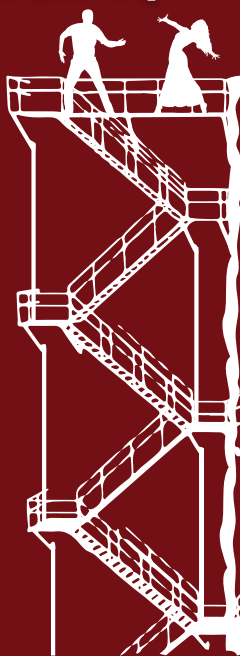




## WEST VALLEY



WEST VALLEY  
**ARTS** presents



# WEST SIDE STORY



Based on a conception of JEROME ROBBINS

Book by

Music by

Lyrics by

# ARTHUR LAURENTS

# LEONARD BERNSTEIN

# STEPHEN SÖNDHEIM

Entire Original Production Directed and Choreographed by

# JEROME ROBBINS

Originally Produced on Broadway by Robert E. Griffith and Harold S. Prince

By Arrangement with Roger L. Stevens.

# AUGUST 3 - 26

# WEST VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



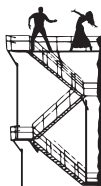
WEST VALLEY

WEST VALLEY  
**ARTS** is proud to be



WEST VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
A West Valley City Venue

 WEST VALLEY  
**ARTS** presents



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Originally Produced on Broadway by Robert E. Griffith and Harold S. Prince  
By Arrangement with Roger L. Stevens.

WEST SIDE STORY CAST: TYSON BAKER, NOAH BRADFORD, REBECCA BURROUGHS,  
REN COTTAM, JERROD DEW, RICKY DOWSE, EMILY EBERT, SCOTTY FLETCHER,  
ELIYAH GHAEINI, BROCK HARRIS, COLTON HATTABAUGH, EMILY HENWOOD,  
RION HIGASHI, BREVAN ITA, ISAAC LARSEN, NOAH LEE, JARED LESA,  
SOPHIA MORRILL MANCILLA, ANGEL MARTINEZ, BYERLY NIELSON,  
SAMANTHA PAREDES, FIORELLA PULIDO, LIO RIVER, CAMERON ROBBINS,  
SAVANNAH RUIZ, SAMMI JO RUOTSI, HANNAH SALAS, ARMANDO SERRANO,  
MAXX TEUSCHER, WESLEY VALDEZ, MADISON VALGARDSON, JAZMIN VIQUEZ

DIRECTED BY IZZY ARRIETA

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS  
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# CAST

TONY.....	<b>MAXX TEUSCHER</b>
MARIA.....	<b>SAMANTHA PAREDES</b>
BERNARDO.....	<b>SCOTTY FLETCHER</b>
ANITA.....	<b>SOPHIA MORRILL MANCILLA</b>
CHINO.....	<b>ANGEL MARTINEZ</b>
RIFF.....	<b>REN COTTAM</b>
LIEUTENANT SCHRANK.....	<b>TYSON BAKER</b>
OFFICER KRUPKE.....	<b>BROCK HARRIS</b>
DOC.....	<b>JARED LESA</b>
LUIS/JET SWING.....	<b>NOAH LEE</b>
ROSALIA/MARIA US.....	<b>SAVANNAH RUIZ</b>
SNOWBOY/TONY US.....	<b>RICKY DOWSE</b>
PEPE/BERNARDO US.....	<b>ARMANDO SERRANO</b>
CONSUELO.....	<b>IORELLA PULIDO</b>
GLADHAND/MALE SWING.....	<b>JERROD DEW</b>
ANYBODY'S.....	<b>EMILY HENWOOD</b>
INDIO/CHINO US.....	<b>LIO RIVER</b>
FRANCISCA/GIRL.....	<b>REBECCA BURROUGHS</b>
BABY JOHN.....	<b>CAMERON ROBBINS</b>
DIESEL/ RIFF US.....	<b>ELIYAH GHAEINI</b>
ANXIOUS.....	<b>WESLEY VALDEZ</b>
BIG DEAL.....	<b>COLTON HATTAUGH</b>
MOOSE.....	<b>BREAN ITA</b>
MINNIE.....	<b>MADISON VALGARDSON</b>
TERESITA.....	<b>JAZMIN VIQUEZ</b>
GRAZIELLA.....	<b>SAMMI JO RUOTSI</b>
ACTION.....	<b>BYERLY NIELSON</b>
A-RAB.....	<b>ISAAC LARSEN</b>
VELMA/ANYBODY'S US.....	<b>EMILY EBERT</b>
MARGARITA/SWING.....	<b>HANNAH SALAS</b>
JET GIRL SWING.....	<b>RION HIGASHI</b>
JET BOY SWING.....	<b>NOAH BRADFORD</b>

# PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR.....	IZZY ARRIETA
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....	KARIN GITTINS
CHOREOGRAPHER.....	BEN ROELING
ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR.....	JARED LESA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER.....	JEFF OLSEN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER.....	VANESSA OLSON
CONSULTING PRODUCER.....	JOHN SWEENEY
CONSULTING PRODUCER.....	CONLON BONNER
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....	ADAM FLITTON
SCENIC DESIGNER.....	ADAM FLITTON
LIGHTING DESIGNER.....	SAVANNAH GARLICK
COSTUME DESIGNER.....	ALICIA KONDRICK
WIG/MAKEUP DESIGN.....	BIP LYNCH
SOUND DESIGNER.....	BRYCE ROBINETTE
PROPERTIES.....	MARILYN MONTGOMERY
INTIMACY COORDINATOR.....	LIZ WHITAKER
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER.....	SPENCER HOHL
STAGE MANAGER.....	AL SAUNDERS
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER.....	KAI SADOWSKI
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT.....	RACHEL MARDIS
AUDIO ENGINEER.....	BRYCE ROBINETTE
LIGHT BOARD.....	AMBER KNARAS
A2.....	RACHEL MARDIS
BOX OFFICE SUPERVISOR.....	MELISSA SALGUERO
FRONT OF HOUSE SUPERVISOR.....	ESTEPHANY PASILLAS
DECK CREW/ASM.....	KAI SADOWSKI
DECK CREW.....	ASPEN DAVIS
DECK CREW.....	RAY WOICHIK
DECKCREW.....	LOGANBLACK
WARDROBE & WIG SUPERVISOR.....	ABE FRANCIS
DRESSER.....	HEIDI FRANK
DRESSER.....	EMMA STRINGHAM
DRESSER.....	RENE BOTH
WIGS/MAKEUP.....	EMMA STRINGHAM
WIGS/MAKEUP.....	KERI GRIGGS
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR.....	SAVANNA FINLEY
SCENIC PAINTER.....	COLTON HATTA BAUGH

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to West Valley Arts' production of *West Side Story*! It is with great excitement and pride that we present this timeless classic to you today. This iconic musical, with its gripping story and beautiful melodies, continues to resonate with audiences across generations.

At its core, *West Side Story* is a tale of love, conflict, and the pursuit of a better life. Set against the backdrop of 1957 New York City, it delves into the heart of two rival gangs, the Jets and the Sharks, and the star-crossed love between Tony and Maria. As we bring this story to life, we aim to honor the original masterpiece while infusing it with a fresh perspective for our times.

The themes explored in *West Side Story* remain as relevant today as they were when the show first premiered. We are reminded of the ongoing struggle against prejudice, the need for empathy, and the power of love to transcend boundaries. Through the vibrant choreography, emotive music, and compelling performances, we hope to create a moving and thought-provoking experience that will stay with you long after you leave the theater.

Our talented cast and crew have poured their hearts and souls into this production, and I am immensely proud of the dedication and hard work they have shown. They have not only embraced the spirit of the original *West Side Story*, but have also contributed their unique voices, making this rendition a fusion of tradition and innovation.

As the director, my vision for this production was to cascade a sense of nostalgia that the classic production of *West Side Story* naturally radiates. I also aimed to emphasize the importance of unity, understanding, and the consequences of hatred. Please join me as we delve into the characters' inner turmoil and emotions; explore the raw intensity of the conflicts, and to capture the essence of urban life in the 1950s.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our creative team, technical crew, and all the individuals who have supported us throughout this journey. Without your passion and commitment, this production would not have been possible.

In conclusion, I encourage you to immerse yourselves in the world of *West Side Story*, to open your hearts, and to let the emotions of the characters wash over you. We hope that our performance will entertain, challenge, and inspire you.

Thank you for joining us on this artistic adventure. Your presence and applause mean the world to us.

Enjoy the show!

Izzy Arrieta

Director, *West Side Story*

# SONG LIST

## **Act One**

Prologue

Jet Song

Something's Coming

Dance At The Gym

Maria

Balcony Scene

America

Cool

One Hand, One Heart

Tonight (Quintet)

The Rumble

## **Act Two**

I Feel Pretty

Ballet Sequence

Scherzo

Somewhere

Procession and Nightmare

Gee, Officer Krupke

A Boy Like That

I Have a Love

Taunting Scene

Finale

# SYNOPSIS

## Prologue

The opening is a carefully choreographed, half-danced/half-mimed ballet of sorts. It shows the growing tensions between the Sharks, a Puerto Rican gang, and the Jets, a gang made up of "American" boys. An incident between the Jets and Shark leader, Bernardo, escalates into an all out fight between the two gangs. Officers Schrank and Krupke arrive to break up the fight.

## Act One

Detective Schrank, the senior cop on the beat, tries to get the Jets to tell him which Puerto Ricans are starting trouble in the neighborhood, as he claims he is on their side. The Jets, however, won't tell him anything. Frustrated, Schrank threatens to beat the crap out of the Jets unless they make nice. When the police leave, the Jets bemoan the Sharks coming onto their turf. They decide that they need to have one big rumble to settle the matter once and for all - even if winning requires fighting with knives and guns. Riff plans to have a war council with Bernardo to decide on weapons. Action wants to be his second, but Riff says that Tony is always his second. The other boys complain that Tony hasn't been around for a month, but Riff doesn't care; once you're a Jet, you're a Jet for life ("Jet Song").

Riff goes to see Tony, who is now working at Doc's drugstore. Riff presses him to come to the school dance for the war council, but Tony resists; he's lost the thrill of being a Jet. He explains that, every night for a month, he's had a strange feeling that something important is just around the corner. Nevertheless, Riff convinces Tony to come to the dance. Riff leaves Tony to wonder about this strange feeling that he's been having ("Something's Coming").

In a bridal shop, Anita remakes Maria's communion dress into a party dress. They are both Puerto Rican. Anita is knowing, sexual and sharp. Maria is excited, enthusiastic and childlike, but also growing into an adult. Maria complains that the dress is too young-looking, but Anita explains that Bernardo, her boyfriend and Maria's brother, made her promise not to make the dress too short. It turns out that the dress is for the dance, which Maria is attending with Chino, whom she is expected to marry, despite the fact that she does not have any feelings for him.

At the dance in the local gym, the group is divided: Jets and their girls on one side and Sharks and their girls on the other. Riff and his lieutenants move to challenge Bernardo and his lieutenants, but they are interrupted by Glad Hand, the chaperone who is overseeing the dance, and Officer Krupke. The two initiate some dances to get the kids to dance together, across the gang lines. In the promenade leading up to the dance, though, the girls and boys end up facing each other at random, Jet girls across from Shark boys and vice versa. Bernardo reaches across the Jet girl in front of him to take Anita's hand, and Riff does the same with his girlfriend, Velma. Everyone dances with their own group as Tony enters ("Mambo"). During the dance, Maria and Tony spot each other. There is an instant connection. Bernardo interrupts them, telling Tony to stay away from his sister and asking Chino to take her home. Riff and Bernardo agree to meet at Doc's in half an hour for the war council. As everyone else disappears, Tony is overcome with the feeling of having met the most beautiful girl ever ("Maria").

Later, Tony finds the fire escape outside of Maria's apartment and calls up to her. She appears in the window, but is nervous that they will get caught. Her parents call her inside, but she stays. She and Tony profess their love to each other ("Tonight"). He agrees to meet her at the bridal shop the next day. Bernardo calls Maria inside. Anita admonishes him, saying that Maria already has a mother and father to take care of her. Bernardo insists that they, like Maria, don't understand this country. Bernardo, Anita, Chino and their friends discuss the unfairness of America - they are treated like foreigners, while "Polacks" like Tony are treated like real Americans, paid twice as much for their jobs. Anita tries to lure Bernardo inside and away from the war council, but he refuses. As the boys leave for the council, one of Anita's friends, Rosalia, claims to be homesick for Puerto Rico. Anita scoffs at this. While Rosalia expounds on the beauties of the country, Anita responds with why she prefers her new home ("America").

At the drugstore, the Jets wait for the Sharks. Doc is upset that the boys are planning to fight at all. Anybody, a tomboy who is trying to join the Jets, asks Riff if she can participate in the rumble, but he says no. Doc doesn't understand why the boys are making trouble for the Puerto Ricans, and the boys respond that the Sharks make trouble for them. Doc calls them hoodlums and Action and A-rab get very upset. Riff tells them that they have to save their steam for the rumble and keep cool ("Cool").

Bernardo arrives at the drugstore and he and Riff begin laying out the terms of the rumble. Tony arrives and convinces them all to agree to a fair fight – just skin, no weapons. The Sharks' best man fights the Jets' best man; Bernardo agrees, thinking that means he will get to fight Tony, but the Jets say they get to pick their fighter. Schrank arrives and breaks up the council. He tells the Puerto Ricans to get out. Bernardo and his gang exit. Schrank tries to get the Jets to reveal the location of the rumble and becomes increasingly frustrated when they refuse. He insults them and leaves. As Tony and Doc close up the shop, Tony reveals that he's in love with a Puerto Rican. Doc is worried.

The next day at the bridal shop, Maria tells Anita that she can leave, that Maria will clean up. Anita is about to go when Tony arrives. She suddenly understands and promises not to tell on them. When she leaves, Tony tells Maria that the rumble will be a fair fight, but even that's no acceptable for her, so she asks him to go to the rumble and stop it. He agrees. He'll do anything for her. They fantasize about being together and getting married ("One Hand, One Heart"). Later, the members of the ensemble wait expectantly for the fight, all for different reasons ("Tonight Quintet").

At the rumble, Diesel and Bernardo prepare to fight, with Chino and Riff as their seconds. Tony enters and tries to break up the fight, but provokes Bernardo against him instead. Bernardo calls Tony a chicken for not fighting him. Riff punches Bernardo and the fight escalates quickly until Riff and Bernardo pull out knives. Bernardo kills Riff and, in response, Tony kills Bernardo, instantly horrified by what he's done. The police arrive as everyone scatters; Anybodys pulls Tony away just in time.

## **Act Two**

In Maria's apartment, she gushes to her friends about how it is her wedding night and she is so excited ("I Feel Pretty"). Chino interrupts her reverie to tell her that Tony has killed Bernardo. She refuses to believe him, but when Tony arrives on her fire escape, he confesses. He offers to turn himself in, but she begs him to stay with her. She says that, although they are together, everyone is against them. Tony says they'll find a place where they can be together ("Somewhere").

In a back alley, the Jets regroup in shock. No one has seen Tony. Officer Krupke comes by, threatening to take them to the station house. The boys chase him away for the moment and then release some tension by play-acting the scenario of what would happen if Krupke actually did take them to the station house ("Gee, Officer Krupke"). Anybodys shows up with information about Tony and the fact that Chino is looking for him. She uses this information to get the boys to treat her like one of the gang. The Jets agree that they need to find Tony and warn him about Chino.

Meanwhile, Anita comes into Maria's room and finds her with Tony. Tony and Maria are planning to run away. Tony knows that Doc will give him money, so he goes to the drugstore and tells Maria to meet him there. She agrees. When he leaves, Anita explodes at her for loving the boy who killed her brother. Maria acknowledges that it's not smart, but she can't help it ("A Boy Like That / I Have a Love"). Anita tells Maria that Chino has a gun and is looking for Tony. Schrank arrives and detains Maria for questioning. Maria covertly asks Anita to go to Doc's and tell Tony that she has been delayed. Reluctantly, Anita agrees.

The Jets arrive at Doc's, learning that Tony and Doc are in the basement. Anita arrives and asks to speak to Doc. The Jets, recognizing her as Bernardo's girl and thinking that she is there to betray Tony to Chino, won't let her go down to the basement to talk to Doc. Instead, they harass and attack her. Doc arrives to find them ganging up on her; he breaks it up, but Anita, disgusted and hurt, lies to Doc and tells him to relay a message to Tony: Chino has shot Maria, and he will never see her again.

When Doc returns to Tony in the basement, he delivers Anita's message. Tony is distraught and heartbroken. He runs out into the streets and calls Chino to come for him. Anybodys tries to stop him, but Tony doesn't care. He yells to Chino that he should come out and shoot him, too. Maria appears in the street – much to Tony's surprise – and they run towards each other. In that moment, Chino steps out of the shadows and shoots Tony, who falls into Maria's arms, gravely wounded.

The Jets, Sharks and Doc appear on the street. Maria picks up the gun and points it all of them, asking Chino if there are enough bullets to kill all of them and herself, as well. The depths of her sadness and anger move everyone as she breaks down over Tony's body. Officers Krupke and Schrank arrive. They stand with Doc, watching as two boys from each gang pick up Tony's body and form a processional. The rest follow the processional, with Baby John picking up Maria's shawl, giving it to her and helping her up. As Maria follows the others, the adults continue to bear silent witness ("Finale").

\*Synopsis courtesy of Music Theatre International



# BIOGRAPHIES



## Izzy Arrieta, Director

Izzy Arrieta is a passionate director and choreographer with a deep love for the art of theater. Venezuela born and Utah raised, Izzy's journey in the performing arts began as a male dancer at Utah Valley University, where he discovered the magic of storytelling through movement.

Last year, Izzy had the privilege of choreographing West Valley Arts' vibrant production of "In the Heights," where he sought to bring his unique perspective to the choreography, infusing the show with energy and emotion.

In a heartwarming and nerve-wracking moment, Izzy made his directorial debut here at West Valley Arts with "Little Shop of Horrors," which turned out to be an unforgettable experience. Though it was his first time directing, the journey was a tremendous learning opportunity, and he is eternally grateful for the talented cast and crew who brought the show to life.

This year, Izzy took on the challenge of directing a haunting and comedic new work titled "Possessive." Embracing the uncertainty of creating something original, he collaborated with a dedicated team to explore out of the ordinary themes and deliver a powerful performance that resonated with audiences.

Throughout his career, Izzy has remained humbled by the support and encouragement of the theater community. His love for storytelling, dedication to the craft, and the collaborative spirit of theater have been the driving forces behind his creative endeavors. Looking back on his journey, Izzy Arrieta feels incredibly fortunate to have found a calling in the world of theater. With an ever-growing passion for the art form, he aspires to continue honing his skills, pushing artistic boundaries, and creating meaningful experiences for audiences and performers alike. A special thank you to Vanessa, John and Jeff for seeing something in me!



## Karrin Gittins, Music Director

Karin is a highly sought after Music Director, Conductor, Accompanist and Vocal Coach; most notably having worked with Disney Star, International chart-smashing recording artist & 2022 Grammy award winning artist, Olivia Rodrigo (Driver's License/Good 4 U). Her last musical direction credits with West Valley Arts were: "Little Shop of Horrors" & "Little Women," with "Sleepy Hollow" coming soon this Fall. Other select music director credits: Utah Governor's

Artist Awards (PBS), "Ragtime," "Legally Blonde," "Sound of Music," "Newsies," "South Pacific," "RENT," "Spring Awakening," "Sweeney Todd," "Guys & Dolls," "Beauty & the Beast," "Pirated Penzance," "Anyone Can Whistle," "Sweet Charity," "Damn Yankees," "Joseph & the Amazing...", "Once Upon a Mattress," "The King and I," "1776," "Children of Eden," & "Forever Plaid."

A HUGE thank you to the staff and creative team of West Valley Arts! A special thanks to the dream team of Izzy, Ben, & Jared. Dedicated to her grandma Velda & her colorful petticoats that were worn during endless hours of dancing in the basement to "West Side Story" on vinyl.



## **Ben Roeling, Choreographer**

Ben is a choreographer, teacher, actor, and dancer originally from Colorado. He is very grateful to be back at West Valley Arts after choreographing "Beauty and Beast" last season.

Other choreography credits include "Annie Get Your Gun," "Paint Your Wagon," "Footloose," "The Ballad of Cat Ballou," and "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" at the Jackson Hole Playhouse

as well as choreography for Off-Square Theatre Company, Tanner Dance, and Rocky Mountain Theatre for Kids.

After graduating from the University of Utah with a BFA in dance Ben went on to perform at various regional theaters including Act II Puerto Vallarta, Tuacahn Amphitheater, Musical Theatre West, the Arvada Center, Candlelight Playhouse, and on the seas with Norwegian Cruise Lines. Locally he has performed with Plan B Acting Company as well as the Hale Centre Theatre in Sandy and in Orem. Ben is currently a faculty member at the University of Utah as part of the Tanner Dance Program. He is a proud member of AEA.



## **Liz Whittaker, Intimacy Coordinator**

Liz has been training in intimacy direction and consent-based practices since 2019. She has roughly 150 hours of training from Theatrical Intimacy Education, Intimacy Directors & Coordinators, and Intimacy Coordinators of Color, and is currently receiving certification in intimacy direction from IDC.

Previous intimacy work for West Valley Arts includes "Into the Woods," "Puffs," and "Clue." She has also provided intimacy direction for over 20 productions with Grassroots Shakespeare Co, Mad King Productions, Westminster College, Plan-B Theatre Co, and others, as well as coordinating intimacy for various local film projects. She loves creating collaborative and empowered spaces for actors and directors to do their bravest and best work. <https://www.intimacywithliz.com>



## **Maxx Teuscher, Tony**

Maxx is an Actor/Singer/Musician based in the Salt Lake area who has been consistently doing shows for the last decade! Some of his recent credits include Emcee at Hale Centre Theatre Orem, "Titanic" (Lightoller) at Hale Center Theatre, "RENT" (Roger) with the Ziegfeld Theater, "The Scarlet Pimpernel" (Chauvelin) at Terrace Plaza Playhouse, and "Bright Star" (Jimmy

Ray) both at the Ziegfeld Theater and Heritage Theater. He was last seen on the West Valley Arts stage as a swing for Orin Scrivello and Audrey II in last year's production of "Little Shop of Horrors." He's ecstatic to be returning to their stage in one of his dream roles!



## **Samantha Paredes, Maria**

Samantha is thrilled to make her debut at West Valley Arts in her dream role of Maria. Previous credits include: "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" (Phoebe D'Ysquith) at Ziegfeld Theatre, "A Little Night Music" (Anne Eggerman and Mrs. Segstrom) at Westminster University Opera Studio, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" (Florika) at Hopebox Theatre, and "A Tale of Two Cities" (The Seamstress) at Hale Center Theatre Sandy. Samantha also performed last year at The Utah Shakespeare Festival in "Sweeney Todd," "The Sound of Music," and "The Greenshow."

Samantha graduated in May 2022 from Westminster University in Salt Lake City with a BA in Vocal Performance under the instruction of Dr. Christopher Puckett. Samantha has placed first in several classical music competitions including the Cambridge Music Competition, Nouvelles Etoiles, and the Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition, for which she was invited to perform at the Vienna Musikverein in April of last year. Samantha is a proud Latina and classically trained soprano, but rarely does she get to be both.

She is grateful for this opportunity to represent her Ecuadorian heritage and musical upbringing. She'd like to thank her parents for always believing in her, even or perhaps especially when she couldn't believe in herself, and Dr. Puckett for not only being the best teacher she's ever had, but also one of her greatest friends.



## **Scotty Fletcher, Bernardo**

Scotty is very excited to be returning to West Valley Arts this summer after playing Sonny in "In the Heights" last year. They have been seen in recent productions at Hale Center theatre in Sandy, including "Hello Dolly," "The Little Mermaid," and "The Light in the Piazza." They are also a featured drag performer at the Viva la Diva every month at Metro Music Hall in Salt Lake. Find them on Instagram and Twitter @scooterfletch



## **Sophia Morrill Mancilla, Anita**

Sophia is a proud Utahn, NYU Tisch grad, and mother of six... rabbits. Past credits she can mention without violating an NDA include "In the Heights" (Vanessa) at Grand Theatre and "Lady Who Failed to Realize She Was Walking Through a Closed Set and Can Be Seen in the Background If You Just Squint Hard Enough" (Gossip Girl, 2020.) She'd like to thank Savannah Ruiz, just 'cuz. @kungfuphia



## Angel Martinez, Chino

From re-enacting his favorite scenes in "Shrek" and "The Matrix" in the living room with his dad, Angel Martinez has been interested in performing arts since grade school. He has since furthered his studies and has competed nationally in the 2016 Jimmy Awards in N.Y.C., is alumni with The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in L.A., and has continued his practice through numerous projects and productions in Utah. Angel thanks his Mom & Dad for their love and support. "Actors are simply people in the light showing people in the dark what it's like to be human." -Anonymous



## Ren Cottam, Riff

Ren, from Phoenix, Arizona is thrilled to be performing in his third show at West Valley Arts. Favorite credits include "The Light in the Piazza" (Fabrizio) and "A Tale of Two Cities" (Charles Darnay) at the Hale Centre Theatre; "Little Shop of Horrors" (Seymour) and "Into the Woods" (Jack) at West Valley Arts. Ren holds a BFA from the Music Dance Theatre program at Brigham Young University where he was seen on stage in Frank Wildhorn's "Wonderland" (White Knight), in the Young Ambassadors show group, as a member of Contemporary Dance Theatre, and other roles in various mainstage and workshop productions.



## Tyson Baker, Lieutenant Schrank

Tyson's credits include "Clue! Onstage" at West Valley Arts; "Role Play" at the Great Salt Lake Fringe '22; "Lungs" at Pinnacle Acting Company; "Hamlet" and "Joseph...Dreamcoat" at the Utah Shakespeare Festival; "SuperCat," "Different=Amazing," "Ruff!," and "Booksmart" at Plan-B Theatre; "Mockingbird" at Pygmalion; The Crucible (Grand Theater); "The 39 Steps," "A Funny Thing Happened...," "Musical of Musicals," "See How They Run," "Amadeus" at Old Lyric Rep.; 8 seasons doing summer/winter stock at The Jackson Hole Playhouse.



## Brock Harris, Officer Krupke

Brock is ecstatic to make his West Valley Arts debut as Officer Krupke in this classic story. New to the Utah area, he was last seen in "Sister Act" (Curtis) at HCTO, and most recently in "42nd Street" (Julian Marsh) at CenterPoint Legacy Theatre. Other favorite roles include "Legally Blonde" (Emmett), "Shrek the Musical" (Shrek), "Beauty and the Beast" (Beast), "White Christmas" (Bob Wallace), "9 to 5" (Frank Hart), "Cinderella" (Jean-Michel), and "Singing in the Rain" (Roscoe Dexter), all at the Palace Theatre in Pocatello, Idaho, where he rediscovered his passion for theatre. Brock is a "Survivor" super fan, lover of movies, and is grateful for every opportunity he gets to tell stories through this medium. He'd like to thank his family and friends, and especially his sweetheart, Rylee, for always believing in him and supporting him and his dreams.



### **Jared Lesa, Doc**

Jared is excited to be back at West Valley Arts in another dream role! Last seen here in "Into the Woods" (Baker), Jared has also recently been in "The Little Mermaid" (King Triton), "Little Shop of Horrors" (Audrey II), "Light in the Piazza" (Signor Naccarelli), "Christmas Carol" (The Ghost of Christmas Present), and in Rossini's "La Cenerentola" (Don Magnifico).



### **Noah Lee, Luis/Jet Swing**

Noah Lee (he/him) is so excited to make his West Valley Arts debut and be a part of this amazing cast! Currently a sophomore at Utah Valley University, he is getting his BFA in Musical Theatre. When not on stage, Noah can be found struggling to reach the top shelf and trying to keep his pet fishes alive, though both are often quite unsuccessful. He would like to thank his mom, his chickens, and his boyfriend. Noah can be found on Instagram at @noahiano. The famed drag queen Alyssa Edwards can be found on Instagram at @alysaedwards\_1



### **Savannah Ruiz, Rosalia/Maria US**

Savannah feels so blessed to be a part of "West Side Story," a show so dear to her heart! She loves theatre and is grateful to those who have supported this endeavor of hers. She advocates for those struggling with mental health. There is hope in help. Please call the National Alliance on Mental Illness at 800-950-6264 if you or someone you know is in crisis. Also visit afsp.org (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention) and nami.org (National Alliance on Mental Illness) for more information and resources. Everyone deserves to be loved.



### **Fiorella Pulido Ravello, Consuelo**

Fiorella is thrilled to be making her West Valley Arts debut! She is currently studying to get her BFA in Musical Theater and minoring in French at Utah Valley University. She would like to thank the cast and crew for being so wonderful and welcoming. Lastly, Fiorella would like to thank her parents and brother for the endless support and continuous sacrifices they make for her. Los amo con todo mi corazón.



## **Ricky Dowse, Snowboy/Tony US**

Ricky is SO excited to be back on the West Valley Arts stage after taking a year off from performing to focus on his family, career, and (reluctant) home remodeling. Ricky was last seen on stage in "Little Women" (Laurie) at West Valley Arts. Some of Ricky's favorite past roles include "Rent" (Mark Cohen), "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" (Gideon), "Footloose" (Ren McCormack AND Chuck Cranston), and "Damn Yankees" (Joe Hardy)! Ricky would like to thank his beautiful fiancé, Ashley, for her endless love, support, and patience as well as being willing to parent on her own many nights during long weeks of rehearsals.



## **Armando Serrano, Pepe/Bernardo US**

Armando is honored to be back on the West Valley Arts stage. This is his third time doing "West Side Story"! His favorite credits include: "In the Heights" (Usnavi) with The Grand, "A Christmas Carol '22," "Treasure Island," "The Play That Goes Wrong" (Trevor) with HCT; "Sister Act" with HCTO; "In the Heights" with West Valley Arts; "A Chorus Line" (Paul), and "Young Frankenstein" (Dr. Frankenstein) with The Stage Door Theatre (St. George); and Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" (LeFou) with St. George Musical Theatre. "Thank you to my family for supporting me in everything, and thank you, especially to my landlord/talent agent/girlfriend, Chelsea."



## **Jerrod Dew, Gladhand/Male Swing**

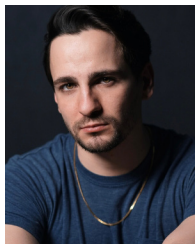
Jerrod has been volunteering at West Valley Arts for a while now and is excited to change to performing here. Jerrod was going to take a break from the stage after his role Sir Danvers in "Jekyll and Hyde" but wanted to do a classic musical, and this is a timeless musical that he had to be a part of.



## **Emily Henwood, Anybodys**

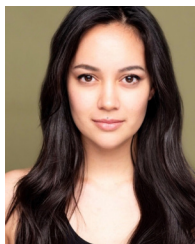
Emily Henwood graduated from SUU in 2019 with degrees in Dance Education and Theatre. She has spent the last three years running the Tooele Valley Theatre with her husband and some good friends. Her passion for the stage includes not only performing, but choreographing as well, and she has been able to work with a variety of theatre companies in many different capacities. This is Emily's first experience with West Valley Arts, and she is thrilled to be here! Some of her favorite past roles include "Urinetown" (Little Becky Two-Shoes) and "Fun Home" (Medium Alison).





## **Lio River, Indio/Chino US**

Lio was last seen in "Clue" and "In the Heights" at West Valley Arts. He is really excited in being part of this production of "West Side Story" and hopes everyone enjoys it just as much as he does. He was born and raised in São Paulo Brazil, now living in the USA for the past 8 years. IG: @THELIORIVER



## **Rebecca Burroughs, Francisca/Girl**

Rebecca is excited to be back on stage for the first time in 2 years! She was last seen in "Les Mis" (Eponine) at the Hale Center Theater Sandy in 2021. Other credits include "Addams Family" (Wednesday), "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" (Esmeralda), "Aida" (Nehebka), "Bright Star" (Lucy), "Christmas Carol" (Fred's Wife/Poor Wife), and "In the Heights" (Vanessa) at Hale Orem.

She is excited to debut with West Valley Arts, but has previously been seen on this stage with the Hale in "Seven Brides" (Ruth) and "Sister Act" (Michelle). In the last year she got married to her amazing husband, Adam; graduated from UVU with a BS in Integrated Studies, Humanities, and Art History; and recently toured with the cultural dance group ROC: Remembering Our Culture. Rebecca currently works part time as a tattoo artist and loves to eat, travel, and hang out with friends and family in her free time. "This show is for you, Mark." @reccajean @bextattoos\_



## **Cameron Robbins, Baby John**

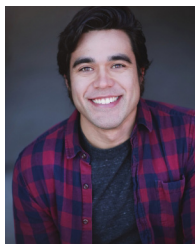
Cameron Robbins graduated from Brigham Young University's Music Dance Theatre program in 2021. Past credits include "The Importance of Being Ernest" and "Into the Woods," both with the Blossom Trail Players, as well as "Cowboys Like Us" at the Jackson Hole Arts Center where he made his performance debut as a drag queen. Outside of theater he works as a data analyst. He's excited to make his debut with West Valley Arts.



## **Elijah Ghaeini, Diesel/ Riff US**

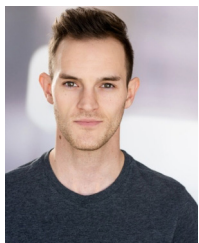
Elijah Ghaeini is excited return to West Valley Arts! Past West Valley Arts shows include: "Puffs" (Zach Smith/ Viktor), "In the Heights" (Graffiti Pete), "The Odd Couple, the Female Version" (Jesus Costazuela). Other credits include: "A Year with Frog and Toad" (Toad), "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" (Ginabrik), "Our Town" (George Gibbs), "Measure for Measure" (Pompey) and "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" (Butch Honeywell). TV: "Amber Brown," "The Chosen."

He holds a BFA in Acting from Northern Illinois University and studied at the Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT) in Moscow, Russia. Eli would like to thank his family and friends for supporting him in all his endeavors. He is represented by TMG. @Elijah.arman



## **Wesley Valdez, Anxious**

Since the lockdown from Covid-19 Wesley has basically been living under a rock, so he is excited to be performing again. This is his first show with West Valley Arts and he is grateful to be part of such a talented team of creators. Yip yip.



## **Colton Hattabaugh, Big Deal**

Colton was recently seen on the West Valley Arts stage in "Puffs" and "Clue". Other favorite credits include: "The Mousetrap", "Murder on the Orient Express", Baz Luhrmann's "Strictly Ballroom The Musical", "Cinderella", and "The Scarlet Pimpernel" at HCT (Sandy), "Newsies" and "Children of Eden" at CPT, "Damn Yankees" "She Loves Me", and "35MM" at Weber State University. He is a graduate of WSU

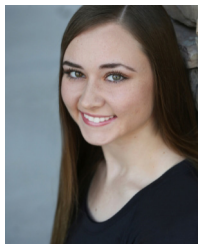
with a Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre and has previously performed at Walt Disney World. When not on stage, Colton works here at West Valley Arts as the Scenic Painter. It's a thrill to be a part of this classic story!



## **Brevan Ita, Moose**

Hello Friends and family! Brevan is super excited to back here performing with West Valley Arts. He has always loved to dance and sing, and getting to do it on stage has always felt like a dream. "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 'West Side Story.' So 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."



## **Madison Valgardson, Minnie**

Madison is excited to make her West Valley Arts debut with this incredible show! Growing up a dancer, she has worked alongside many world-renowned choreographers, taught dance at multiple studios, and choreographed several solo and team dances, winning numerous dance awards. Some dance highlights include; Peaks Olympic Festival - Rekindle the Fire, Odyssey Dance Theatre,

Gentri (Backup Dancer), training with the Radio City Rockettes & dancing on a D1 Collegiate Dance Team. She has had opportunities to perform in and choreograph many productions around the state of Utah. Performing & Choreography credits include: "Newsies" at SCERA Shell, "Mamma Mia," "The Drowsy Chaperone," "Anastasia," "Matilda" at SCERA Shell, "The Music Man," "Urinetown," "Bright Star at HTCO, "Tuck Everlasting," and "Amelie." She couldn't do it without the love and support of her family and friends. "Enjoy the show!"





## **Jazmin Viquez, Teresita**

As a senior studying musical theater at the University of Utah, Jazmin is grateful to be a part of a production that means so much to her. You can currently watch her as the lead singer in "Smoke and Mirrors" at Lagoon. She would like to thank all her family and friends for their constant love and support, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



## **Sammi Jo Ruotsi, Graziella**

Originally from Buffalo, New York, Sammi Jo continues to love being a part of the theater community here in Utah. Local credits include company member with Odyssey Dance Theatre, "Footloose" with West Valley Arts, as well as "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," "Singin' In The Rain," "The Little Mermaid," and "Hello, Dolly!" with Hale Centre Theatre Sandy. Other favorite credits include "Christmas on Ice" with Spirit Productions/Dublin Worldwide, "Steppin' out LIVE with Ben Vereen," and the European tap dance tour, "Tap Reloaded." Sammi Jo is thrilled to be back on the West Valley Arts stage performing in this timeless show! When she's not on stage, you can find her in coffee shops, flower shops, and trying new breakfast spots. "Endless love to Mama and Pops, Nani, The Andamatuotsis, The Tribe, TayTay, and this beautiful group of cast & creatives."



## **Byerly Nielson, Action**

Byerly is pleased to return to West Valley Arts! You may have seen him in previous roles in productions such as "Footloose the Musical" (Jeter), "Little Shop of Horrors" (Audrey II puppeteer), or in Hale Centre Theatre Sandy's 2021 production of "A Christmas Carol" (Dick Wilkins). Byerly would like to thank his girlfriend Leslie Stock as she continues to support him in his pursuit of the arts. Instagram: @byerlyruss



## **Isaac Larsen, A-Rab**

Isaac is so thrilled to be in his first production with West Valley Arts, and excited to be playing A-Rab! He grew up in Kaysville, Utah and has enjoyed participating in musical theater and singing activities since a very young age. Having just finished his studies at Utah State University, Isaac is excited to have more time now to be on stage. When not performing, he enjoys long boarding, gymnastics, and being outside. He plans to always keep his passion for theater a big part of his life. Isaac is often moved by the power that music can have and hopes that others can find inspiration and growth from the messages in this story ("West Side Story"). He is grateful for the new friends he's made during this production. Stay 'cool' and enjoy the show!



## **Emily Tessa Ebert, Velma/Anybodys US**

Most performers have a "dream show" that they would kill to be in. Emily's is "West Side Story." And luckily, she didn't have to kill anyone to be in it. She is delighted and honored for her first production at West Valley Arts to be this masterpiece. Especially alongside all the talented folks involved in this production ("THANK YOU for letting me come play with y'all!") Her performing career unknowingly began around the ripe old age of four ("THANK YOU, dear parents, for your abundant love and support offered in a plethora of ways throughout my life!"). Through many years of dedicated practice, invaluable experience, professional education and disciplined training, including a BFA in Ballet from the University of Utah ("THANK YOU, all the teachers and mentors I've had the privilege to learn from, for imparting your expertise upon me!"), the stage has become her beloved home. She feels very fortunate and grateful to have toured around the world for six years performing in Feld Entertainment's "DisneyLive!" productions. Here are some of her other treasured performing experiences, if you're interested in taking a gander: "Hello Dolly!," "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," "An American in Paris," "My Son Pinocchio," and "The Music Man" at Hale Centre Theatre Sandy; "The Nutcracker" at Aspen Sante Fe Ballet and Ballet West; "La Rondine" at Utah Opera; "Peter Pan" at Sandy City Arts Guild; "Plaid Tidings" at SCERA Center for the Arts; "Twelve Dancing Princesses" at Mountain West Ballet; and multiple seasons as a cellist with the Wasatch Symphony Orchestra. <https://talentmg.com/talent/actors/emily-ebert/> "Unity is not about being the same." -Sir James Henare



## **Hannah Salas, Margarita/Swing**

Hannah Salas is so excited to be performing in her second show with West Valley Arts! You may have seen her last summer in the ensemble of "In the Heights." Hannah is a rising senior in the BFA Musical Theatre program at the University of Utah, and has been training in ballet since she was four years old. Some of her previous favorite roles include "In the Heights" (Ensemble), "Thoroughly Modern Millie" (Miss Dorothy), "The Sound of Music" (Liesl), and "R+H Cinderella" (Cinderella). Outside of theater, she loves reading, trying new restaurants, and exploring old bookstores and vintage shops. Hannah has dreamed of dancing in "West Side Story" ever since she first saw Rita Moreno dancing in "America" as young girl. She would like to thank the "West Side Story" production team for giving her the incredible opportunity to perform in her dream show, as well as her family for always supporting her in her dreams. Enjoy the show!



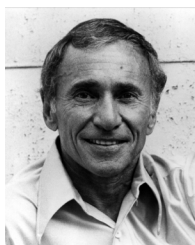
## **Rion Higashi, Jet Girl Swing**

She is originally from Yokohama, Japan and recent graduate of AMDA NYC. Recently, she made her Off-Broadway debut as a dancer/puppeteer in "The Little Mermaid" at The Players Theatre. Her other favorite credits include "The Polar Express Train Ride" in Whippany (Travel Elf and Hero Child u/s) for Warner Bros., "The Glass Menagerie" (Laura), and "The Miraculous Mandarin" (The Red Bird). Many thanks to my family, friends, teachers and the amazing production team for love and support! Instagram: [musical\\_journal0730](https://www.instagram.com/musical_journal0730)



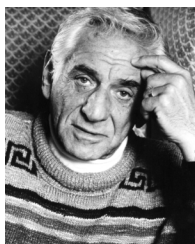
## Noah Bradford, Jet Boy Swing

Noah has a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Utah. Some of his favorite past roles are "Footloose" (Ren), "Strictly Ballroom" (Scott Hastings), "Mary Poppins" (Neleus), and "Matilda" (Rudolpho). When not performing he loves camping, fishing, or going on any adventure with his wife and their dog. Enjoy!



## Arthur Laurents

An award-winning playwright, screenwriter, librettist, director and producer, Arthur Laurents has been responsible for creating the librettos of many Broadway shows including Gypsy, Anyone Can Whistle, Do I Hear A Waltz?, Hallelujah, Baby! and Nick & Nora. He wrote the screenplays for The Snake Pit, Anna Lucasta, Anastasia, Bonjour Tristesse, The Way We Were and The Turning Point. He also wrote the plays Home Of The Brave, The Time Of The Cuckoo and A Clearing In The Woods. He directed I Can Get It For You Wholesale, Anyone Can Whistle, Gypsy, La Cage Aux Folles, Birds Of Paradise and Nick & Nora.



## Leonard Bernstein

Leonard Bernstein was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He took piano lessons as a boy and attended the Garrison and Boston Latin Schools. At Harvard University, he studied with Walter Piston, Edward Burlingame-Hill, and A. Tillman Merritt, among others. Before graduating in 1939, he made an unofficial conducting debut with his own incidental music to The Birds, and directed and performed in Marc Blitzstein's The Cradle Will Rock. Then at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, he studied piano with Isabella Vengerova, conducting with Fritz Reiner, and orchestration with Randall Thompson.

In 1940, he studied at the Boston Symphony Orchestra's newly created summer institute, Tanglewood, with the orchestra's conductor, Serge Koussevitzky. Bernstein later became Koussevitzky's conducting assistant.

Bernstein was appointed to his first permanent conducting post in 1943, as Assistant Conductor of the New York Philharmonic. On November 14, 1943, Bernstein substituted on a few hours notice for the ailing Bruno Walter at a Carnegie Hall concert, which was broadcast nationally on radio, receiving critical acclaim. Soon orchestras worldwide sought him out as a guest conductor.

In 1945 he was appointed Music Director of the New York City Symphony Orchestra, a post he held until 1947. After Serge Koussevitzky died in 1951, Bernstein headed the orchestral and conducting departments at Tanglewood, teaching there for many years. In 1951 he married the Chilean actress and pianist, Felicia Montealegre. He was also visiting music professor, and head of the Creative Arts Festivals at Brandeis University in the early 1950s.

Bernstein became Music Director of the New York Philharmonic in 1958. From then until 1969 he led more concerts with the orchestra than any previous conductor. He subsequently held the lifetime title of Laureate Conductor, making frequent guest appearances with the orchestra. More than half of Bernstein's 400-plus recordings were made with the New York Philharmonic.

Bernstein traveled the world as a conductor. Immediately after World War II, in 1946, he conducted in London and at the International Music Festival in Prague. In 1947 he conducted in Tel Aviv, beginning a relationship with Israel that lasted until his death. In 1953, Bernstein was the first American to conduct opera at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan: Cherubini's *Medea* with Maria Callas.

Bernstein was a leading advocate of American composers, particularly Aaron Copland. The two remained close friends for life. As a young pianist, Bernstein performed Copland's "Piano Variations" so often he considered the composition his trademark. Bernstein programmed and recorded nearly all of the Copland orchestral works --many of them twice. He devoted several televised "Young People's Concerts" to Copland, and gave the premiere of Copland's "Connotations," commissioned for the opening of Philharmonic Hall (now Avery Fisher Hall) at Lincoln Center in 1962.

While Bernstein's conducting repertoire encompassed the standard literature, he may be best remembered for his performances and recordings of Haydn, Beethoven, Brahms, Schumann, Sibelius and Mahler. Particularly notable were his performances of the Mahler symphonies with the New York Philharmonic in the 1960s, sparking a renewed interest in the works of Mahler.

Inspired by his Jewish heritage, Bernstein completed his first large-scale work: Symphony No. 1: "Jeremiah." (1943). The piece was first performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 1944, conducted by the composer, and received the New York Music Critics' Award. Koussevitzky premiered Bernstein's Symphony No. 2: "The Age of Anxiety" with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Bernstein as piano soloist. His Symphony No. 3: "Kaddish," composed in 1963, was premiered by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. "Kaddish" is dedicated "To the Beloved Memory of John F. Kennedy."

Other major compositions by Bernstein include "Prelude, Fugue and Riffs" for solo clarinet and jazz ensemble (1949); "Serenade" for violin, strings and percussion, (1954); "Symphonic Dances from West Side Story," (1960); "Chichester Psalms" for chorus, boy soprano and orchestra (1965); "Mass: A Theater Piece for Singers, Players and Dancers," commissioned for the opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, and first produced there in 1971; "Songfest" a song cycle for six singers and orchestra (1977); "Divertimento," for orchestra (1980); "Halil," for solo flute and small orchestra (1981); "Tousses," for solo piano (1981); "Missa Brevis" for singers and percussion (1988); "Thirteen Anniversaries" for solo piano (1988); "Concerto for Orchestra: Jubilee Games," (1989); and "Arias and Barcarolles" for two singers and piano duet (1988).

Bernstein also wrote a one-act opera, "Trouble in Tahiti," in 1952, and its sequel, the three-act opera, "A Quiet Place" in 1983. He collaborated with choreographer Jerome Robbins on three major ballets: "Fancy Free" (1944) and "Facsimile" (1946) for the American Ballet theater; and "Dybbuk" (1975) for the New York City Ballet. He composed the score for the award-winning movie "On the Waterfront" (1954) and incidental music for two Broadway plays: "Peter Pan" (1950) and "The Lark" (1955).

Bernstein contributed substantially to the Broadway musical stage. He collaborated with Betty Comden and Adolph Green on "On The Town" (1944) and "Wonderful Town" (1953). In collaboration with Richard Wilbur and Lillian Hellman and others he wrote "Candide" (1956). Other versions of "Candide" were written in association with Hugh Wheeler, Stephen Sondheim et al. In 1957 he again collaborated with Jerome Robbins, Stephen Sondheim, and Arthur Laurents, on the landmark musical "West Side Story," also made into the Academy Award-winning film. In 1976 Bernstein and Alan Jay Lerner wrote "1600 Pennsylvania Avenue."

Festivals of Bernstein's music have been produced throughout the world. In 1978 the Israel Philharmonic sponsored a festival commemorating his years of dedication to Israel. The

Israel Philharmonic also bestowed on him the lifetime title of Laureate Conductor in 1988. In 1986 the London Symphony Orchestra and the Barbican Centre produced a Bernstein Festival. The London Symphony Orchestra in 1987 named him Honorary President. In 1989 the city of Bonn presented a Beethoven/Bernstein Festival.

In 1985 the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences honored Mr. Bernstein with the Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award. He won eleven Emmy Awards in his career. His televised concert and lecture series started with the "Omnibus" program in 1954, followed by the extraordinary "Young People's Concerts with the New York Philharmonic," in 1958 that extended over fourteen seasons. Among his many appearances on the PBS series "Great Performances" was the eleven-part acclaimed "Bernstein's Beethoven." In 1989, Bernstein and others commemorated the 1939 invasion of Poland in a worldwide telecast from Warsaw.

Bernstein's writings were published in "the Joy of Music" (1959), "Leonard Bernstein's Young People's Concerts"(1961), "The Infinite Variety of Music" (1966), and "Findings" (1982). Each has been widely translated. He gave six lectures at Harvard University in 1972-1973 as the Charles Eliot Norton Professor of Poetry. These lectures were subsequently published and televised as "The Unanswered Question."

Bernstein always rejoiced in opportunities to teach young musicians. His master classes at Tanglewood were famous. He was instrumental in founding the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute in 1982. He helped create a world class training orchestra at the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival. He founded the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan. Modeled after Tanglewood, this international festival was the first of its kind in Asia and continues to this day.

Bernstein received many honors. He was elected in 1981 to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which gave him a Gold Medal. The National Fellowship Award in 1985 applauded his life-long support of humanitarian causes. He received the MacDowell Colony's Gold Medal; medals from the Beethoven Society and the Mahler Gesellschaft; the Handel Medallion, New York City's highest honor for the arts; a Tony award (1969) for Distinguished Achievement in the Theater; and dozens of honorary degrees and awards from colleges and universities. He was presented ceremonial keys to the cities of Oslo, Vienna, Bersheeva and the village of Bernstein, Austria, among others. National honors came from Italy, Israel, Mexico, Denmark, Germany (the Great Merit Cross), and France (Chevalier, Officer and Commandeur of the Legion d'Honneur). He received the Kennedy Center Honors in 1980.

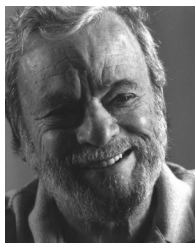
World peace was a particular concern of Bernstein. Speaking at Johns Hopkins University in 1980 and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York in 1983, he described his vision of global harmony. His "Journey for Peace" tour to Athens and Hiroshima with the European Community Orchestra in 1985, commemorated the 40th anniversary of the atom bomb. In December 1989, Bernstein conducted the historic "Berlin Celebration Concerts" on both sides of the Berlin Wall, as it was being dismantled. The concerts were unprecedented gestures of cooperation, the musicians representing the former East Germany, West Germany, and the four powers that had partitioned Berlin after World War II.

Bernstein supported Amnesty International from its inception. To benefit the effort in 1987, he established the Felicia Montealegre Fund in memory of his wife who died in 1978.

In 1990, Bernstein received the Praemium Imperiale, an international prize created in 1988 by the Japan Arts Association and awarded for lifetime achievement in the arts. Bernstein used the \$100,000 prize to establish The Bernstein Education Through the Arts (BETA) Fund, Inc. before his death on October 14, 1990.

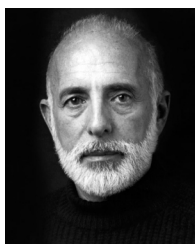
Bernstein was the father of three children -- Jamie, Alexander, and Nina -- and the grandfather of four: Francisca, Evan, Anya and Anna.





## Stephen Sondheim

STEPHEN SONDHEIM wrote the music and lyrics for *Saturday Night* (1954), *A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM* (1962), *ANYONE CAN WHISTLE* (1964), *COMPANY* (1970), *FOLLIES* (1971), *A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC* (1973), *THE FROGS* (1974), *PACIFIC OVERTURES* (1976), *SWEENEY TODD* (1979), *MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG* (1981), *SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE* (1984), *INTO THE WOODS* (1987), *ASSASSINS* (1991), *PASSION* (1994) and *ROAD SHOW* (2008) as well as lyrics for *WEST SIDE STORY* (1957), *GYPSY* (1959) and *DO I HEAR A WALTZ?* (1965) and additional lyrics for *CANDIDE* (1973). Anthologies of his work include *SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM* (1976), *MARRY ME A LITTLE* (1981), *YOU'RE GONNA LOVE TOMORROW* (1983), *PUTTING IT TOGETHER* (1993/99) and *SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM* (2010). He composed the scores of the films "*Stavisky*" (1974) and "*Reds*" (1981) and songs for "*Dick Tracy*" (1990) and the television production "*Evening Primrose*" (1966). His collected lyrics with attendant essays have been published in two volumes: "*Finishing the Hat*" (2010) and "*Look, I Made A Hat*" (2011). In 2010 Broadway's Henry Miller's Theatre was renamed The Stephen Sondheim Theatre in his honour; in 2019, London's Queens Theatre was also renamed the Sondheim.



## Jerome Robbins

JEROME ROBBINS is world renowned for his work as a choreographer of ballets as well as his work as a director and choreographer in theater, movies and television. Although he began as a modern dancer, his start on Broadway was as a chorus dancer before joining the corps de ballet of American Ballet Theatre in 1939, where he went on to dance principal roles in the works of Fokine, Tudor, Massine, Balanchine, Lichine, and de Mille. His first ballet, *Fancy Free* (1944) for ABT, still in many repertoires, celebrated its fiftieth birthday on April 18, 1994. While embarking on his career in the theater, Mr. Robbins simultaneously created ballets for New York City Ballet, which he joined in 1949, and became an Associate Artistic Director with George Balanchine. Mr. Robbins has directed for television and film as well, with his co-direction and choreography of *West Side Story* winning him two Academy Awards. After his Broadway triumph with *Fiddler On the Roof* in 1964, Mr. Robbins continued creating ballets for New York City Ballet. He shared the position of Ballet-Master-in-Chief with Peter Martins until 1989. He has created more than 60 ballets, including *Afternoon of a Faun* (1953), *The Concert* (1956), *Les Noces* (1965), *Dances At a Gathering* (1969), *In the Night* (1970), *In G Major* (1975), *Other Dances* (1976), *Glass Pieces* (1983) and *Ives Songs* (1989) which are in the repertoires of the New York City Ballet, the Ballet de l'Opera de Paris and major dance companies throughout the world. His most recent ballets include *A Suite of Dances* with Mikhail Baryshnikov (1994), *2 & 3 Part Inventions* (1994), *West Side Story Suite* (1995) and *Brandenburg* (1996) all of which premiered at New York City Ballet. In addition to his two Academy Awards, Mr. Robbins's awards and citations include four Tony Awards, five Donaldson Awards, two Emmy Awards, the Screen Directors' Guild Award and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Mr. Robbins is a 1981 Kennedy Center Honors Recipient, was awarded the Commandeur de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, is an honorary member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, and was awarded a National Medal of Arts as well as the Governor's Arts Awards by the New York State Council on the Arts. Some of his Broadway shows include *On the Town*, *Billion Dollar Baby*, *High Button Shoes*, *West Side Story*, *The King and I*, *Gypsy*, *Peter Pan*, *Miss Liberty*, *Call Me Madam* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. In 1989, Jerome Robbins's Broadway won six Tony Awards including Best Musical and Best Director. He was most recently awarded the French Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur. Jerome Robbins passed away in 1998.

# POST SHOW DISCUSSION

1. In creating *West Side Story*, what key elements from *Romeo and Juliet* did the authors retain?
2. Is the tragedy of *West Side Story* a tragedy of fate?
3. Does most of the responsibility for the tragedy rest with the central characters or with forces beyond their control?
4. Do you find the fact that Maria lives on without Tony more or less tragic than the death of both Romeo and Juliet?
5. Friction between groups of diverse backgrounds is part of American history. What factors in contemporary life contribute to this problem? What can be done to control it?
6. Are the leading figures in your community sensitive to the problems of young people? Are the police?
7. Does *West Side Story* still ring true now, could you set it in the present instead of 1959? What changes would be made?