

**HOOSIER MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS...**

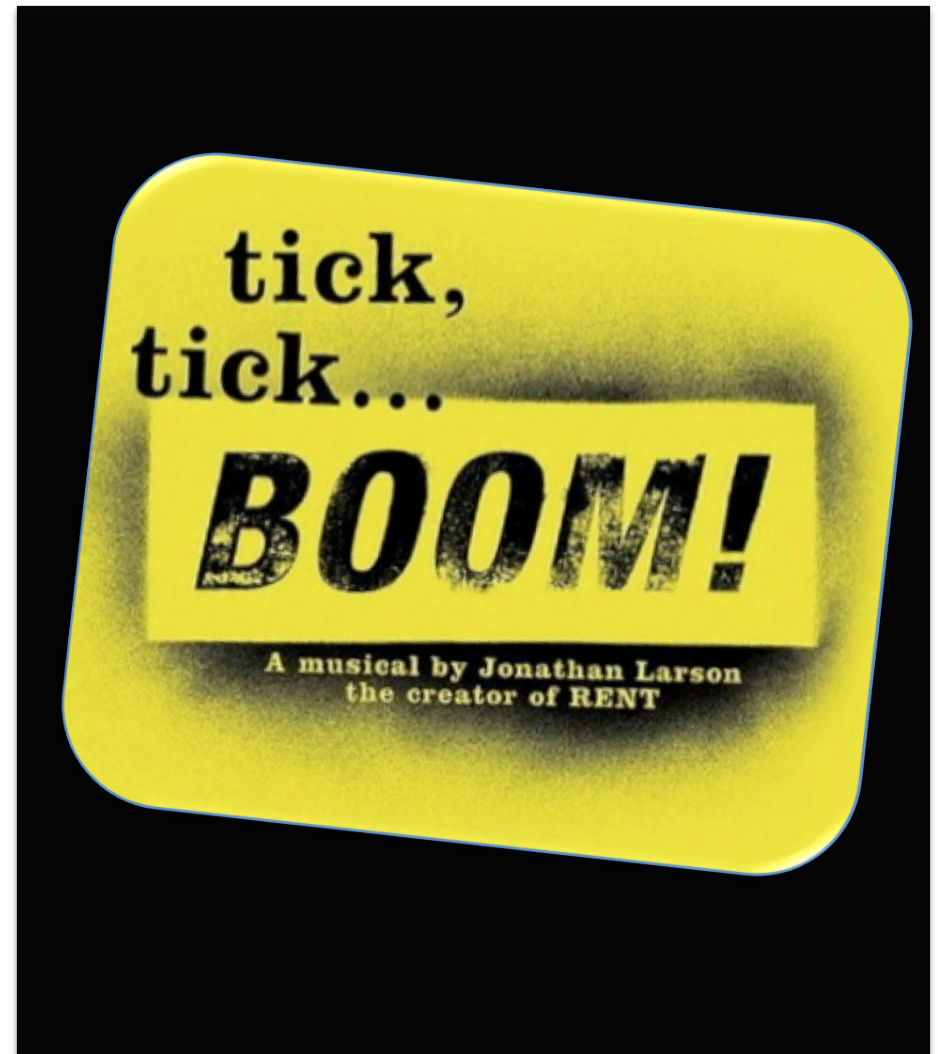
**UPCOMING HOOSIER MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS...**



**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?  
WANT TO MAKE A DONATION?**



900 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 575  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
812-856-4168



**JOHN WALDRON ARTS CENTER  
ROSE FIREBAY ROOM  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 7:30 P.M.  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 7:30 P.M.  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2:00 & 7:30 P.M.**



## **HISTORY**

Hoosier Musical Productions began as an IU Student organization in the Fall of 2008 with a clear mission: to encourage the appreciation of music theatre among IU students by providing a variety of performance and leadership opportunities in non-professional public theatre. The organization also seeks to preserve and advance the musical theatre genre, as well as expand its audience in both theatrical scope and artistic integrity. Hoosier Musicals is dedicated to providing all interested IU students with an abundance of performing and leadership opportunities within the musical theatre genre.

The organization held its inaugural performance in February 2009 at the Cinemat with a successful run of the 1960 musical *The Fantasticks*.

## **SUPPORT**

As a student organization, ticket sales provide only a small portion of our income annual. Hoosier Musical Productions needs the support of generous businesses and individuals like you to continue to provide opportunities to IU Students and bring great theatre to the Bloomington area.

Please consider making a donation today, and the large impact it would have for so many young artists within the IU community. Your support is always so greatly appreciated, and never goes to waste. Checks can be made out directly to *Hoosier Musical Productions*.

For more information on how you can support the work of Hoosier Musical Productions, call 812-856-4169 or visit us on the web at [www.HoosierMusicals.com](http://www.HoosierMusicals.com)

## **THANKS AND GRATITUDE**

There are a number of people without whom this production would have never been possible. I would like that thank each and every one of them for not only their contributions to this production, but for their kindness, passion, vision, and their dedication to the performing arts. Please allow me to extend my thanks to:

*The IU Student Association  
The IU Student Organizations Office  
The Indiana Memorial Union  
The Jacobs School of Music  
The Indiana Daily Student  
Music Theatre International  
The John Waldron Arts Center  
Markey's Rental & Staging*

Kristie Smith  
Abe Smith  
Allison Williams  
Lee Burckes  
Roger Meredith  
J. Tyler DeLong  
John McLaughlin  
The Pit Musicians  
Samantha Gonzalez

and most of all....

My amazing cast, who have all worked so hard and have reminded me what this organization is all about.

## **DONORS**

Hoosier Musical Productions could not exist without our generous donors, all of whom have supported the work and efforts of Hoosier Musical Productions since the very beginning.

### **DIRECTOR (\$300-\$500)**

RICK & Odette Hankins

### **LEADING ACTOR (\$150-\$300)**

Bloomington Hospital  
Leslie B. Lerner

### **SUPPORTING ACTOR (\$75-\$150)**

Oliver Winery  
Frances Lerner  
Bob & Pat McIntyre  
Beth Sesler

### **ENSEMBLE (\$50-\$75)**

Dr. Jose E. Vasquez  
Robert & Jackie McIntyre

### **FRIEND (\$25-\$50)**

Dr. Ceasar Pacifici  
Bill & Cecily Sesler  
Elizabeth Sesler-Beckham

Enjoy the show? If so, please consider becoming a Hoosier Musicals donor today to help us continue bringing you more great performances like this one!

## **HOOSIER MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS...**

# **tick, tick...BOOM!**

music & lyrics by  
jonathan laron

directed & musically directed by  
jonathan b. lerner

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

A lot of people know Jonathan Larson simply as “the guy who wrote *RENT*.” Many are also aware of the tragic story regarding his sudden death from an aortic aneurism, literally one night before *RENT* was to begin its off-Broadway previews. What very few people know, however, is the story of Jon’s life **before** *RENT*, and all the struggles he had to go through and surmount in order to bring to the stage the musical that so many of us love today—the musical that changed the face of musical theatre forever. This is one of the key reasons why I wanted to bring *Tick, tick...BOOM!* to the stage; to tell Jon’s story in his own words and to pay tribute to him as best we can.

More than anything else, this musical look into the life of Jonathan Larson sends a very clear message about the courage it takes to follow your dreams no matter what. Jon knew at a young age that he wanted to change musical theatre forever by introducing real rock and roll music into its vocabulary. By doing so, he felt it would ultimately make the art form more socially and personally relevant to a younger audience. As we learn in *Tick, tick...BOOM!*, *RENT* was far from his first attempt to make this dream a reality. He had tried on many prior occasions and had failed every time. By the time of his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, Jon was living in poverty, waiting tables at a diner, and had spent five years working on a musical that no one ended up wanting to produce. He had every reason to give up—and most people would have—but he didn’t. He refused to let hard times and unsupportive people talk him out of his dream, and so instead of compromising his vision and what he knew in his heart to be right, Jon spent another six years working to bring his rock opera “*RENT*” to the stage. I know that I am so grateful that he persevered through the fire and that *RENT* was able to make it to the stage and to share its message with the world. And even though Jon tragically never got to enjoy the fame and success of his work, he ultimately did what he had set out to do—he changed the face of musical theatre forever. He woke up a generation.

As heartbreakingly sad as Jon’s story is, it is also so very inspirational. Jon was a living example of the theory that no matter how hard things are, or how bad things get, you **can** do anything. Nothing is impossible.

On behalf of the entire cast and crew, I would like to thank you all for coming out to join us in saying “*Thank you, Jonathan Larson!*” Enjoy the show!

-JONATHAN B. LERNER



**Jonathan B. Lerner** (Director/Music Director) is a senior Vocal Performance major at the IU Jacobs School of Music, where he is also earning a minor in Choral Conducting. A native of Mission Hills, KS, Lerner has been a featured performer with such esteemed organizations as The Lyric Opera of Kansas City, The Kansas City Symphony, The Kansas Brass Quintet, Music Theatre for the People of Kansas City, IU Opera & Ballet Theatre and

Indiana University. Lerner was most recently on stage playing the role of Herman in IU Opera Theatre’s production of *The Most Happy Fella*. Other notable past roles include Tommy Albright in *Brigadoon*, Miles Gloriosus in *A Funny Thing Happened...Forum*, Reverend Shaw Moore in *Footloose*, Caldwell B. Cladwell in *Urinetown*, Jesus in *Godspell*, and Brack Weaver in Kurt Weil’s *Down in the Valley*. As a director/music director, this marks Lerner’s second Hoosier Musical Production, the first having been *The Fantasticks*. Lerner also served as the director of the 2007 Union Board Production of *Godspell*. Love and thanks to family and friends for all their love and support. I don’t know what I would do without you.



**Samantha Gonzalez** (Stage Manager)

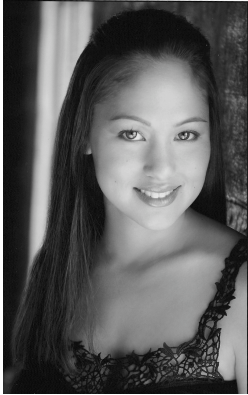
is a native of Hammond, Indiana, who recently graduated from IU with a BS in Political Science. She is currently living and working in Bloomington and is grateful to Hoosier Musical Productions and the wonderful cast and crew of *Tick, Tick...BOOM!* for helping her rediscover the joys of theater.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW



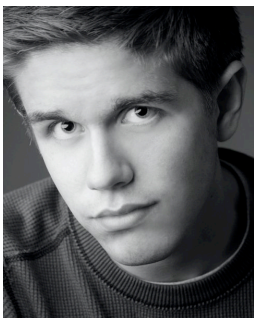
these wonderful people and is looking forward to his future here at IU.

**Bradley Strohmeyer** (Jon) is a freshman from Mooresville, Indiana. While in high school, Bradley participated in many choral ensembles as well as the plays at his school. He would like to thank his fellow cast members for making this show extremely memorable, and he would like to thank the director, Jon Lerner, as well. He has had a great time working with



of *The Wild Party* and *Oklahoma!*. She is a Hutton Honors College student, a member of Delta Gamma sorority, and an IU campus tour guide. Stephanie is fortunate to have such an incredible family and friends, and would like to thank them for their love and support. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Stephanie Cohen** (Susan/Karessa) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre Major, and is very thrilled to be making her Hoosier Musicals debut! A Los Angeles native, she has been studying musical theatre since the age of five. Stephanie made her Broadway debut as Young Cosette in *Les Miserables* as well as the 1999-2000 Third National Tour. Other favorite roles include, Maria in *West Side Story*, Penny Pingleton in *Hairspray*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Kate in *Kiss Me Kate*. At IU, Stephanie has appeared in the Lee Norvelle Center musical productions



member of the IU Singing Hoosiers and Varsity Singers.

**Nathan Mittleman** (Michael) is currently a junior pursuing a BA in Theatre and Drama. While at IU, he has appeared in *Cabaret* (Kit Kat Boy) at the Buskirk-Chumley Theatre, the world premiere of Don Freund's *Romeo and Juliet* (Capulet Servant) at the Bloomington Playwrights Project, and the workshop production of *VOTE!* (Lackey/Ensemble.) At the Round Barn Theatre, he appeared in *Once Upon a Mattress* (Sir Luce.) Mittleman is also a

## SYNOPSIS

The show opens on a Saturday night in 1990. Jon is about to turn 30, his show Superbia will have its first public performance--a workshop--in a few days, and he's worried that he may have made a wrong career choice. In *30/90* we meet his girlfriend, Susan, and his best friend, Michael, who leaves the lovers alone so they can share a romantic night (*Green Green Dress*). The next morning, Jon ponders his choices (*Johnny Can't Decide*) until reality intrudes, and he has to go to work at the diner. The all-too-familiar brunch scene is brought to life in *Sunday*, Jon's deliberate inversion of a song by his real-life mentor, Stephen Sondheim. Afterwards, Michael takes him to see the fancy apartment he has just bought, and the two have fun contrasting its pleasures (*No More*) with life in Jonathan's ancient walk-up flat. Later in the evening, he and Susan have one of their increasingly frequent spats about nothing--and everything (*Therapy*).

As Johnny drives him to the airport, the following day in Michael's gleaming new BMW, Michael voices deep concern about what he may be missing (*Real Life*). After which, en route to the rehearsal of Superbia, Jon seeks solace from the various pressures he is feeling (*Sugar*). Returning home to realize he's on the verge of a major breakup with Susan, Jon wishes he could *See Her Smile*. At the workshop later in the week, Karessa Johnson, an actress in the workshop, brings down the house with an appropriately-titled ballad *Come To Your Senses*. After Michael reveals that he is HIV-positive, Jon thinks about their lifetime of friendship; about what led him to choose a career in the theatre, and about whether he should give up his dreams of success as a composer (*Why*). Finally, as the dreaded 30th birthday actually arrives, he ponders the choices we face in life, and thinks about how we translate those decisions into everyday living (*Louder Than Words*).

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

*30/90*.....Jon, Michael, Susan  
*Green, Green Dress*.....Jon, Susan  
*Johnny Can't Decide*.....Jon, Susan, Michael  
*Sunday*.....Jon, Diner Patrons  
*No More*.....Michael, Jon  
*Therapy*..... Jon, Susan  
*Real Life*.....Michael, Jon, Susan  
*Sugar*.....Jon, Karessa, Counter Guy  
*See Her Smile*.....Jon, Susan, Michael  
*Come To Your Senses*.....Karessa/Susan  
*Why*.....Jon  
*Louder Than Words*.....Jon, Michael, Susan

## COMPANY

### CAST

JON..... Bradley Strohmeier  
SUSAN..... Stephanie Cohen  
MICHAEL.....Nathan Mittleman

### BAND

PIANO.....Evan Rees  
GUITAR.....Benjamin Matthews  
DRUMS.....Steve Such  
DRUMS.....Coleman Cook

### ARTISTIC STAFF

Director/Music Director..... Jonathan B. Lerner  
Stage Manager.....Samantha Gonzalez  
Lighting Design.....Lee Burckes  
Costume/Set/Sound Design.....Jonathan B. Lerner  
House Manager.....John McLaughlin