

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

COLIN ASUNCION (Angel)

For Fallen Rock: Debut

RENT marks Colin's stage debut with Fallen Rock Productions. He has performed in *Grease* (Roger), *West Side Story* (Action), and *RENT* (Angel), all at the University of Toronto. Colin received his musical training at St. Michael's Choir School where he studied voice, piano, and violin. He has performed with the Victoria Scholars Men's Choral Ensemble, both in concert and on their latest recorded album, *Distant Voices*. He also appeared on the final season of MTV Canada's *The After Show*. Colin is in his final year of undergraduate studies (Political Science and English) and plans on pursuing a career in public relations upon graduation.

TESS BARAO (Maureen)

For Fallen Rock: Debut

Tess is very excited to be joining this amazing cast in Fallen Rock's production of *RENT*! She is a recent graduate of Sheridan College's Music Theatre Performance program and is looking forward to putting those lessons to good use. Selected credits include *The Wild Party in Concert* (Kate, Bread and Circus), *Happy End* (The Fly, Sheridan College), *Into the Woods* (The Witch, Markham Youth Theatre), *Of Enigmatic Things* (Toronto Fringe Festival), *The Music Man* (Marian Paroo, Unionville Theatre Company), *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Riff Raff, Markham Youth Theatre), *Annie* (Annie, Meadowvale Music Theatre), and *Les Miserables* (Eponine, Brampton Theatre School). Tess also works at Simply Delightful in Mississauga as Disney Princesses at children's tea parties on the weekends. As is her tradition, Tess would like to thank the two most important people in her world, Paul and Connie Barao, for being the most supportive and loving parents in the world.

ADAM CLARK (Ensemble)

For Fallen Rock: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Wizard of Oz, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

Adam is pleased to be returning to Fallen Rock Productions in the rocking cast of *RENT*! Adam just finished originating the lead role in the workshop of a new rock opera - *Utah's Crying*. His recent credits include; *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Chip, Bathurst Street Theater), *The Apple Tree* (Adam, Bathurst Street Theater), *Unity* (Michael, Annex Theater), *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Pharoh, Isabelle Bader Theater).

DAVID COOMBER (Mark)

For Fallen Rock: Debut

David is very excited to be making his Fallen Rock debut! His most recent credits include; *Scrooge, the Musical* (Young Ebenezer, Rose Theatre), a workshop reading of the new musical *Hero and Leander* (Ganymede), and the 2010 Summerworks Festival in Jordan Tannahill's *Post Eden*, a NOW! Magazine Critic's Pick. He made his professional debut in Marti Maraden's production of *The Secret Garden* (National Arts Centre). Other NAC credits include; *An Enemy of the People, Everything in the Garden, Angel Square*, and *Love's Labour's Lost*. He also appeared in the world premiere of Dave Carley's *The Last Liberal*

(Great Canadian Theatre Company). David is a 2010 Graduate of the acting program at Ryerson Theatre School.

MAYA CHILTON (Seasons of Love Soloist/Ensemble)

For Fallen Rock: Debut

Maya is making her musical theatre debut with Fallen Rock's 2011 production of *RENT*. Though new to musical theatre, Maya has always been known for her dynamic and energetic stage performances. She has recently released her mixtape EP, *This Refers to You*, to high acclaim, and was acknowledged by the national DJ awards as a top upcoming artist. In addition to writing and producing her own music, she works tirelessly as a DJ, BG singer, vocal coach and violinist for various artists and groups in Canada including, Saida Baba Talibah, Classic Albums Live, DRU, Divine Brown, King Sunshine and Slakah the Beatchild. Her full-length album is due out later this year. Keep listening for more from this young artist!

JOHN CHOU (Benny)

For Fallen Rock: Debut

Selected credits: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Bellboy/Ensemble, Hart House Theatre), *Equus* (Horse/Ensemble, Hart House Theatre), *The Eight Reindeer Monologues* (Standing in Line Productions), *Bondage* (Magpie Theatre Company), *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and a Prayer* (Toronto V-Day), *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Working Reel Theatre), *The Starfish Scream* (Horse Trade Theatre Group), *The Fan Tan King* (Pan Asian Repertory Theatre), *Kwatz!: The Tibetan Project* (Pan Asian Repertory Theatre), and *The Boy Who Would Be Asian* (NY Fringe Festival). John is a co-founder of the Magpie Theatre Company, and recently made his directorial debut in their first musical production, *One for Sorrow, Two for Joy*. He is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, in New York. Many thanks to Stefne and Zyz for all their love and support.

GRAHAM FLEMING (Ensemble)

For Fallen Rock: Debut

Graham is very excited to be a part of this year's Fallen Rock Production of *RENT*! Born and raised in the small town of Elmvale Ontario, Graham has been in multiple productions including; *High School Musical with Drayton*, and has sang in fundraisers and at weddings as well. Graham is currently a student at the University of Windsor, enrolled in the Drama and Education program, with a minor in Psychology and Forensic Science. Graham would like to thank the production crew of Fallen Rock for this opportunity.

KELLY HOLIFF (Joanne)

For Fallen Rock: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Beauty and the Beast*

Kelly is truly honoured to be playing Joanne in *RENT*! Selected credits include; *Nunsense* (Sister Robert Anne), *The Story of Emily Carr* (Emily), *SUDS* (Marge, Canadiana Productions), *Hey Marilyn* (Jane Mallet), *The Decameron* (Berkeley), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Rona Lisa Peretti, Fallen Rock Productions), *Juke Box Jive* (Port Hope Theatre), *Rocky Horror* (Magenta, Niagara Falls), and *On the Radio* (Niagara Falls). Kelly is also an

established solo performer who has created and produced her own cabaret shows in Toronto. Fallen Rock has had a tremendous personal affect on Kelly, both as a performer and a person. She deeply appreciates her good fortune to be able to lend her time to a cause for which she is passionate, with a group that has become her second family. Her spirit is constantly energized by her family and friends. Kelly would like to express thanks to all of the people at POGO and Fallen Rock for their commitment and their hard work, and for being the most amazing company to work with! A special thank you goes out to Jason, for believing that a 'green' 19 year old could muster the passion to play a POTT!

JENNIFER MORRIS (Ensemble)

For Fallen Rock: Debut

You could not possibly know how EXCITED Jennifer is to be a part of such an amazing musical as *RENT*! Its story of passion, struggle, friendship, and community is something that everyone can relate to, and she is so thankful to Fallen Rock Productions for giving her the opportunity to be a part of it. Coming from a small town in New Brunswick, Jennifer has come a long way to pursue her dreams and graduated from the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts in 2009. Some past credits include; *Top Girls* (Marlene, Annex Theatre '09), *Nonsense II* (Mother Superior, Bathurst Street Theatre '09), *One for Sorrow, Two for Joy* (Alex, Magpie Theatre '10), and *Utah's Crying* (Heidi/Nurse, Al Green Theatre '10). Jennifer would like to thank her family, friends and Jay for their unconditional support and love on this journey. She hopes you all rock out to the show and remember that there is "no day but today"!

LINDSAY ROSS (Ensemble)

For Fallen Rock: Debut

Lindsay has always been a lover of music, dance and acting, since she was a small child. At the age of 6, she started jazz dance classes at Niesies Studio of Dance, and continued these for 13 years, in the small town of Carlisle (outside of Hamilton), where she grew up. For over 14 years, beginning at the age of 7, she took vocal training, with various teachers, such as Steve McPhail and Falconer Abraham. She enjoyed competing in Canada's Wonderland Dance Festivals and singing every year at the Rockton Fair. At the age of 13, Lindsay travelled to New York City where she competed and trained at the International Modeling and Talent Association for a week. She also won 1st runner up for her Real People Television Commercial. Lindsay enjoys song writing and studio recording. She has recorded an original demo CD at the Grant Ave Studios in Hamilton, and performed her demo live at Toronto's DNA nightclub. Lindsay's love for theatre developed when she studied at Shakespeare's Theatre School in Stratford in a 2 week Musical Theatre intensive. She then landed the lead role of the Cat In the Hat in the production of *Seussical the Musical*. She also enjoys working part-time for Fantasy Fables as Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty, for corporate events and birthday parties. Lindsay is a current graduate of the Randolph Academy for Performing Arts and enjoyed being a part of the play *Can You See Me Yet* and *Little Women the Musical*. She is super excited to be a part of Fallen Rock's Productions of *RENT*, and is also looking forward to starring in the 6th season of CityTV's spoof television show, *Out There with Melissa DeMarco*.

JESSICA SALGUIERO (Ensemble)**For Fallen Rock: Debut**

Jessica Salguiero is so excited to be a part of the cast of *RENT*! She is looking forward to working on such an original and poignant show. Jessica is a graduate of the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts, where she was part of such shows as; *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (R.P. McMurphy), and *Cinderella* (the Fairy Godmother). This past summer, Jessica also performed, as well as associate produced, a production of *The Killing Game* (Toronto Fringe Festival). She is a huge advocate of socially-conscious theatre and is currently working on *The Vagina Monologues* (V-Day Toronto Productions). Recently, Jessica co-starred in *The Unleashed* (Dark House Films), and continues to pursue great scripts in both film and theatre.

KEVIN VIDAL (Ensemble)**For Fallen Rock: Debut**

Born and raised in Toronto, Kevin found his love for theatre and musicals when he was 17, when he was cast in his high school's main stage performance of *Guys and Dolls*. He later joined the cast of *Skule Nite* (pronounced School Night) a sketch comedy musical at U of T, where he found his love for sketch, engineers, improv and furthering his love for musical theatre. Kevin is currently studying with the Second City, and can be found performing improv every Sundays at Zelda's.

JENNIFER WALLS (Mimi)**For Fallen Rock: *The Wizard of Oz, Beauty and the Beast***

Jennifer is thrilled to be returning to her Fallen Rock family as Mimi in *RENT*! Previously for Fallen Rock, she has appeared in; *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), and *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy). A graduate of Sheridan College's Music Theatre, other selected stage credits include; *The Rocky Horror Show* (Magenta, debut Producing effort- LOT), *Fairy Tale Ending* (Goldilocks, Best of Fringe 2010 - remount at 2011's Next Stage Festival), *Free To Be...You And Me* (Vickie, Lower Ossington Theatre), *Into the Woods* (the Witch, Toronto Youth Theatre), *Reefer Madness* (Mary Lane, Hart House Theatre), *High Fidelity* (Marie LaSalle, Hart House Theatre). Jennifer was a finalist on CBC's *How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria!* and appeared in *Celine*, alongside idol, Louise Pitre. In addition to music theatre, Jennifer tours across North America as a tribute artist portraying Myley Cyrus, Hannah Montana, Lady Gaga and Liza Minnelli. She can also be heard in *Harriet The Spy: Blog Wars* (Disney Channel) and at www.allgirlarcade.com and is currently involved in several recording projects. Throughout the school year, Jennifer speaks in high schools across North America with "A Whole New Perspective", a motivational presentation focused on overcoming fears and living out dreams. So much love to this fierce cast, crew and production team as well as her amazing family and friends for EVERYTHING. Thank you all for coming "Out Tonight" to support such an incredible cause.

TWAIN WARD (Tom Collins)**For Fallen Rock: *Little Shop of Horrors, West Side Story, Moulin Rouge***

Twaine's talents have led him to stages and festivals across Canada and the U.S., with various companies and performing groups. Some of his previous roles include; *West Side Story* (Riff), *CATS* (Rum Tum Tugger), *A Chorus Line* (Paul and Richie), *The Full Monty*

(Horse). Now, thanks to Fallen Rock Productions, Twaine joins 'La Vie Boheme' in *RENT* as Tom Collins. Health and happiness to all and enjoy the show!

PATRICK WHALEN (Roger)

For Fallen Rock: Debut

Patrick is excited to be able to live out his day to day life on stage. Playing a role of a struggling rock singer, hungry for a legacy, reflects a way of life, which is all too familiar. Love and Death as Woody Allen says - there couldn't be more conflict to drive the plot of this most famous of musicals. Patrick's credits include: *Rocky Horror Show* (Rocky, Oh Canada Eh), *Leo the Royal Cadet* (Capt. Bloodswigger, T.O.T), *Romeo and Juliet* (Pairs, Tempest Theater), *Pajama Game* (Sid Sorokin, Bathurst Street Theatre) and more... Watch out for Patrick's new band coming out in 2011 - "Your Best Friends" is a mix of Martial Arts, Burlesque and Rock 'n Roll! Thank you for your support to this just cause.