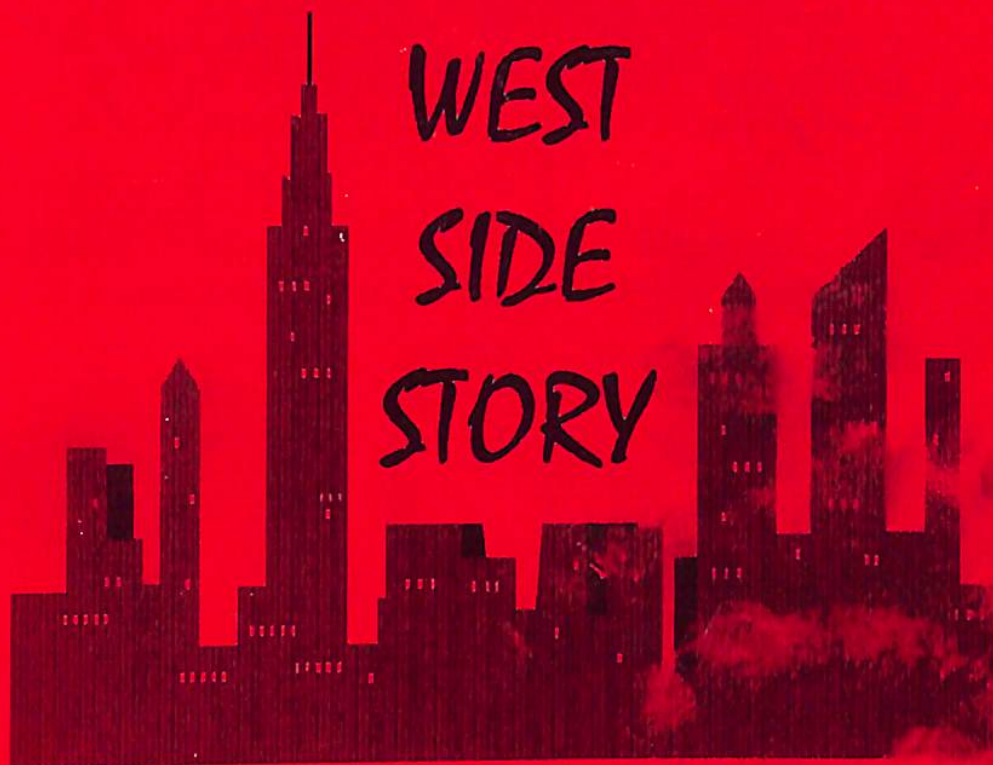


WITHAM OPERATIC WORKSHOP

25 February - 1 March 1997

WITHAM PUBLIC HALL



Based on a conception of JEROME ROBBINS

Book by ARTHUR LAURENTS

Music by LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM

This production given by permission of Josef Weinberger
Limited on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York

WOW!

Programme 75p



Sedgwick

Welcome!

Welcome to "The Bronx" and WOW's second production.

After the success of Joseph, we have explored a totally different area of the musical theatre. The mimicry, comedy and Biblical text have been replaced by tragedy and drama adapted from Romeo and Juliet by Shakespeare.

The cast have managed the transition with enthusiasm and worked extremely hard to master this most difficult of musicals.

On behalf of the Committee and the Production Team, I wish you all a very enjoyable evening's entertainment.



Nicholas Clough
Chairman, WOW

Witham Operatic Workshop would like to thank:

Central Photographic, Chelmsford
Young Generation, CO₂, the Currie
Trust, Manifest, Michelle Floral
Design, Witham Amateur Operatic
Society and the many other
organisations and individuals who
have contributed to the preparation
and production of this show.



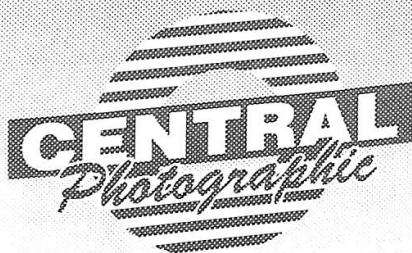
WOW are grateful for the financial help provided by the Witham office of international risk consultants and financial services group, Sedgwick, as part of its support for the community.

Central Photographic

(Also on the West Side)

wishes W.O.W.

every success
with their West Side!



THE ONE STOP SHOP
FOR ALL OF YOUR
COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
REQUIREMENTS

UNIT 6, CRITTALL ROAD, WITHAM, ESSEX, CM8 3BA. Tel: 01376 512262

- Studio & Location Advertising Photography
- Processing & Printing
- Poster Design & Production
- Photographic Retouching
- Image Manipulation
- Computer Generated Exhibition Graphics
- Exhibition & Presentation Services

Picturesque

63a Newland Street, Witham
Essex CM8 1AA

AGFA  **FILM**

(01376) 519988

½ Hour Mini-Lab facilities - Enlargements
Up to 12" x 8" prints on site. 120 format processing on the premises.
Films - Picture Frames - Cameras - Studio Facilities.



WOW are grateful to all those who
have supported us by advertising in
this programme.



If you would like to advertise in the
programme for our next production,
please contact us on
(01376) 520473.

West Side Story

Exploding across the footlights for the first time at the Winter Garden Theatre on 26th September 1957, *West Side Story* brought the reality of gang violence to Broadway. Based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, the tragedy of warring aristocratic families, *West Side Story* depicts the Jets and the Sharks, rival street gangs warring over control of a small stretch of "turf" in a dangerous Manhattan neighbourhood. Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers become Polish-American Tony and Puerto Rican-born Maria, whose romance sets off a deadly confrontation between the two bands of youths.

In addition to telling a riveting story, the show was a watershed in the development of musical theatre. Director-choreographer Jerome Robbins furthered the use of dance as both an expression of character and as a way to tell a story. His dances utilised the main characters, not just the chorus, to physicalise all the relationships among the inarticulate gang members. Unlike the chorus members of previous musicals, all of the *West Side* youths were individual characters with names and histories. Add to this Robbins's direction of all the book scenes as well as choreographing the show, and the result is that music, dance and story became all of a piece rather than a blending of still-separate elements.

Robbins was also credited with "conceiving" the show. The idea came to him in 1949, when an actor friend asked how *Romeo* could be played in a relevant way. The choreographer came up with an outline, recasting Shakespeare's tragedy in contemporary terms, with a Lower East Side Jewish girl falling in love with a Catholic-Italian boy. He decided to develop this idea and called it *East Side Story*. Leonard Bernstein, who had collaborated with Robbins on *On the Town*, was to write the songs, and Arthur Laurents the book. Scheduling conflicts, including an unproduced musical version of James M. Cain's *Serenade* - involving all three - prevented *East Side* from reaching fruition, so eventually the project fizzled out.

Then, in 1954, Bernstein met Laurents in Hollywood, where both

were working on films. As the two were reminiscing about *East Side Story*, the composer glanced at a newspaper headline about recent Hispanic gang warfare in Los Angeles. "Why don't we make it about the Puerto Ricans in New York?" suggested Bernstein. Robbins was contacted, and the project was reborn.

Bernstein was originally to write both music and lyrics. But as the show, now called *West Side Story*, developed, the amount of music in the score increased and a collaborating lyricist was needed to lighten Bernstein's burden. Betty Comden and Adolph Green were considered, but they were busy in Hollywood. Stephen Sondheim, who had auditioned his songs for the unproduced *Serenade*, was hired. In the end he was given sole credit for the lyrics. The writing of the show took two years, during which Bernstein took a six-month break to complete his score for *Candide*. Another delay was caused by the number of producers who rejected the project. It was finally optioned by Cheryl Crawford and Roger Stevens. Crawford went so far as to begin production, but withdrew; she was replaced by Harold Prince and Robert Griffith.

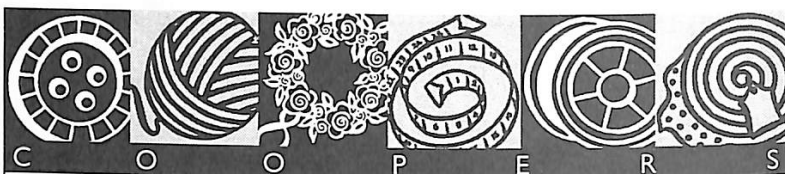
Along with every other aspect of the show, the casting took longer than usual: six months. There were no stars, for the cast had to be young enough to be convincing as teenagers. In addition, they all had to sing, dance, and act well. Rehearsals took an unprecedented eight weeks, as the green Broadway youngsters were transformed into believable street gangs.

West Side Story's breakthroughs were acknowledged by the press, but with reservations as to the rawness of the cast. At awards time, its innovations went largely unappreciated. Both the Tony and New York Drama Critics Circle Awards for best musical went to the more conventional hit, *The Music Man*.

The show ran a respectable 732 performances, had a successful national tour, and then returned to Broadway for another six months.

When United Artists brought the show to the screen, the awards poured in. The film, co-directed by Robbins and Robert Wise, won a record eleven Oscars, including Best Picture.

The musical has been revived at the Music Theatre of Lincoln Centre, in 1968, and on Broadway, in 1980.



*Coopers
The Textile
House*

We are renowned for our vast range of fabric, haberdashery and all needlework related goods (now with an extended craft department), and more recently for our home furnishings, including ready made curtains, throws, blinds etc. Coopers Bridal is an exciting department within the store, offering more than 1000 different bridal fabrics and accessories.

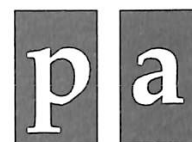
82-84 High Street Witham Telephone 01376 512337



Professional picture framing, with a choice of over 100 different frames. Beautiful frames for your paintings, photographs and even 3D artifacts. We also hold large stocks of ready framed pictures and Daler Rowney artist's materials, papers and boards.

113 High Street Witham. Telephone 01376 511451

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7am - 6pm



**SPEAK TO
MARGARET LOCKE
or ROBYN O'BRIEN**

Prime Appointments Ltd

(01376) 502999

Fax: (01376) 502846

**CHRISTMAS HOUSE, 98B NEWLAND STREET
WITHAM, ESSEX CM8 1AH**

**FOR
PERMANENT & TEMPORARY
APPOINTMENTS**

**IN
INDUSTRY, COMMERCE
OR ONE OF THE PROFESSIONS**

*We Provide A Cost Effective, Professional Service, Covering Central Essex,
Backed By Excellent Local Business Knowledge*

Synopsis of Scenes

The action takes place on the West Side of New York City during the last days of summer.

Act I

Prologue: The months before

5:00 PM	The Street
5:30 PM	A Back Yard
6:00 PM	A Bridal Shop
10:00 PM	The Gym
11:00 PM	A Back Alley
Midnight	The Drugstore

The Next Day

5:30 PM	The Bridal Shop
6:00 to 9:00 PM	The Neighbourhood
9:00 PM	Under the Highway

Act II

9:15 PM	A Bedroom
10:00 PM	Another Alley
11:30 PM	The Bedroom
11:40 PM	The Drugstore
11:50 PM	The Cellar
Midnight	The Street

Musical Numbers

Act I

Prologue	Sharks and Jets
Jet Song	Riff and Jets
Something's Coming	Tony
Dance at the Gym	
Maria	Tony
Balcony Scene	Maria and Tony
America	Anita, Rosalia and Girls
Cool	Riff and Jets
One Hand, One Heart	Tony and Maria
Tonight	Full Ensemble
The Rumble	Sharks and Jets

Act II

I Feel Pretty	Maria and Girls
Somewhere	A Girl
Gee, Officer Krupke	Jets
A Boy Like That	Maria and Anita
I Have a Love	Maria and Anita
Finale	Maria and Tony and the Company

The Jets

Tony	Louis Williamson
Riff	Stephen Butler
Action	Andrew Ould
Anybodys	Hannah East
Big Deal	Joe Allen
Baby John	Anthony Clough
Snowboy	Duncan Henderson
A-rab	Billy Herring
Diesel	Ian Pavelin
Gee-tar	David Shields
Mouthpiece	Jason Stone
Tiger	Ian Willingham
Velma	Vicki Cumbers
Minnie	Sarah Keyes
Clarice	Victoria Lewis
Graziella	Laura Maidment

Jet Dancers

Victoria Adkins	Laura Clark
Claire Shilling	Gemma Smallpage
Grace Williamson	
Soloist	Beth Reid
Officer Krupke	Jim Crimmins
Doc	Stewart Adkins
Glad Hand	Peter McKay
Lieutenant Schrank	Mick Hemstedt

The Sharks

Maria	Natalie Cudlip
Bernardo	John Dagleish
Anita	Emma Sewell
Chino	Simon Palmer
Nibbles	Jonathan Baron
Luis	Craig Digby
Indio	Robert McDonald
Anxious	Jason Scott
Pepe	Darren White
Teresita	Jacqui Bignell
Francisca	Sarah Burkin
Rosalia	Laura Furnival
Consuela	Alex Reeve
Estella	Callie Shaw

The Band

Musical Director	Jill Parkin
Reeds	Jerry Martin
	Sarah Stone
	Sue Chambers
	Melanie Williams
Trumpet	John Hutchins
Trombone	Steve Edmonds
Keyboards	David Leveridge
Bass	Phillip Toms
Percussion	Graham Instrall

Production Team

Director & Choreographer	Elisabeth Ladd
Musical Director	Jill Parkin
Producer	Nicholas Clough
Fight Co-ordinator	Jonathan Davis
Musical Assistant	Phillip Toms
Assistant Student Director	Charlotte Clough
Lighting design & operation	Rhuddian Davies
Lighting Assistant	Robert Kettridge
Follow Spots	Glen Cousins, Mik Ager
Lighting suppliers	RHE, Braintree Arts Council
Sound	Peter Pitwood, Giles Harrison
Sound equipment suppliers	Electric Sound Company
Stage Manager	Alastair Irving
Stage Crew	Keith Radley, Richard Herring, Richard Thornelow
Make-up	Marea Irving, Angie Crimmins, Judy Henderson
Hair / Wigs	Patsy Page
Prompt	Anne Sheppard, Bobbie Tyler
Box Office	Angie Crimmins, Jim Crimmins
Props Manager	Helen Clark
Props Team	Natalie Hawkes, Alice Chaplin, Charlotte Clough, Georgina Davey, Gemma Herring, Lora Johnson, Alison White, Sarah Willingham
Wardrobe Mistress	Pat Ladd
Wardrobe Assistant	Jane Furnival
Girls' outfits made by	Pat Ladd, Jane Furnival
Boys' Gym jackets hire	Carousel Costumes
Scenery	Paul Lazell, Colchester Garrison Theatre, Jake Davies, Multipoint Communications, the Company

Programmes
Programme Advertising
Bar Manager
Chaperone Co-ordinator
Chaperones

**Terry Willingham
Jim Crimmins
Ron Howe
Freda Willingham
Trish Cumbers, Eve Digby,
Angie Crimmins, Lin Ould;
Sue Pavelin, Gillian Sewell,
Terry Willingham, Ann Winter
Lydia Clough
Joanna Greaves, Peter
Humphrey
Central Photographic**

**Front of House
Rehearsal Accompanist**

Cast Photographs

WOW Committee

Chairman	Nicholas Clough
Business Manager	Bill Chaplin
Production Secretary	Angie Crimmins
Secretary	Judy Henderson
Treasurer	Julia Reed
Assistant Treasurer	Helen Clark
Social Committee	Sue Pavelin, Freda Willingham
Additional Member	Elisabeth Ladd
WOW Representative	Andrew Ould

Sponsors

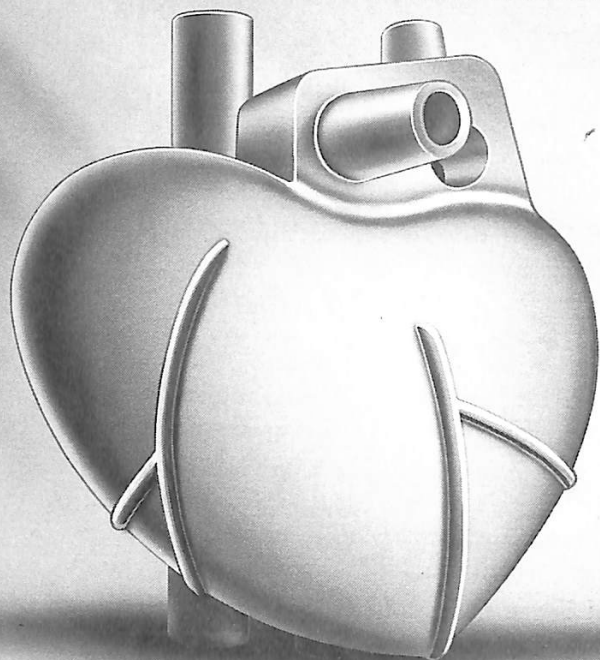
Father David Beaton
Gillian Sewell
Mr & Mrs TJ Sheppard

☆ If you are interested in becoming an individual sponsor of
 ☆ WOW please contact our Secretary, Judy Henderson, on
 ☆ (01376) 516706.
 ☆

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

***morris
ashby***
castings Ltd

EUROPE'S LEADING ALUMINIUM DIECASTERS



**WORKING AT
THE HEART OF THE
COMMUNITY**

Tel: 01376 500700

16 Freebournes Road, Witham, Essex CM8 3DX

R. Pipe

INSURANCE CONSULTANT

*For all your
Insurance
Needs*

Newland Court, Newland Street,
Witham, Essex CM8 2AL

Tel: 01376 501105 Fax: 01376 502205

**Witham Forge
Blacksmith**

M. E. Baker R.S.S. (Hons)

REGISTERED SHOEING SMITH (Hons)

*Security Grilles and Bars
for domestic and industrial use*



Telephone: 0376 513121
Chipping Hill Forge, Witham, Essex



Elisabeth Ladd (Director and choreographer). Liz is Witham born and bred. She started dance training with Iris Muirhead at the age of 4 and has performed many times at the Public Hall. Liz has been involved with WAOS since 1986 when she played Louisa in The Sound of Music. She has taken part in many shows since, often as a dancer. From 1991 to 1994 Liz attended University College, London where she read English and became heavily involved in the Drama and Dance Society, becoming President in 1992. Working in the Bloomsbury Theatre she directed, choreographed and acted in many shows including Fiddler on the Roof, Cabaret, The Bald Soprano, Dr Faustus and The Rover, where she took a leading role. Liz has very much enjoyed working with WOW and wishes them every success for the future.



Jill Parkin (Musical Director). Jill has been associated with WAOS since 1988 and is very pleased to be in the Public Hall once more. She is no stranger to youth productions, having staged The Boyfriend, Grease and The Sound of Music at Chelmer Valley High School, and Oliver! and Joseph here in Witham. Once Jill finishes this show, another production of Oliver! awaits her attention at school!

PHOTOGRAPHY AND RECORDING

Please note that the taking of photographs and / or the recording of this performance on film, video tape, audio tape or any other medium is strictly prohibited.

**S STUART
S SURRIDGE**

NOW OPEN

**LADIES FIGURE TONING
& HEALTH CLUB**

2 Stepfield, Freebournes Road
Industrial Estate East, Witham
Essex, CM8 3AQ
Tel: Witham (01376) 510622

FREE HEALTH CLUB MEMBERSHIP
**TO ALL LADIES INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR FIGURE
TONING & HEALTH CLUB**

**EXPERIENCE OUR SENSATIONAL
NEW SUN SHOWER**



Silverdell Microbiology Limited


An independent laboratory specialising in water and feed analysis, e.g. Legionella, Salmonella etc. Personalised service, best rates available. Contact us for a competitive quotation. Participants of PHLS NEQAS for Food and Water Microbiology. MAFF Authorised. NAMAS Accredited.

24 HOUR
7 DAYS
A WEEK
SERVICE

SILVERDELL MICROBIOLOGY LTD.
25 Finch Drive, Braintree, Essex CM7 2SF.
Tel: (01376) 550045 Fax: (01376) 550047



Testing
No. 1444



We hope that you will enjoy tonight's production of West Side Story and that you will book early for our next show, **Annie**, which will take place in February 1998. If you are interested in joining WOW or supporting us in any way, please contact our Secretary, Judy Henderson, on (01376) 516706.



WOW are grateful to all those who have supported us by advertising in this programme.

If you would like to advertise in the programme for our next production, please contact us on (01376) 520473.

R.D. Computers of Witham SYSTEMS Department

Tel: (01376) 503444

Fax: (01376) 515156

We do not provide:
computers packaged with bundled software you
will never use,
glossy brochures,
machines you cannot upgrade,
carpeted showrooms,
smart sales hype.

**We won't sell you a hammer to crack a nut as systems are
actually built to your individual specification.**

**We cater equally for business workstations and home
systems.**

**Our customer base includes schools, colleges and local
authority clients.**

**Compare us to the high street - our range and prices will
surprise you.**

Please fax or ring for a quote on our tailor made systems.



Part of the DATRONTECH Plc Group

West Side ↔ East Side

We always require
quality housing
for
suitably qualified tenants.

Telephone (01376) 502500
Fax (01376) 515506

Email
101654.1672@compuserve.com



W
i
t
h
a
m

L
e
t
t
i
n
g

S
e
r
v
i
c
e
s



Witham Operatic Workshop

W.O.W. is a subsidiary of W.A.O.S.
Registered Charity No. 265807



C. Wick