yours to miss... No Day But Today!"

**Gary Bolen** (Director) Mr. Bolen joined the MPC faculty in Fall of 1999, and is now one of the Co-Chairmen of the Department. Previously he had been a Theatre instructor at College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita beginning in 1990, and served as that department's coordinator from 1994-98. He received his B.A. and M.A. in Theatre from Cal State University Fullerton and an M.F.A. in Acting from UCLA where he was the winner of the Jack Nicholson Graduate Award in Acting and a University Grant Award recipient.

A working professional actor since 1979, Gary has appeared on stages from L.A. to Houston in addition to dozens of television prime time dramas, movies of the week and sit-coms. He was Dr. Parker in "The Young and the Restless" and Harry Shaw on "General Hospital" along with numerous roles on "Days of Our Lives". He also appeared in the teen hit "Empire Records." In 1995 he was nominated and elected to the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and has served as an Emmy Blue Ribbon Peer Panel judge.

Since arriving at MPC, in addition to teaching, Gary has directed *Table Settings* and *Hold Me!* in the SRO Studio Theatre as well as *Follies*, *Grease*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Cabaret*, *Annie*, *Urinetown*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Guys and Dolls* on the Morgan Stock Stage. Also during this time he has played Walter Burns in *The Front Page*, Alfred P. Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, Felix Ungar in *The Odd Couple*, Harry Brock in *Born Yesterday*, George Bailey in *Merry Christmas*, *George Bailey!* and Pseudolus in *Forum*. Gary also appeared in *The American Musical* on both the SRO and Morgan Stock Stage.

**Susan Cable** (Choreographer) RENT marks Susan's 16<sup>th</sup> show for MPC, having choreographed *The Producers*, *My Fair Lady*, *Cabaret*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Urinetown* to name a few. Susan has choreographed throughout the United States and Caribbean and has received the prestigious LA Drama-Logue Critics Award for choreography. As National Dance Director/Choreographer for the United States Men's Olympic Gymnastics Team, Susan was invited to Italy to create their dance program. She has also coached in Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Spain; and was selected US Delegation Leader for the Pan American Games held in Brazil. Her career as a professional dancer encompassed Broadway, national Tours, Ballet Companies, TV, and nightclubs. Teaching credits include UC Irvine, CSU Fullerton, South Coast Repertory, Rancho Santiago College, Saddleback College, and she was head of the Dance Department at Santa Catalina School.

**Ana Warner** (Stage Manager) has been a part of MPC since 1999. Besides stage managing last year's production of *The Producers*, she has also managed *Urinetown*, *Company*, and *Pirates of Penzance*. Ana has also directed several Studio Theatre productions, and is looking forward to directing *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* for MPC's Storybook Theatre. She has also appeared onstage in such shows as *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Cabaret*, *Communicating Doors*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Noises Off*, *The Reluctant Dragon*, *Cinderella*, and others. Ana is a graduate of MPC's Technical, Acting, and Directing programs, and works at MPC's scene shop as a carpenter, costume assistant, properties and stage dressing coordinator, occasional light board operator, and is launching the MPC Set Rental Program.

**Gloria C. Mattos Hughes** (Costumer) has been designing costumes for community theatre since 1968. She has designed for several theatre companies and directors in the Bay Area and locally. Most currently she has designed costumes at MPC's Morgan Stock Theatre for the following productions: *Plaza Suite*,

Death of a Salesman, The Producers, Chapter Two, and Anything Goes. Gloria has also served the local community by providing leadership for the following arts organizations: Arts Habitat, Artists Equity Central Coast Chapter, City of Seaside Art Commission, and Monterey Bay Center for the Arts. For Gloria, creativity is the soul of a community.