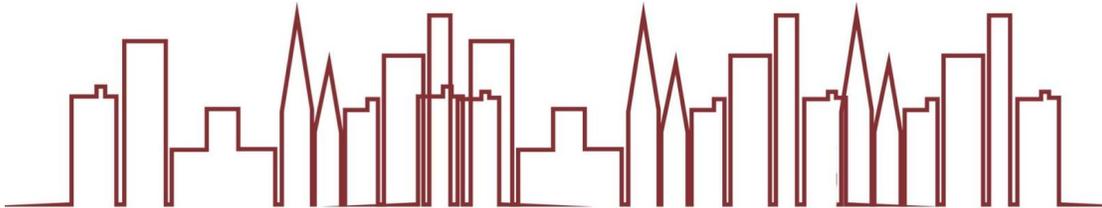




# WEST SIDE STORY<sup>®</sup>



AUDITION INFORMATION

## AUDITION INFORMATION

Welcome to our audition pack for *West Side Story*! Thank you for taking the time to read this information and considering being a part of this world premiere. Please read all information carefully, particularly regarding rehearsals, show dates, and character descriptions.

### PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Darrel Nitschke  
Musical Director: Ashleen Fahy  
Choreographer: Elly-Ann Pritchard  
Production Manager: Ginevra Wohlstadt

### PERFORMANCE DATES

23 April 2021 to 8 May 2021 (Sponsors Night performance 22 April)

### SYNOPSIS

In a musical and modernised adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, the tale of *West Side Story* finds its setting in the streets of 1950s New York. A bitter and tireless rivalry has formed between two gangs, the New York Jets and the Puerto Rican Sharks, who are both looking to assert the upper west side as their territory. Their rivalry grows further complicated by a star-crossed romance between Tony and Maria who belong to opposing sides. In amongst the gang's conflict, the two must consider what is most important: their loyalty to their families and where they've come from, or their love for one another.

### CREATIVE VISION

Diversity and acceptance are incredibly important in musical theatre and in our wider, modern world. With this in mind, our 2021 re-staging of *West Side Story* will offer a sensitive depiction of the original story. The audition process will not be driven by cultural or ethnic requirements, but will instead be led by the passion of both its creative team and potential cast. Additionally, we hope for this show to serve as a celebration of live theatre amongst the reality of COVID-19, so a genuine enjoyment from cast and crew is certainly a goal.

### INFORMATION AFTERNOON

We will be holding an information afternoon at the Westside Theatre Greenroom on December 12th 2021 (Entrance is the glass door at the top of the building at 141 Seventeenth Avenue, Tauranga) If you have any questions regarding the rehearsal process or the show itself, we encourage you to come along. The Audition Booking form will be available online after this.

## AUDITION DATES

Audition bookings will be online and will be opened on the information evening. You must be at least 16 years old to audition.

Auditions will be held Westside Theatre, 141 17th Avenue, Tauranga:

- Dance call: Saturday Feb 6th 2021 (Main Auditorium, enter through main door)

Females: 9.30 - 10.30 am

Partners: (All males and females) 10.30 - 11.30 am

Males: 11.30 - 12.30 pm

- Individual vocal auditions: (Main Auditorium, enter through Greenroom door)

Saturday Feb 6th: 1-6pm and Sunday Feb 7th: 10-3pm

- Call backs: Monday 8th 10-12pm (May not be required)
- If you are auditioning for Krupke, Shrank or Doc you do not need to attend the Dance Call but you are more than welcome to.

You will be auditioning before a panel consisting of the Director, Musical Director, Choreographer, and a Committee Representative from Tauranga Musical Theatre. The time slots are 10 minutes. Please be prepared for the possibility of a call back during the day on Monday 7th. Getting a call back does not guarantee a role. Likewise, you may be cast even if you are not called back. Please ensure that you have entered a contact telephone number on your audition application form where we can easily reach you during the audition dates.

## PREPARATION FOR AUDITION

Audition songs (approximately two minutes or less) need to be a musical theatre piece that is a similar style to Westside Story, that shows off your vocal range. Please come prepared with a backing track on a USB or on your phone. On the day, please arrive at least 10 minutes prior to your audition time, already warmed up. If you are auditioning for a principal character, you may be asked to do a reading for your character.

## DANCERS

Choreography is a defining aspect of the *West Side Story* musical. Because of this, we will be holding multiple dance calls in this audition process to look at female, male and partnered dancers. Dancers should be able to perform in both an ensemble and with a partner, and should be prepared to give partnered lifts and tricks a go (no prior experience is needed). While it is ideal for each cast member to be a comfortable mover onstage, please note that there are different "strengths" of dance skill required, ranging from strong leading dancers, to supporting ensemble work and adult speaking roles. Please note that all dancers will also need to book a vocal audition.

#### DANCE CALL

For the dance call, please wear appropriate fitted clothes and shoes to be able to dance in. For women, we require that you wear a heeled dancing shoe and for the men, some kind of thin-sole sneaker. Please take note of the specific call times for the Dance Call as detailed in the Auditions section.

#### REHEARSAL DATES

Rehearsals begin on Sunday 14th February. Rehearsals will take place on Tuesday and Thursday nights and Sundays (mornings and afternoons) at Westside Theatre. The show runs from 23 April to 8 May 2021, including a Sponsor Night performance on April 22. You are also expected to attend all dress & tech rehearsals in the week leading up to Opening Night and Pack Out on May 9th.

#### PRODUCTION EXPECTATIONS

Your participation in this production requires your undivided commitment in order to ensure a production of the highest possible quality. If cast, you cannot commit to any other production during the rehearsal period and production season. You should not audition if you are unable to commit to the rehearsal and production schedule. If you have any other commitments (personal or work) that may impact on your ability to attend rehearsals, you must provide full relevant details in your audition application. Not all performers will be required at all rehearsals, and rehearsals will be scheduled as carefully as possible to make the best use of your time.

#### CASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

Performers will be notified by email or phone of the outcome of their audition as soon as possible following casting. A full cast announcement will be subsequently made on the Tauranga Musical Theatre media channels. All cast and crew are considered to be goodwill ambassadors for Tauranga Musical Theatre and for the show and we expect all cast and crew to meet that responsibility both in person and online. There will be a closed group Facebook page which cast and crew are encouraged to join and actively participate in.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

All involved in this production will need to become a financial member of Tauranga Musical Theatre, and are required to agree and adhere to a code of conduct that covers health and safety, personal well-being, and responsibilities to fellow cast and crew members. Please direct any queries that you may have to Ginevra Wohlstadt. Email: [wss.production@outlook.com](mailto:wss.production@outlook.com)

West Side Story Production Team  
Tauranga Musical Theatre  
December 2020

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

### *PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS*

#### Tony

*Male, late teens — early 20s*

*Some choreography required*

*Vocal range: Bb2 - Bb4, audition song: a tenor ballad*

An older member of the Jets, has a mature and non-violent wisdom that the wider gang lacks. Deeply respected and admired by all Jets.

#### Maria

*Female, mid — late teens*

*Some choreography required*

*Vocal range: Bb3 - C6, audition song: a soprano ballad*

A young, excitable woman who has recently arrived in America and the love interest of Tony. While influenced by Anita and Bernardo, she is strongly led by her own heart.

#### Anita

*Female, 20s*

*Strong dance requirements*

*Vocal range: F3 - D5, audition song: an alto piece with a strong belt*

Fiery and assertive in nature, Bernardo's girl and a sister-like confidante to Maria. Despite the unwelcoming Jets, Anita admires the beauty and opportunities that America seems to offer.

#### Bernardo

*Male, 20s*

*Strong dance requirements*

*Vocal range: Bb2 - Eb4, confident baritone voice*

The charismatic and charming leader of the Sharks gang, older brother to Maria and boyfriend to Anita. Very strong in his presence, shoulders most of the Jets' hostility.

#### Riff

*Male, late teens — early 20s*

*Strong dance requirements*

*Vocal range: Bb2 - G4, confident tenor voice*

The hot-headed leader of the Jets and close friend of Tony's. Much like Bernardo, Riff is passionate and confrontational in the gang's rivalry.

## SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

### Chino

*Male, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A younger member of the Sharks; loyal follower to leader Bernardo and the supposed future husband of Maria.

### Anybodys

*Female, mid — late teens*

*Speaking role, choreography required*

A tomboyish Jets wannabe and a loyal follower of Tony's. She attempts to dress and act like a male Jet, but is consistently pushed aside from the action of the gang.

### Doc

*Male, 40s to 60s*

*Speaking role, no choreography required*

The owner of a local store at which Tony works and the Jets hang out; wise and thoughtful in his ways, Doc shares a somewhat paternal relationship with the entire Jets gang.

### Detective Schrank

*Male, 40s to 60s*

*Speaking role, no choreography required*

Detective Schrank is the main "handler" of the gang rivalry. Brash and quick-tempered, Schrank is far from impartial and constantly antagonises the Sharks gang.

### Officer Krupke

*Male, 40s to 60s*

*Speaking role, no choreography required*

A local police officer and assistant to Detective Schrank. While he too is frustrated by the gang conflict, Krupke is constantly mocked by the Jets for his not-so-bright nature.

## ENSEMBLE CHARACTERS

### Diesel

*Male, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A Jets gang member, second-in-command and very loyal to Riff and Tony.

### Pepe

*Male, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A Sharks gang member.

### Action

*Male, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A Sharks gang member.

### Indio

*Male, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A Sharks gang member.

### Graziella

*Female, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A Jets girl and girlfriend to Diesel.

### Rosalia

*Female, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A Sharks girl, girlfriend of Indio and friend of Maria.

### Velma

*Female, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A Jets girl and girlfriend to Riff; a smaller role but must be a fierce dance partner to Riff in the gym scene.

### Consuelo

*Female, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A Sharks girl and girlfriend to Pepe.

**Minnie**

*Female, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A Jets girl.

**Francisca**

*Female, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A Sharks girl.

### *ADDITIONAL ENSEMBLE ROLES*

**Jets Swing: A-Rab/Glad Hand**

*Male, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A male dancer to support the Jets gang when the two gangs face off. This role will involve an additional cameo as 'Glad Hand', the cheerful albeit nerdy host of the gym dance.

**Sharks Swing: Luis**

*Male, late teens — early 20s*

*Choreography required*

A male dancer to support the Sharks gang when the two gangs face off.

\* If you are auditioning for Krupke, Shrank or Doc you do not need to attend the Dance Call but you are more than welcome to.

