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West Valley Arts Presents: IN THE HEIGHTS

Show Details

Performance Dates: June 23 - July 16, 2022​

Approximate Show Runtime: 2 hours with intermission

Get tickets at www.wvcarts.org or by calling ​(801) 965-5140

PRODUCTION PHOTOS

Link will go live Sat June 25 and expire Aug. 22

If you need access, please email laurel.christiansen@wvc-ut.gov with your affiliated media outlet name.

Photo Credit: West Valley Arts

Video Credit: West Valley Arts

Press Release: (LINK COMING SOON)

Digital Handbill: <https://www.wvcarts.org/program> (live June 23)

High Res Poster ([JPG](https://www.wvcarts.org/uploads/1/3/3/1/13312656/west-valley-arts-beauty-poster-2400x1714.jpg))

Square image 400px ([PNG](https://www.wvcarts.org/uploads/1/3/3/1/13312656/2022-01-beauty-square-400.png))

Direct link: <https://www.wvcarts.org/in-the-heights>

**IN THE HEIGHTS**

​Full-Length Musical, Comedy

Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda
Book by Quiara Alegría Hudes
Conceived by Lin-Manuel Miranda

In the vibrant New York City neighborhood of Washington Heights, bodega owner Usnavi and his friends dream, hope and work for a bright future. ​In the Heights won four Tony Awards®, including Best Musical. It's a feel-good feast for the senses, where long-time friends and neighbors make discoveries about each other, themselves, and the place they all call home. This show will be an audience favorite. Reserve your tickets today!

IN THE HEIGHTS is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com/)

**Cast**

Abuela Claudia, Sonia Maritza Inoa-Rosado Maughan
Vanessa, Micki Martinez
Usnavi, Pedros Flores
Nina, Beatriz Melo
Benny, Kiirt Banks
Kevin, Monte Garcia
​Daniela. Luseane Pasa
Carla. Teresa Jack
Sonny, Scotty Fletcher
Piragua Guy, Roberto Fernandez
Graffiti Pete, Eli Ghaeini
Camila, Sophia Davis
Aitana Alaba, Ensemble
Jonathan Francis, Swing, Ensemble
Hannah Salas, People of Washington Heights
Lio River, People of Washington Heights
Sibley Snowden, People of Washington Heights
Armando Serrano, People of Washington Heights
Stefanie Spiece, Dance Captain, People of Washington Heights
Logan Squire, People of Washington Heights
Blythe Snowden, People of Washington Heights
Brevan Ita, Jose

**Creative Team**

Directed By Juan Hector Pereira
Choreography by Izzy Arrieta

Executive Producer, Jeff  Olsen
Consulting Producer, John Sweeney
Managing Producer, Vanessa Olson
Production Assistant, A2, Rachel Mardis
Technical Director, Adam Flitton
Scenic Designer, Jason Baldwin
Lighting Designer, Michael Gray
Costume Designer, Kelsey Nichols
Assistant Costume Designer, Alicia Kondrick
Wig/Makeup Design, Savanna Finley
Sound Designer/Engineeer, Bryce Robinette
Properties, Marilyn Montgomery
Stage Manager, Al Saunders
Box Office Supervisor, Melissa Salguero
Stage Manager, Front of House Supervisor, Adam (AL) Saunders
Audio Engineer, Bryce Robinette
Light Board/ASM, Cody Neville
Wardrobe Supervisor, Alicia Kondrick
Dresser, Emma Stringham
Dresser, Heidi Frank
Dresser, Matt Sanguine
Wigs/Make up, Julie Call
Deck Crew/Backup Light Board Op, Angel Fernandez
Deck Crew, Brandon Green
Deck Crew, Ayden Davis

**Synopsis**

​From Broadway superstar Lin-Manuel Miranda, In the Heights tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York’s Washington Heights neighborhood - a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It’s a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures, where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind. Nina has just returned to her Washington Heights neighborhood from her freshman year at Stanford, unsure if she plans to go back; her parents struggle to keep their small business alive and Benny, their young employee, does his best to help the company stay afloat; Usnavi operates a tiny bodega, and his love interest, Vanessa, only dreams of finding a studio apartment in the coveted West Village. When the winning lottery ticket, a power outage, and romantic tension all hit the ‘hood, the long-time friends and neighbors make discoveries about each other, about themselves, and about the place they all call home.

Bios

**Sonia Maritza Inoa-Rosado Maughan, Abuela Claudia**

#FreedomForCuba This Domini-Rican is honored to play this role. “From Puerto Rico to Santo Domingo… we rep our people!” Much love to Mindy Pack, Adriel Garcia & hubby Shelby.

**Micki Martinez, Vanessa**

Micki Martinez is ecstatic to be able to share her favorite musical with all of you! Martinez holds a B.F.A. in musical theatre from the University of Utah. Some of her favorite credits include: “Something Rotten,” Ensemble/ Portia & Bea u/s, “Elf the Musical,” Ensemble/ Jovie u/s, and the Concert Productions of “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,” La Cage Aux Folles, and “In the Heights,” Nina Rosario, at Pioneer Theatre Company; “Pinkalicious,” Allison/Dr. Wink, and “Diary of a Worm,” Spider, and “Fly,” Butterfly, at Salt Lake Acting Company; Marta, Chess “Svetlana”, “Steel Pier,” Mick’s Pick, “Bring It On” Nautica, and the U.S. Premiere of The Beautiful Game at the University of Utah. Special thanks to her real life Usnavi. Pedro, “I owe you a bottle of cold champagne!”

**Pedro Flores, Usnavi de la Vega**

Pedro Flores is pumped to make his debut at West Valley Performing Arts in his dream show. He is an Actor/Director/Playwright currently based in Utah. Flores is a graduate of Weber State University’s Acting and Directing Bachelors program.
Select Credits: “Aftershock” (Plan-B Theatre), “Alli & #3” (Plan-B Theatre), “SLACabaret” (Salt Lake Acting Company), “Catharsis II” (Good Company Theatre), “Where Words Once Were” (Weber State University), “In the Heights” (Good Company Theatre).
Pedro was born in Los Angeles, California to Mexican immigrants and proudly honors their culture. Dedicating this performance to his family.
A special thank you to my very own Vanessa, Micki Martinez. Love you!
Lastly, Pedro wants to thank his mother. Without her, none of this would be possible.

**Beatriz Melo, Nina**

Beatriz is very excited to be performing at West Valley Performing Arts for the first time, and with such an incredible and diverse cast! She is a graduate from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre. Some favorite credits include: Kala, “Tarzan” at the Hale Centre Theatre, Rusty, “Footloose” at Sundance Summer Theatre, Amneris, “Aida,” The Lady of the Lake “Spamalot,” La Gata “Wonderland” at BYU, and Justice Death “Treasure Island” at the Hale Centre Theatre. She would like to thank her family for being incredibly supportive and loving always!!!!

**Kiirt Banks, Benny**

Kiirt Banks is a R&B singer born and raised in Dallas, TX. As a child he loved listening to his mothers Motown Records with dreams of becoming a recording artist and actor. After moving to Salt Lake City, he started to get serious about his career. Performing in numerous concerts and theatre shows, Tom Robinson in “To Kill A Mockingbird” and Coalhouse Walker Jr in “Ragtime” to name a few. Kiirt has been able to make a positive impact through his career. Follow Kiirt on IG [@kiirtbanks](https://www.instagram.com/kiirtbanks/)

**Monte Garcia, Kevin Rosario**

After taking a 3 year hiatus from the performing, Monte Garcia is “thrilled to return to the stage and make his debut performance with West Valley Arts and this wonderful POC cast!” He has been performing on this very stage (under previous management) since it was built 22 years ago. In this building Garcia has performed some of his favorite roles such as Bernardo in WSS (twice!), Rochefort in “3 Musketeers,” Pharaoh/Naphtali in “Joseph,” and Ozzy in “Scarlet Pimpernel.” Elsewhere he has loved playing The Pirate King in “Pirates of Penzance,” Sancho in “Man Of La Mancha,” Pseudolus in “Forum,” El Gallo in “Fantasticks” (twice!), Lawrence in “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,” Rum Tum Tugger in “Cats,” Radames in “Aida,” and Chauvelin in “Scarlet Pimpernel.” By day he is a Realtor and a Notary Closing Agent. Garcia has 2 adult sons and 1 talented daughter who he loves sharing the stage with on occasion. He sends all his love and much gratitude to his lovely wife Jen for her support and patience while he is away treading the boards. "ALABANZA"

**Luseane Pasa, Daniela**

Luseane, or Lucy, is excited to be making her debut here at West Valley Arts! Pasa is even more excited to be back on stage after 2 years! Pasa loves performing both on stage and on camera, but her first and main love is the stage. She was last seen as Sour Kangaroo in Seussical(HCTS), Medda Larkin in Newsies(HCTO), Sebastian in Little Mermaid(HCTO), and Motormouth Maybelle in Hairspray(SCERA). Pasa’s “grateful to all of you for being here and for supporting the arts and hopes to see more of her BIPoC brothers and sisters on the stage and on screen!”

**Teresa Jack, Carla**

Teresa Jack is excited to make her West Valley Arts Debut as Carla. Jack is a comedian, TikToker, and musical theatre fan. She has a long history of playing character roles in theatre and film. Teresa is from New York, and the life of the party. Follow her on Instagram @TravelTeresa and TikTok at @Teresa\_Jack. Jack wants you to consider adopting a dog from your local animal shelter.

**Scotty Fletcher, Sonny**

Making their WVC debut!!! Utah State University graduate with a BFA in Acting, Fletcher has worked recently on Treasure Island, and The Light in the Piazza at Hale Centre Theatre in Sandy and Fremont Junior High is Not Doing Oklahoma! at Good Company in Ogden. He also works as a Drag performer in Salt Lake for The Viva la Diva show at Metro music hall. When not on stage, Fletcher can be found at the gym, sunbathing, or taking a nap whenever possible.

**Rob Fernandez, Piragua Guy**

Rob Fernandez is ecstatic to be returning to West Valley Arts in a dream role and is happy to be a part of such a wonderful production. He was recently seen in “Treasure Island” (Hale) as Billy Bones and previously as Manolo in “The Odd Couple” (West Valley Arts). "A huge shout out to all of my friends and family who have truly believed in me and pushed me to do my best. And thank you for supporting the arts," said Fernandez.

**Eli Ghaeini, Graffiti Pete**

Eli Ghaeini is excited to be returning to West Valley Performing Arts Center! His past credits at WVPAC include “The Odd Couple, The Female Version,” Jesus Costazuela. Some of his favorite roles have been “Twelfth Night,” Sebastian, “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” Ginabrik, “Our Town,” George Gibbs, “Measure for Measure,” Pompey and “The Last Days of Judas Iscariot,” Butch Honeywell. Television: The Chosen. He holds a BFA in Acting from Northern Illinois University.

**Sophia Valdez Davis, Camila Rosario**

After taking an 18 year hiatus Sophia Valdez Davis is happy to be returning to the stage. She has performed across the Salt Lake Valley at various theaters such as Pioneer Theatre, Salt Lake Acting Company, Hale Center Theatre, The Grand Theatre, Sundance Outdoor Theatre, Off Broadway Theatre, and the Babcock. Valdez Davis also produced and performed in three shows a night during the 2002 Olympics with a Dueling Piano company as well as produced a Neil Diamond Cover Band and choreographed for Nova Star's performance group.

**Aitana Alapa, Ensemble**

This is Aitana Alapa's first show at Harman Theatre! She graduated from BYU in 2020, works as a singer/songwriter and can be found singing harmonies with her friends and family. Some of Alapa’s favorite past productions include: “Aida, “A Tale of Two Cities” and “Secret Garden” with Hale Center Theatre Sandy; “1820 the Musical” with Covey Center; and most recently a stage reading for “Alice in Neverland.” Alapa won Best Actress for the Utah High School Musical Theatre Awards in 2014 for her role as Aida and competed in the Jimmy Awards in NYC. Enjoy the show! Insta: @aitana.alapa

**Jonathan Francis, Sonny (us) Ensemble**

Jonathan Francis is so excited to be in this amazing production for his WVC Arts debut and is representing the beautiful island of Puerto Rico! He is currently getting his BFA for Musical Theatre at UVU and has recently been seen this year in “La Boheme” as the Sergeant and ensemble. As well as Jonny in “Godspell” at the UVU Noorda Center. This show holds such a special place in Francis’ heart because of the many messages that are told throughout the show and is “happy that this show is being represented by the people who know the culture best! Wepa!”

**Hannah Salas, People of Washington Heights**

Hannah Salas is so excited to be performing in her first musical with West Valley Arts! Originally from Elk Grove, California, Salas is currently a rising junior in the Musical Theatre BFA program at The University of Utah. Some of her previous favorite roles include Cinderella in “Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella,” Liesl in “The Sound of Music”, and Miss Dorothy in “Thoroughly Modern Millie.” Salas would like to dedicate her performance in this show to her Grampop, who passed on his Mexican culture to her and her family, and who always supported her in every show she did. Salas would also like to thank “her family for their continued love and support, and the creative team of ‘In the Heights’ for giving her this wonderful opportunity.” She is proud to be able to tell this beautiful story of her culture through song and dance, and hopes you enjoy the show every bit as much as she does. “¡Alza la bandera Mexicana!” said Salas.

**Lio River, People of Washington Heights**

Lio River is beyond excited in being able to portray the Latino community in “In the heights” and show some dance moves on this beautiful stage. He is originally from Sao Paulo, Brazil born and raised, and moved to the USA 7 years ago. Big dreamer and self driven to one day star in a big sitcom. Lio River has done some work for The Grand Theater, Centerpoint and Desert Star Theater and TV for Disney and Warner Bros Studios. River is extremely thankful for the opportunity given to be in this show and for being surrounded by so many talented actors and learning so much from each one of them. “This show is pure life and joy,” said River.

**Sibley Snowden, People of Washington Heights/Swing**

Sibley Snowden is thrilled to be performing in her third production with West Valley Arts. Her previous credits include “Charlaine” in Ain’t Misbehavin’ and “Bomont girl 1” in Footloose. Snowden has trained at Weber State University as a Musical Theatre major and has performed in many theatres across Utah including Hale Center Theatre Orem and Good Company Theatre. She is so excited to be performing in this beautiful cast filled with people of color. “Enjoy the show!” said Snowden.

**Armando Serrano, Ensemble, Usnavi Understudy**

Armando Serrano is so grateful to understudy a role that hits so close to home. Serrano was born in Mexico and has lived in the US since he was 2 years old, and is a recipient of DACA.

**Stefanie Spiece, Dance Captain, People of Washington Heights**

Stefanie Spiece (Roper) was born in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. She was raised in Orem, Utah, where she attended her first ballet class at the age of 20. Spiece received her BFA-Ballet degree from Utah Valley University before moving to New York City to dance professionally. Her performance experience includes FJK Dance, Ballet Hispánico, Ballet Hispánico Dos, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, Repertory Ballet Ensemble, and Utah Metropolitan Ballet. Spiece was the executive producer of a local Utah company called Latino Legacy for three years, where she choreographed and danced contemporary and Latin folklore. She went on to tour with Cultural Envoy for five years, dancing various genres including Polynesian and Latin folklore. With her diverse dance background, Spiece has had the opportunity to perform around the world, including at the White House for President Barack Obama. Spiece has been published in Dance Spirit and Pointe Magazine with articles and videos about her late start in dance. Spiece is “thrilled to be dance captain in this wonderful production of In The Heights!”

**Logan Squire, People of Washington Heights**

Logan Squire is excited to be making his West Valley Arts debut in this production of “In The Heights”. His most recent credits include “Wendy & Peter Pan” at the Noorda Center for The Performing Arts and “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” at Hale Center Theatre. Squire was studying at UVU to receive his Bachelor’s of Arts in Acting where he was awarded Best Leading Actor in a platform show as well as Best Leading Actor in a touring show. Squire’s ethnicity is Tahitian/Pacific Islander and he is “proud to be telling this amazing story of diversity and even more excited to be working with an authentic POC cast,” said Squire.

**Blythe Snowden, People of Washington Heights**

Blythe Snowden is beyond excited for her debut performance at West Valley Arts! She has performed across Utah including Hale Center Theatre Orem. Some of Snowden’s favorite roles include Moana in “Moana,” Rafiki in “Lion King,” and Ariel in “The Little Mermaid.” Snowden is currently a student at the University of Utah and “could not be more thrilled to be a part of this beautiful production!” said Snowden.

**Brevan Ita, Jośe**

“Hello Friends and family! It’s been about 6 years since I’ve been in a show. Being apart of this cast full of so many talented individuals has made me feel so lucky to be able to perform again. I’ve always loved to dance and sing and getting to do it on stage has always felt like a dream. So, to be here today, all I can really feel is gratitude. My hope is that we can make you feel all the feels through our portrayal of ‘In The Heights.’ Thank you so much for being here. Many hours went into this so when you like something let us hear it from the back row. And remember if you lose me I’m the tall dude on stage. I’m hard to miss,” said Brevan Ita.

**Lin-Manuel Miranda**

Lin-Manuel Miranda is a Pulitzer Prize, Grammy, Emmy and Tony award-winning songwriter, actor and director. He is the creator and original star of Broadway’s Tony-winning “Hamilton” and “In the Heights.” His additional Broadway credits include “Freestyle Love Supreme” (2020 Special Tony Award recipient, co-founder, guest star), “Bring It On: The Musical” (co-composer/co-lyricist, Tony nomination for Best Musical), and “West Side Story” (2009 revival, Spanish translations).

Miranda is the recipient of the 2015 MacArthur Foundation Award, the 2018 Kennedy Center Honors and the 2019 Portrait of a Nation Prize. He received an Emmy Award with Tom Kitt for their song “Bigger” from the 67th Annual Tony Awards.

Mr. Miranda and The Miranda Family actively support initiatives that increase the representation of people of color throughout the arts and government, ensure access to women’s reproductive health, and promote resilience in Puerto Rico.

His 2021 film credits include: “In The Heights,” “Vivo,” “Encanto” and his directorial film debut, “tick, tick… BOOM!” Additional TV/film credits include: “Hamilton,” “His Dark Materials,” “Fosse/Verdon,” “We The People,” “Brooklyn Nine-Nine,” “Curb Your Enthusiasm” (2018 Emmy Nomination, Guest Actor), “Saturday Night Live” (2017 Emmy Nomination, Guest Actor), “Sesame Street,” “The Electric Company,” “House,” “DuckTales,” “200 Cartas,” “The Odd Life of Timothy Green,” “Moana” (2017 Oscar nomination, Grammy Award for Best Original Song) and “Mary Poppins Returns.”

Miranda received his B.A. from Wesleyan University in 2002. He lives with his family in New York.

**Quiara Alegría Hudes**

Quiara Alegrí­a Hudes is a playwright, professor of writing and theater at Wesleyan University, and native of West Philly, U.S.A. Hailed for her work's exuberance, intellectual rigor, and rich imagination, her plays and musicals have been performed around the world. They are: “Water By the Spoonful,” winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama; “In the Heights,” winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical and Pulitzer finalist; “Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue,” another Pulitzer finalist; “Daphne's Dive;” “The Good Peaches;” “Miss You Like Hell;” and “The Happiest Song Plays Last.” Hudes is a playwright in residence at New York's Signature Theater and a proud alum of Philadelphia Young Playwrights.

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