Rent Closes on Broadway After 12 Years

September 8, 2008

Broadway said farewell to the celebrated rock musical *Rent*, The Associated Press reports. The final show was dedicated to Jonathan Larson, who wrote the book, lyrics and music for this story of life in New York's East Village, complete with artists, street drugs and AIDS (lead characters took AZT, one of the early HIV medications, onstage).

According to the article, the show grossed more than $280 million during its 12-year run on Broadway in addition to winning the Pulitzer Prize for drama. The show's message resonated with audiences all over the world and was also translated into various languages.

"*Rent* speaks to people's hearts," said original cast member Gwen Stewart. "There is a universal truth that I think everyone can identity with: Living today to the fullest because you don't know if tomorrow will be promised to you. Live. Love. Laugh. We have all gone through loss. Not necessarily AIDS-related, but everyone loses someone at some point."

According to the AP, the legacy of *Rent* will continue. January will mark the beginning of a 30-week tour featuring members of the original cast. Sony Pictures has also filmed a high-definition video of the last performances that can be seen in U.S. and Canadian movie theaters, September 24, 25, 27 and 28.

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