

Rent: Play Analysis

Student Name

Chamberlain College of Nursing

HUMN 303N: Introduction to Humanities

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Introduction

Rent: Filmed Live on Broadway was the final performance of the original Broadway production of the musical Rent on September 7, 2008. The original musical was written by Jonathan Larson which was loosely based on Giacomo Puccini's opera "La Boheme" and had first premiered in 1996. The Broadway musical had won four Tony Awards including Best Musical, six Drama Desk Awards, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama (Broadway Musical Home, 2019). Rent: Filmed Live on Broadway showcased the finale of one of the longest running Broadway shows to audiences across the country in a dynamic way. The play takes place in the late 80's and early 90's, a group of friends in Manhattan's East Village struggle daily with things such as little to no money, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, social tension, and political unrest that make it difficult to build the lives of their dreams. It showcases these problems as they face them head on while they make personal self-discoveries and discover what matters most in life (Broadway Musical Home, 2019). Rent: Filmed Live on Broadway took a drama type musical and used the stage, lighting, costumes, and characters to display a hard-hitting reality with comedy, romance, and tragedy.

Staging, Lighting, Costumes, & Characters

Creating theater involves making something worth watching, something that will hold the audience's attention and human action is that something (Carroll, 2009). When it comes to the staging, lighting, costumes, and characters of this musical, it is clear to see that every moment was planned down to the tiniest detail in order to fully display the emotions of the moment. The stage was built in a way that little change was needed between each scene to create a connected flow of events. Each scene takes place in a multitude of places in Manhattan, including