

# **WEST SIDE STORY**

**Review by Ann Platten, NODA East**

**A really slick production of the Bernstein/Sondheim classic show West Side Story from this young company who gave a gutsy account of the story and the gang warfare between the rival gangs of the Jets and the Sharks.**

**The pace was fast, and the dance routines expressed the feel and mood of teenagers, none more so than the fight sequences directed so well by Peter Fishwick.**

**The scenery added the idea of the mean streets especially and was used to good effect. With a production listing twenty eight characters it is impossible to comment on each and every one as it was to all the cast's credit the show was so good. But I must mention the singing voices of Zoë Rogers as Maria and Thomas Holland as Tony who were exceptional. The voice range required from both of the characters is demanding, and it was to their credit that the control over the top range of their singing was maintained until the very end of each song.**

**All of the musical numbers were so well supported and enhanced under the Musical Director's sympathetic and skilful use of the Orchestra. This is a great score which was played at a volume which blended so well with the voices. It was so enjoyable from the audience's perception to really hear all the fine toning coming through.**

**Selecting the principal parts at auditions must have been very difficult as I felt that there were so many good voices and very competent actors and dancers on the stage and all so confident to choose from. The talent in the area just keeps getting better and especially so with this company. Costumes lighting sound and scenery were well appointed, and a plus to the overall production. Angela Briley who last directed "High School Musical" with WOW has every right to feel a huge sense of pride in this production, as has Susannah and Natalie. This was a very good evening's entertainment. I look forward to "Footloose" in 2012 from WOW and of course "Anything Goes" with WAODS later this year in May.**

**Many thanks also for your hospitality which is appreciated.**

**Reviewer – Ann Platten**