



PHOTOS COURTESY  
OF JOAN MARCUS

Marcus Paul  
Jameand  
Damien  
DeShaun Smith  
star in "Rent."

The cast of "Rent" returns to Portland for a titillating performance about life and its realities.

## 'Rent' Returns to Portland

"Rent," considered by many to be the most exuberant and original American music to come along in a decade, has single-handedly reinvigorated Broadway and is taking the country by storm.

Rent returns to the Keller Auditorium from Aug. 10

through 15, after a sold out run in 1998.

Inspired by Puccini's "La Boheme," "Rent" is a joyous, breathtaking and often bittersweet musical that celebrates a community of artists, representing gays and people of color in leading roles, as they struggle with the souring

hopes and tough realities of today's world.

Tickets are available now by calling 503-790-ARTS, 503-241-1802 or at [www.portlandopera.org](http://www.portlandopera.org) or [www.broadwayacrossamerica.com](http://www.broadwayacrossamerica.com) or

## Summer Blues Concert Benefits Education

Help bring Blues and Roots music into schools by attending the Cascade Blues Association's Blues In The Schools Benefit Concert on Friday, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds from this event will be used to fund presentations by local and national touring artists in regional schools throughout the Portland Metropolitan area, Northwestern Oregon and Southwestern Washington.

The son of an original Louisiana bluesman, Kenny Neal stands on his own to play a Blues in the Schools benefit concert at 7 p.m. Aug. 13 at the Aladdin Theater.

Neal has taken his high-energy performances

around the world and has shared the stage with many of the best-loved musicians of our time, including B.B. King, Bonnie Raitt, Muddy Waters, Buddy Guy and John Lee Hooker. This summer, he is touring in support of his recently released Alligator CD, "Double Take," a duo effort with renowned Chicago bluesman Billy Branch.

The benefit concert will open with a jam session featuring the amazing Ben Rice and the Youth of Blues as the house band. With the oldest member of the band being 15, and having recently opened for

Curtis Salgado and Dave Mason at the Rose Festival, Ben Rice and the Youth of Blues is definitely a band worth keeping an eye on.

"It's great to find professional musicians that are willing to come in and not only perform for our young students, but also to talk with them on a relaxed level they easily relate to," said Steve Robertson, director of bands at Vancouver's Skyview High School.

Tickets are on sale at TicketMaster outlets and the Aladdin Box Office. For information, contact Jimmy Hale at 503-282-2042 or [jimmy@fastjimmy.com](mailto:jimmy@fastjimmy.com).