



Presents

# WEST SIDE STORY



Affiliated to the  
National Operatic  
and Dramatic  
Association

**Based on a conception by Jerome Robbins**

**Book by Arther Laurents**

**Music by Leonard Bernstein**

**Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim**

**Entire original production directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins**

**Originally produced on Broadway by Robert E Griffith & Harold Prince**

**by arrangement with Robert L Stevens**

**This amateur production is presented by arrangement with**

**Joseph Weinberger Limited on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York**

WOW is the junior section of Witham Amateur Operatic Society which is a registered charity (number 265029)

## WEST SIDE STORY

On the mean streets of New York City two gangs are in a long-lasting duel. The Sharks, a Puerto Rican gang, grapple with the difficulties of assimilating into American society. The Jets, the American gang, want to resist newcomers entering their territory. In the midst of this rivalry Jet, Tony, falls in love with a beautiful Sharks' girl, Maria. After a fight between the Jets and the Sharks, Tony ends up killing Maria's brother, Bernardo. Bitter over losing Maria's love and the death of Bernardo, Maria's Puerto Rican suitor, Chino, seeks revenge.

### Act 1

In the Prologue, a conflict between two rival teenage gangs, the Jets and the Sharks is enacted through dance, this establishes the fierce rivalry between the two groups with Riff, the leader of the Jets, and the members of the gang boasting of their strength. ("The Jet Song"). Riff and the Jets decide to initiate a rumble whilst at a local dance, with control of the neighbourhood as a prize for the winning gang. Riff struggles to get his best friend Tony to re-join the gang and come to the dance. He agrees out of a sense of loyalty to Riff, but expresses his unhappiness with his current life. ("Something's Coming").

Maria, the sister of the Shark leader, Bernardo, has only been in America a short time and sees the dance as the official beginning of her life in this country. Like Tony, she is full of hope. Bernardo arrives with Chino, who Maria's family has chosen to be her future husband.

A challenge dance erupts. Tony and Maria, meet and in a moment of romantic suspension, dance together, oblivious of the tension around them. After the dance, an ecstatic Tony sings of his new found love ("Maria"). As he sings, Maria appears on a fire escape above him. They profess their love for each other ("Tonight"). Whilst Anita and Rosalia, along with other Puerto Ricans, begin to express conflicting views about their lives in the United States ("America"), at the drugstore the shopkeeper, Doc, tries to convince the Jets not to have a rumble with the Sharks. The gang try to show Doc the pent-up tension they feel ("Cool").

The next day, Maria learns about the rumble from Anita. Maria begs Tony to stop the rumble and he promises her he will. They enact a mock marriage ceremony ("One Hand, One Heart") swearing that "even death can't part us now." Later that night everyone prepares for the rumble ("Tonight Quintet"). In the midst of the rumble, Bernardo stabs Riff. In blind fury, Tony angrily stabs Bernardo in an act of revenge. The sirens scream.

### Act 2

Unaware of the tragedy Maria sings to her friends about her reactions to love ("I Feel Pretty") when Chino enters with the news Tony has killed Bernardo. Left alone, Maria is praying when Tony enters. They both imagine a new world where they can live together in peace and acceptance ("Somewhere").

Meanwhile Officer Krupke is questioning the Jets about the murders. The gang ridicule him and the other adults who fail to understand what motivates their behaviour ("Gee, Officer Krupke").

Anita arrives at Maria's apartment turning on Maria in fury for making love to the man who killed her own brother ("A Boy Like That"). However, when Maria explains ("I Have a Love"), Anita realizes Maria loves Tony as much as she loved Bernardo. Told that Chino has a gun and is planning revenge, Maria asks Anita to warn Tony but she is attacked by the Jets. In her fury and humiliation, Anita tells them how Chino has killed Maria. Tony, feeling there is nothing to live for now, runs out to find Chino.

Chino appears and shoots Tony. Still alive, but struggling, the Jets and Sharks flock around the lovers, Maria tries to pull Tony back from the brink of death ("Somewhere Reprise"). But Tony dies in Maria's arms. Taking Chino's gun she tells everyone that hatred is what killed Tony and the others, and that now she can kill them because their hate has affected her., but she collapses in her grief. Gradually, all the members of both gangs assemble together on either side of Tony's body.

## **Angela Briley - Director**

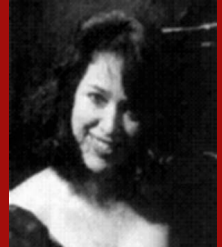
“West Side Story” is rather a favourite of mine and after the success of “High School Musical” I was delighted to be asked back to direct this fabulous show. The WOW class of 2010 is a much younger group, but as usual, with typical WOW enthusiasm, the cast has risen to the challenge with the encouragement of Susannah our Musical Director, Natalie our Choreographer and Pete Fishwick our Fight Co-ordinator. So sit back and stay ‘cool’, you’re really in for a treat!



## **Susannah Edom - Musical Director**

Susannah studied music at Bulmershe College, Reading. She returned to Suffolk to begin her teaching career and became well known locally as a Musical Director.

Susannah is currently a regular adjudicator at the Royal Festival Hall for Barnardo’s youth choral competition. Her next project will be as conductor at Wembley Arena in March when she will be directing a choir of 3,000 children. Susannah is also an official accompanist for the Chelmsford Competitive Music Festival. This is Susannah’s second appearance as Musical Director for WOW and she is delighted to have had the chance to work again with such a talented, positive and energetic group of young people.



## **Natalie Wilson- Choreographer**

Natalie started her training at the Patricia School of Dance and then continued to go through to The Weston School of Dance. She also was a member of the Chelmsford Ballet Company. Natalie graduated from Colchester Institute with a three year Musical Theatre degree and is working as a professional choreographer. Her theatre credits include “High School Musical”, “Children of Eden”, “Songs for a New World” and now Natalie feels honoured to be choreographing “West Side Story.” Natalie has had many lead roles herself such as, Miranda (“Return of Forbidden Planet”) JoJo (“Suessical the Musical”) Chava (“Fiddler on the Roof”) Iris Kelly (“FAME”) Susan (“Tick Tick Boom”). It has been a pleasure working with WOW once again and I have enjoyed every minute of it. The cast has worked so hard. I know this week, “West Side Story” will be dynamic. Thank you for all your support and really hope you enjoy the show ‘Tonight’.



## **Presidents Message Nick Clough**

Welcome to WOW’s production of “West Side Story”. It is, indeed, a challenge for a group as young as this to take on such a complex piece which spans a wide range of dramatic emotions. In addition, Leonard Bernstein’s music combined with Stephen Sondheim’s lyrics provide an intricate vehicle enabling the cast to give full play to their considerable talents.

This is the second time that WOW has performed this piece and judging from the standard of rehearsals that I have witnessed, I am sure that you will experience an entertaining and enjoyable evening.



## Production Credits

Director	-	Angela Briley
Musical Director	-	Susannah Edom
Choreographer & Assistant Director	-	Natalie Wilson
Fight Co-ordinator	-	Peter Fishwick
Stage Manager	-	Graham Green
Stage Crew	-	Keith Radley, Ben Hermon, Gary Rolph, Craig Watson
Scenery	-	Paul Lazell & Paul Galley
Lighting	-	Nigel Northfield
Lighting Assistants	-	Quintin Brazier, Anne Dyster, Graeme Parrett, Kris Knox-Crichton
Sound	-	Paul Galley, Jason Fenn Event Sound & Light
Properties Manager	-	Helen Temperley
Properties Team	-	Janice Hawkes, Chris Willison, Janet Hawkes, Judy Fishwick, Marcus Churchill, Rachel Ellis, Kai Wright
Wardrobe Mistress	-	Anne Howe
Wardrobe Assistants	-	Alison Carlyle, Debbie Stirling
Costumes	-	The Dressing-Up Box
Make up	-	Liz Watson
Make-up Assistant	-	Alison Carlyle, Marea Irving
Wigs	-	Patsy Page
Prompt	-	Anne Shepperd
Box Office Manager	-	Janice Hawkes
Front of House Manager	-	Anne Wilson
Foyer & Publicity Displays	-	Cynthia Stead, Janice Hawkes, Kathryn Adkins
Artwork for Publicity Material	-	Martha Lawless
Publicity Photos	-	Emily Lyndon
Programme	-	Michael Mundell-Poole
Bar Manager	-	Ron Howe

(Please note that strobe lighting will be used during this performance)

## Orchestra

Woodwind	- Lehla Abbott
	- Deborah Corsham
	- Laura Scales
	- Sandy Tate
Trumpet 1	- Steve Hopper
Trumpet 2	- Jon Brierley
Trombone	- Dave Healey
French Horn	- Steve Smart
Percussion	- Paul Codling
Keyboard/Synthesizer	- Emma Firth
Bass	- Nick Tate
Rehearsal Accompanists	- Claire Merrill, Emma Firth

## Musical Numbers

### ACT 1

Scene 1	- Jet Song
Scene 2	- Something's Coming
Scene 3/4	- Dance at the Gym
	- Maria
Scene 5	- Balcony Scene
	- America
Scene 6	- Cool
Scene 7	- One Hand, One Heart
Scene 8	- Tonight
Scene 9	- The Rumble

### ACT 2

Scene 1	- I Feel Pretty
	- Somewhere
Scene 2	- Gee, Officer Krupke
Scene 3	- A Boy Like That
	- I Have a Love
Scene 6	- Somewhere, Reprise

## THE JETS

Tony	-	Thomas Holland
Riff	-	Jake Davis
Action	-	Michael Watling
Anybodys	-	Stephanie Winch
Big Deal	-	Michael Stewart
Baby John	-	Elliott Elder
Snowboy	-	Tim Rolph
A-rab	-	Max Holland
Diesel	-	Daniel Carr
Graziella	-	Gemma Gray
Velma	-	Charlotte Watling

## THE SHARKS

Maria	-	Zoe Rogers
Bernardo	-	Josh Read
Anita	-	Sam Carlyle
Chino	-	Max Clements
Nibbles	-	Max Lenoir
Indio	-	Tom Fisher
Pepe	-	Mark Ellis
Juano	-	Martin Raczek
Toro	-	Adam Baldwin
Moose	-	Luke Merriman
Francisca	-	Matilda Bourne
Rosalia	-	Faith Rogers
Consuela	-	Martha Lawless
Girl Soloist	-	Rachel Goddard
Office Krupke	-	Marcus Churchill
Doc	-	Peter Fishwick
Glad Hand	-	Luke Merriman
Lt Schrank	-	James Simpson

## Ensemble/Dancers

Dance Captains – Faith Rogers and Elliott Elder

Olivia Bentley

Louise Lechance

Kayleigh Haywood

Hannah Lenoir

Lauren Rushen

Charlotte Tofts

Sarah Waldie

Rachel Goddard,

Rosie Goddard

Libby Johnson

Sophie Morton

Emma Simpson

Isabella Tull

Sarah Williams



### Chairman's Message

This will be my first production as Chairman of WOW although I was Chairman of WAOS when the junior section was first set up in 1995. I have seen how my own children have enjoyed being part of this talented group, gaining in confidence as they benefit from the discipline and fun of this shared theatrical experience. If you or a family member think that you would like to join us or simply learn more about what is involved, call me on 07775 672547 or visit our website at [www.wow.org.uk](http://www.wow.org.uk)

We welcome new members between the ages of 11 and 21 as well as adults interested in helping backstage, with costumes, scenery, lighting, front of house etc. You are assured of a warm welcome and a very rewarding experience.

Stewart Adkins – Chariman

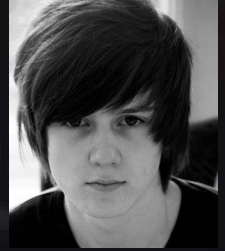


### **Thomas Holland - Tony**

I am 18 and have been with WOW since the tender age of 10. I have enjoyed roles ranging from Oliver in *Oliver!* to Valjean in *Les Miserables* and have enjoyed my time with the group immensely. I am currently studying for the IB Diploma at the Colchester Sixth Form College and planning to study English at university following that. Sadly this shall be my last show with WOW and I have enjoyed *West Side Story* immensely and am looking forward to the show even more.

### **Jake Davis - Riff**

This is my 6th consecutive show with WOW, previous parts include Marius in *Les Miserables*; Nanki Poo in *Hot Mikado* and Troy in *High School Musical*. I'm with the Sylvia Young Theatre School Agency and have recently filmed a TV pilot called 'The Diary Of Me'. I can't wait to perform in *West Side Story*. It's been more than a pleasure to work with such a fantastic team for the 6th time. I would like to say thank you to everyone involved with the production and wish everyone luck!



### **Michael Watling - Action**

I am 16 and this is my 5th show with WOW. I'm currently studying all 3 sciences for A levels and I'm also studying P.E. This show has been the most challenging show I have done with the group, but I think we have all lived up to the standard. Hope you enjoy the show!!!!

### **Stephanie Winch - Anybodys**

I am doing my A-levels at Thurstable Sixth Form. This is my first show with WOW but I have participated in all the shows at my secondary school playing the lead role in year 11, I also have the role of Miss Sherman in *Fame* at college. I am really looking forward to *West Side Story* and can't wait for next year's show either!



### **Michael Stewart - Big Deal**

I am a new member of WOW after recently moving in to Witham. They have made me very welcome and I am looking forward to my first show.

### **Elliott Elder - Baby John**

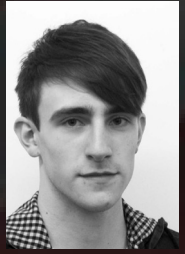
I have been performing since I was six and this is my second WOW show after playing Gavrouch in *Les Miserable* a couple of years ago. I have also played Oliver in *Oliver!*, Jojo in *Seussical the Musical* and Dizzy in *Bugsy Malone*. I hope you enjoy the show as much as I enjoy acting in it.





### **Tim Rolph - Snowbay**

I've been in WOW for the past two shows which I fully enjoyed and I am looking forward to performing *West Side Story* too. I have also been playing drums since I was a little boy, and I am playing in the orchestra for WAOS's *Anything Goes*. I'm studying Moeller technique with my teacher, Andy Bold, who studied with the legendary Bob Armstrong. I plan to go full time with my studying after leaving school this year and make my living from doing what I enjoy most.



### **Max Holland - A-rab**

I'm 14 years old, enjoy dramatics and have been involved with WOW since *High School Musical*, my last production being *Guys and Dolls* with Witham Music Theatre in December 2010. I really enjoy performing and have enjoyed *West Side Story* a lot.

### **Daniel Carr - Diesel**

This will be my first show with WOW but my 14th show overall as an actor. I am really looking forward to it.



### **Gemma Gray - Graziella**

I was previously in WOW's production of *High School Musical* and WAOS's production of *Hello Dolly* playing 'Ermengarde' and when not performing I assist backstage. As a member of Witham Music Theatre I recently played Hot Box Girl 'Mimi' in *Guys and Dolls*. Outside of Witham I was part of The Masterclass Company performing in *Chicago*. After seeing the show on Broadway I am very much looking forward to performing in *West Side Story*.

### **Charlotte Watling - Velma**

My name is Charlotte and I am 14. This is my 5th show with WOW and it is certainly one of the hardest. I go to Thurstable school in Tiptree and I'm in year 10 so I am doing my GCSEs but will always make time for WOW. Hope you enjoy the show.



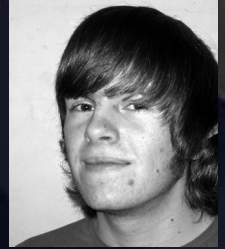


### **Zoe Rogers - Maria**

*West Side Story* is my 5th show with WOW, previously playing parts such as Gabriella in *High School Musical*, Cosette in *Les Miserables* and Yum - Yum in *Hot Mikado*. I have most recently played the part of Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* presented by WAOS. I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to work with such a talented cast and to play the part I have dreamed of playing since I was so young! I hope you enjoy our show!

### **Josh Read - Bernardo**

This is my second show with WOW and I'm very much looking forward to it. I played Pish-Tush in wow's last show, *Hot Mikado*. Other roles I have played include Tobias in *Sweeney Todd* and Able in *Children Of Eden*.



### **Sam Carlyle - Anita**

I am a 17 year old performing arts student at the New Rickstones Academy. This is my fifth show with WOW, having previously played Eponine in *Les Miserables* amongst other roles. I have also been in a number of WAOS and WMT productions, as well as recently trying my hand at choreographing. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of playing Anita and hope everyone enjoys the show!

### **Max Clements - Chino**

I'm 14 years old and this is my third show with WOW the previous two being *Les Miserables* and *Hot Mikado*. I have also been in the WAOS production of *Sweeney Todd*. I'm playing my first principal part this year and I'm enjoying every minute of it. I hope you enjoy the show.



### **Max Lenoir - Nibbles**

This my first show with WOW. I am also in 'Theatre Train' and have performed at the Royal Albert Hall. I am really enjoying rehearsals and looking forward to show week.



### **Tom Fisher - Indio**

This will be my second show with WOW my first being *High School Musical*. I have enjoyed rehearsal and looking forward to the show .



### **Mark Ellis - Pepe**

This is my third show with WOW. I was in the chorus of *Les Miserables* and played the Mikado in *Hot Mikado* last year. I am in Year Nine and have always loved performing. I thoroughly enjoyed my first professional work playing the role of William in a short film by Luke Snellin last Summer. I am loving *West Side Story*. The show, the rehearsals, everything! And I hope you really like the show.

### **Martin Raczek - Juanol**

This is my second show with WOW, having really enjoyed *Hot Mikado*. I am a student of Performing Arts at Rickstone Academy and Art and Photography at Maltings Academy.

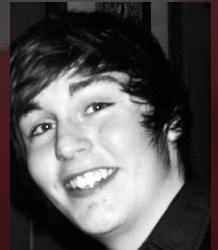


### **Luke Merriman - Glad Hand and Moose**

This is my fourth show with WOW during which time I have performed in *High School Musical*, *Les Miserables* and *Hot Mikado*. I am also a member of Witham Music Theatre playing the roles of Able in *Children of Eden* and Benny Southstreet in *Guys and Dolls*. I am a student at the New Rickstones Academy currently studying BETEC Performing Arts and Music.

### **Adam Baldwin - Toro**

I am 16 years old, have been into musical theatre for two years and undergoing an extended National Diploma Musical Theatre at Colchester Institute! I have played the roles of Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*, Big Macca in *We Will Rock You*, Ham in *Children of Eden* and ensemble for **Sweeney Todd**. I also do tap at Imagination School of Dance and play guitar! This is my first show with WOW and I have thoroughly enjoyed it!



### **Tilda Bourne - Francisca**

I am studying at the Colchester Institute in the extended National Diploma in Musical Theatre. I have only been involved with WOW for the past year, being cast as Katisha in *Hot Mikado* - winning the NETG award for best young actress. I also dance at Imagination School of Dance studying Ballet and Modern grade 5. I have really enjoyed the past months working with the cast and crew on *West Side Story* and hope you all enjoy it as much as we have.

### **Faith Rogers - Rosalia**

I am currently studying at the Colchester Sixth Form College and hope to go to university this year to study English and Drama. I have been a member of WOW since 2005 and have been lucky to have played a few leading roles, including Fantine in *Les Miserables* and Pitti-Sing in *Hot Mikado*. Most recently I performed in *Sweeney Todd* with WAOS, which was a fantastic experience.



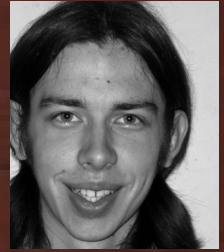
### **Martha Lawless - Consuela**

Hi, my name is Martha and I'm playing the part of Consuela! I am 15 years old and I am currently studying for my GCSEs at CCHS. I am really looking forward to performing *West Side Story* and wearing a blonde wig!



## James Simpson - Lt Schrank

I am 17 years old and this is my second show with WOW, my first being *Les Miserables*. I appeared in *Pirates of Penzance* and *Broadway Nights* with WAOS. I have also appeared in *Rent*, *Back To The Eighties*, *We Will Rock You*, *Night to Remember*, *Guys and Dolls* and now preparing to play Audrey 2 in *Little Shop of Horrors*. It's been great fun for me to take part in this fantastic show and I hope you enjoy watching it as much as I did rehearsing it.



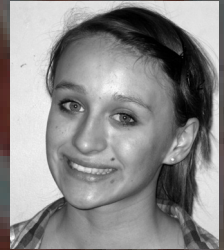
## Peter Fishwick - Doc

An amateur actor for many years, moving to Witham 6 years ago from Cambridge where I took many roles with local theatre groups in the area, playing Restoration Comedy, Shakespeare and Pantomime as well as more contemporary productions. My first appearance for WDC was *Neville's Island* and since played many parts large and small. A member of the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat I trained in stage combat and made use of these skills as Fight Director for this production.



## Rachel Goddard- Girl Soloist

I am a year 10 student at The Sandon School studying Drama and Music, both of which I very much enjoy. This is my third year with WOW previously appearing in *Les Miserables* as young Eponine and in *Hot Mikado* as a chorus member. I am really looking forward to appearing in *West Side Story* as a singer after recently passing grade 2 singing with distinction. WOW has put a huge effort into *West Side Story*, we have many talented cast members and some amazing people behind the scenes... I hope you will enjoy the show.



## Marcus Churchill - Officer Krupke

I'm still new to the Witham stage having only previously appeared in *Sweeney Todd* with WAOS, but I have always been involved in drama at some level throughout my life. I'm really pleased to be involved in this production for WOW and proud to be on the stage with such a talented group of youngsters (I've certainly learned a thing or two from them!). *West Side Story* is a great show to be a part of and Officer Krupke is great fun to play. It's been a brilliant experience!



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| 1997 | West Side Story                              | 2005 | Little Shop of Horror         |
| 1998 | Annie  | 2006 | Fame                          |
| 1999 | The Boyfriend                                | 2007 | A Knight to Remember          |
| 2000 | 42nd Street                                  | 2008 | High School Musical           |
| 2001 | The Wiz                                      | 2009 | Les Miserables School Edition |
| 2002 | Bugsy Malone                                 | 2010 | Hot Mikado                    |
| 2003 | Oliver!                                      |      |                               |

And don't miss our next WOW production. The show for 2012 is Footloose running 13th to 18th February

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WOW production.

# Footloose

13th - 18th February 2012

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