

# Film flavor pays the "Rent"

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Assistant Photo Editor

Movie trailers never lie. OK, that's a gigantic lie. Movie trailers often tell – or at least portray – massive untruths. However, this one does not.

When the soothing voice in the trailers tells me "Rent" is the story that defined a generation, that voice is not telling a lie. I do not know any college-aged American ever involved in musical theater who does not love this musical. And when they see the film, they will love and adore it as well. And rightfully so.

"Rent" is the Pulitzer Prize-winning story of one year in the life of eight friends who live in New York's East Village in the mid-'80s. Except for Rosario Dawson (Mimi) and Tracie Thoms (Joann), the cast is all the original Broadway cast, something obvious when you see them work together and hear them sing.

The story is based on Puccini's "La Boheme" and opens when Benny evicts his former roommates and friends Mark and Roger, as well as Mimi, from his building, asking for a year of back rent. Mark has just broken up with Maureen, and Roger has just gotten out of rehab for heroin addiction. At the same time, Collins is mugged, beaten and saved by Angel. As luck (and the mid-'80s) would have it, both have AIDS. They aren't the only ones, of course: Everyone has AIDS, and everyone is in love with each other. This makes for a complicated and brilliant plot, a story about class structure in America, poverty, illness and, most importantly, love against all odds. The entire last hour of the film has the entire theater bawling. It's great.

Theater junkies who loved the stage show, be forewarned: The medium of film is inherently different than the medium of stage – and is rife with advantages. For starters, Steven Chbosky wrote the screenplay, and what little he deviated from Jonathan Larson's original script is downright brilliant. As opposed to most films set in the '80s, which tend to be garishly costumed and eye-assaultingly colored, "Rent" is one of the most visually beautiful films I have seen in a good while. It makes great use of the ability to focus the viewer's attention on details as small as crumbs on a table or as vast as all of Alphabet City rioting. The photographic composition of the film is amazing as well, further highlighting



Roger (Adam Pascal) and Collins (Jesse L. Martin) dance on a table at the Life Cafe during the song "La Vie Boheme." Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures Publicity

the beautiful colors and design of the costumes and set.

The cast's newcomers, Thoms and Dawson, fill the shoes of their predecessors with skill. Thoms has almost unexpected vocal talent – it shocks and amazes to hear such a huge, emotional voice come out of such a small frame. The same can be said of Dawson, who plays almost a more convincing 19-year-old heroin junkie than her predecessor, Daphne Rubin-Vega, who was nominated for the Best Actress Tony Award for her portrayal of Mimi.

For those of you who do not own the original Broadway cast album, who don't know the life history of each of the "Rent" characters, or

who can't tell you Anthony Rapp first starred in "Adventures in Babysitting" under the direction of Chris Columbus, fear not. While "Rent"-heads will notice the altered minutiae, they will be able to enjoy the film in its own glory. The musical was such a hit in the first place because of its innate accessibility, powerful characters and, well, not going to lie, controversial themes, which have become nearly cliché in the 10 years since its Broadway premiere. These, of course, are in addition to the music that truly did mark a generation.

As you leave the theater humming "Seasons of Love," I have a feeling you'll agree: "Rent" is 134 minutes well spent.

## Movie Review

**"Rent"**  
Starring: Rosario Dawson,  
Taye Diggs  
Director:  
Chris Columbus  
Length: 134 minutes



## A lil' hard work takes travelers a long way

Bonjour, travelers. Today I come to you as your friendly neighborhood Idea Fairy.

I'm here to implant ideas of fun things to do abroad and even give you some tools with which to execute these fantastic plans.

Going abroad sounds like fun, but it's way too much money, right? Wrong! Idea Fairy wants you to know there are ways to spend significant amounts of time in other countries without taking out a second mortgage on that house you don't even own yet.

Living abroad without losing money is a feasible option. Heck, you might even make money. Ready? Take some fairy dust, and away we go.

One option that seems pretty popular with the young folks these days is working abroad. Studying abroad – though well worth it in my case – costs a pretty penny, and working is a logical way to counteract the expense and maybe even make a euro or two in the process. Disclaimer: I haven't worked abroad – though I desperately want to, if that counts for anything – and I haven't personally met anyone who's gone through these programs. I'm just the Idea Fairy – planting thoughts for you to act on. The Hand-You-a-Job-on-a-Silver-Platter Fairy is off today. Try again next week.

As I was saying, countries vary in their foreign worker policies, so learning the particulars of your destination of choice is a priority. To work abroad in the European Union, for instance, work permits are required and difficult to get by yourself. But help is available.

Several programs exist that mediate between the wannabe worker and the lucky country.

They usually help the worker obtain a work permit, find a job – sometimes even guarantee one – find housing, get health insurance, and they often provide in-country support, as well.

This is where the Internet swoops down yet again to save the day.

JobsAbroad.com, an off-shoot of GoAbroad.com, is a great place to start your search.

The fine people at this site have gathered up a whole bunch of job listings in other countries, and you can search by either country or job type. I should warn you, however, this site is terribly addictive, and I've been known to lose three hours at a time indulging myself in travel fantasies.

Check out BUNAC.org and AllianceAbroad.com for some European and Australian programs, or just poke around JobsAbroad.com, and see what you find.

Another great resource is our very own University Career Center. This fine institution boasts an entire shelf of books dedicated solely to jobs and careers abroad, both finding work and important info like how to get a visa.

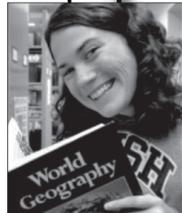
An additional consideration is that many work-abroad programs will hook you up with a job but not necessarily professional work.

They very likely will offer jobs like waiting tables, working at a ski resort or picking fruit.

You're not necessarily furthering your professional career, but with a little creativity you surely can come up with all sorts of resume-ready euphemistic phrases for your valuable experience abroad.

If menial labor isn't your bag, and you're of the linguistically inclined variety, consider teaching English as a second language. A quick Internet search will bring up countless opportunities to get certified and get jobs. The all-purpose GoAbroad.com also feeds this need with TeachAbroad.com.

One last suggestion for living abroad for not a lot of dollars: Get a sugar mama/daddy. Living abroad is a life dream of mine that only can be topped by the possibility



Christine Albrecht

“Living abroad is a feasible option. Heck, you might even make some money.”

of someone else paying for it. Yeah, keep dreaming, Christie.

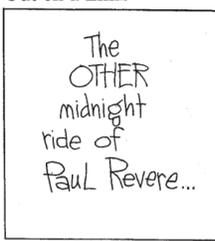
If you want to be logical, get a job like your parents tell you – or at least like my parents tell me to. But where's the fun in that?

Go get 'em, tiger. Happy travels, and happy hunting.

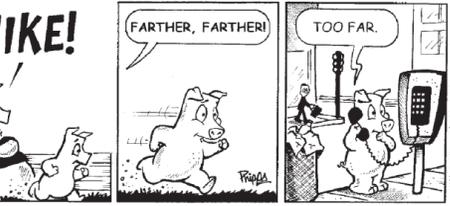
### Web sites to check out for making money abroad

- JobsAbroad.com
- BUNAC.org
- AllianceAbroad.com
- GoAbroad.com
- TeachAbroad.com
- i-to-i.com

### Out on a Limb



### Amber Waves



## King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- One of the Three Bears
  - Tech
  - Square
  - Actor Sharif
  - Three-match link
  - Unembellished
  - Not paraphrase
  - Cheese selection
  - Exact amounts of money?
  - Pointed a finger at
  - Carnival city
  - One's performance
  - Gun the engine
  - Moreover
  - Combine crudely
  - Vicinity
  - Part of R.S.V.P.
  - Old portico
  - "Lost Horizon" actress
  - Zero-star review
  - Drone
  - Lummocks
  - "Of course"
  - Set off
  - Votes off the island
  - First culprit
  - Upright
  - Rudimentary

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- 55 Mom of 51-Across 8 Preserves, in a way 32 Con
- 56 Therefore 9 Martini 34 In tiers
- 57 Tidy ingredient 37 O'er and o'er
- 58 "Awesome, dude!" 10 Canal zone? 39 Barbershop call
- 59 Concupiscence 11 Require 42 Cut off
- DOWN** 16 Met melody 44 Sales pitch
- 1 Relocate 23 Aries lead-in 45 "See Clearly Now"
- 2 NYSE 24 History chapter 46 Kaplan who played Kotter
- 3 Shopping center 25 Betty's rival for Archie's attention 48 Beige
- 4 Viny shelter 27 Party bowlful 49 Brings up the rear
- 5 Corduroy and calico 29 Old French coin 50 Coin aperture
- 6 Blackbird 30 Scenery 53 Zsa Zsa's sis

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For answers to the Nov. 17 King Crossword puzzle, visit [www.trumanindex.com](http://www.trumanindex.com).

## AROUND THE VILLE

### Campus

#### Turkey Bowling

Ekklesia will sponsor Turkey Bowling on the Mall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. today as part of the Great American Smokeout. The event uses a frozen turkey to knock down cigarette-style bowling pins, encouraging tobacco users to quit "cold turkey." The cost is one cigarette or for non-smokers, one quarter. Funds raised will be used to purchase nicotine patches and gum for those trying to quit smoking.

#### Dance Fusion 2005

The social science division is sponsoring TSODA's Rhythm of the Night, Dance Fusion 2005 at 7 p.m. tonight and Friday in Baldwin Auditorium. The show includes guest performances by Ceilidh Club, Showgirls, University Swingers and High Street Dancers. Admission is free.

#### Koste Play

The Truman Division of Fine Arts presents "White as Snow, Red as Blood" by V. Glasgrov Koste at 7 p.m. tonight to Saturday and 2 p.m. Saturday in the Ophelia Parrish Courtyard Theatre. Admission is \$2. Call 785-4515 for more information.

#### Newman Program

The Newman Center is hosting Guadalupe's Challenge, a presentation about Natural Family Planning, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Presenters will share their knowledge about NFP and explain why the Church's teaching against birth control isn't necessarily outdated.

#### Dodgeball Tourney

Habitat for Humanity will host a dodgeball tournament at 1 p.m. Saturday in the Pershing Small Gym. Cost is \$20 per team of six to seven. Individuals can sign up to be put with a team for \$3. Contact Sara Lynn at [tsu\\_habitat@yahoo.com](mailto:tsu_habitat@yahoo.com) for more information.

#### Remember Rosa

The Mu Tau chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will present a banquet commemorating Rosa Parks and her influences on society at 5 p.m. Saturday in the SUB Georgian Room. A panel of professionals will speak about diversity, civil rights and what Rosa Parks stood for. Dinner will be provided. Cost is free for Truman students with ID and \$10 for others.

### Local

#### Beauty and the Beast

Kirksville High School will present its fall musical "Beauty and the Beast" at 7 p.m. tonight to Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Kirksville Middle School Auditorium. Cost is \$5 for general admission and \$8 for reserved seating. Call 665-4631 for more information.

### Concerts

#### Dukum Upp Concert

Teen Teen Productions will sponsor a performance by The Ike Reilly Assassination with HappyAss and Stop, Thief! at 9 p.m. Friday at The Dukum Upp. Tickets are \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door.