

FST STORY

based on a conception of Jerome Robbins book by Arthur Laurents music by Leonard Bernstein lyrics by Stephen Sondheim directed by Wendy Sielaff music directed by Debbie Thomas choreographed by Tawna Dabney

September 15-18, 2005

Thu-Sat 8pm • Sun 2pm

Produced by arrangement with









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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Opening night September 15, 2005 Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

WEST SIDE STORY

Based on a conception of Jerome Robbins

Book by
Arthur
Laurents

Music by Leonard Bernstein Lyrics by
Stephen
Sondheim

Directed by Wendy Sielaff

Music Direction by Debra Thomas

Choreographed by Tawna Dabney

Producer
John Reiser

Lighting Designer
Tiff Crutchfield

Co-Set Designer
Cathy Cassar

Properties Master Valerie Wilkinson

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Set Decoration Melissa Lindholm

> Stage Combat Aaron Pohl

Sound Assistant Kathleen Beardmore

> Dialect Coach Dolores Cassar

Stage Manager Cathy Cassar

Sound Designer Bob Skon

Co-Set Designer Mike Sielaff

House Manager Tanya Dabney

Follow Spot Operator

Jon Elliott

Photography Jason Nichols



THEATER

Peter Rabbit (grades Pre-K-2)

Thurs, Oct 13 - Sat, Oct 15 When Peter Rabbit ventures into Farmer McGregor's garden, despite his mother's warning, his adventures begin.

A Thousand Cranes (grades 3-12)

Thurs, Nov 3 - Sat, Nov 5 This very beautiful and moving play tells the touching story of a young Japanese girl's experience after the bombing of Hiroshima.

Musicians of the Sun

based on the book by Gerald McDermott (grades K-5) Wed, Dec 7 - Sun, Dec 11 Based on Aztec mythology, this production is a bilingual delight in English and Spanish.

A Honey Pot of Pooh Stories

(grades Pre-K-2) Thurs, Jan 19 - Sat, Jan 21 Dip into our honey pot of stories featuring children's all time favorite bear. Winnie the Pooh.

Drum Me a Story (grades K-3)

Thurs, Feb 9 - Sat, Feb 11 A delightful, humorous collection of well-known African tales performed through storytelling, acting, and drumming.

Spirit of Harriet Tubman (grades 3-12)

Tues, Feb 14 - Sat, Feb 18 Wild Swan proudly presents Leslie McCurdy in her one-person show using Harriet's own words in telling the story of her life.

Once Upon a Time (grades Pre-K-2) Thurs, Mar 23 - Sat, Mar 25 An engaging col-

lection of children's classics including "Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "Reynard the Fox" is sure to delight the very young.

Charlotte's Web (grades K-5)

Wed, May 3 - Sun, May 7 Set in the rural Midwest, it tells the touching story of a friendship between a little pig a most uncommon spider.

Jack and the Beanstalk (grades Pre-

K-2) Fri, June 16 - Sat, June 17 Jack's journey up the beanstalk not only leads to his wellknown encounters with a very silly giant but to the rescue of his long lost father as well.

Our 2005-06 Season!

Information

Wild Swan Theater 416 W. Huron St. Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Phone: (734) 995-0530

(v/tty)

Fax: (734) 668-7292 e-mail: wildswan@

wildswantheater.org web:

www.wildswantheater.org

Tickets

\$8.00 child \$10.00 adult

Performance Site

Towsley Auditorium. Morris Lawrence Building, Washtenaw Community College

From the Director

When the thought of doing West Side Story entered my mind, I quickly dismissed it, because I knew it was an American treasure in theatre. The songs kept creeping into my head and before long I knew I was about to take on a huge task. Every song in the show is familiar to almost everyone and must be sung well. The choreography in the show is legendary. To change the show would be like putting Santa in a blue suit, unacceptable to people. How was I going to do justice to this show? I vowed to keep it pure and true to its original form. I was on a mission.

I knew Tawna Dabney would be the choreographer for the job. Lots of sexy Latin dancing, she could do it. Debbie Thomas agreed to take on the job of the music affirming my conviction of a well sung show with a pit that would match. It was beginning to come into place. The more I talked about this the more I found out this was a beloved show. I found people to staff it that were passionate about this piece of work. I have to thank Cathy Cassar for her love of the show, it happens to be one of her favorites. She kept us all to task keeping the show true to form.

Mike Sielaff, Cathy Cassar and I sat down to design the set. Months later we came up with a design that I could accept. That was a big part. Susie Berneis agreed to costume the gangs. She is a veteran so I was comfortable. Of course Bob Skon, Tiff Crutchfield, and John Reiser rounded out the staff. One new member to the staff is Megan, my daughter. She has hung around the theatre so much we put her to work -- she may never come to another rehearsal now. We had so many people that wanted to work on the show because it was one of their favorites, it was really amazing.

On to casting. Over 80 people came out to audition. The talent was overwhelming. Many hours later we put together a cast that fit the bill. Rehearsals were great. The Sharks and Jets were coming to life. Tony and Maria were in love and Riff and Bernardo hated each other. I was so excited. The cast danced and sang until they could take no more, then asked for extra rehearsals. They are a dedicated group of performers.

I hope you will agree that what you will see here is a beautiful work that has stood the test of time. No Santa in a blue suit for A2CT here.

Wendy Sielaff Director

The Crew

Stage Crew

Set Construction Crew
Cathy Cassar
Mike Sielaff
Emilie Litzell
John Reiser
Reynaldo Arceno, Jr.
Daniel Atwood
Megan Jacobs

Emily Rogers
Mike Sielaff
Jeff Steinhauer
Jon Elliott
Valerie Wilkinson
Costume Crew
Susie Berneis
Alix Berneis
Ashley Chambers
Susan Linton

Set Construction Crew Wendy Sielaff Matt Rogers Emily Rogers Valerie Wilkinson Patrick Persons Jeff Steinhauer Sandra Federico

Musical Numbers

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

Act One

| Prologue | Cast |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Jet Song | Riff, Jets |
| Something's Coming | Tony |
| The Dance at the Gym - Blues | |
| Promenade | Cast |
| Mambo | |
| Cha-Cha | |
| Maria | Tony |
| Balcony Scene | Maria, Tony |
| America | |
| Cool | Riff, Jets |
| One Hand, One Heart | Tony, Maria |
| TonightJets, Sharks, A | Anita, Tony, Maria, Riff, Bernardo |

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission between acts.

Act Two

| I Feel Pretty | Maria, Shark Girls |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Somewhere | Tony, Maria |
| Gee, Officer Krupke | |
| A Boy Like That and I Have A Love | |

The Orchestra

| Piano | Sarah Cravens |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Flute | |
| Oboe | Valree Plumlee-Casey |
| Clarinet | |
| Saxophone | Hope Dundas |
| Trumpet 1 | Justin Cohen |
| Trumpet 2 | |
| French Horn | Jeremy Abbott |
| Trombone | Damon Duquaine |
| Percussion, Bass | Mike Williams |
| Drum | Bill Brokenshire |

The Cast

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|-------|------|----|
| The | A | te |
| THE | 10 | w |

| THE JEES | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| | Tony | Anthony J. Provenzola |
| | | Dann Smallwood |
| | Action | Andy Ballnik |
| | | Brandon Cave |
| | | Randall Stacy |
| | | Erik Abbott-Main |
| | | Craig Nichols |
| | | Kevin Stacy II |
| | | Daniel Atwood |
| | Anybodys | Maggie Williams |
| | | Tawna Dabney |
| | | Sandra Federico |
| | | Kirsten Knisely |
| | | Sarah Fuller |
| The Shar | rks | |
| | Bernardo | Reynaldo Arceno, Jr. |
| | Chino | Bill Zimmermann |
| | Pepe | Anslie Newman |
| | Indio | Aaron Pohl |
| | Jesús | Chris Smallwood |
| | | Suresh Mohan |
| | Hector | David Beaulieu |
| | Maria | Annie Reinholz |
| | Anita | Michelle Gasco |
| | Rosalia | Amy Bogetto-Weinraub |
| | Consuela | Emily Perryman |
| | Guadalupe | January Provenzola |
| | Francesca | Rachel Francisco |
| | Estrella | Melanie Hearsch |
| | Margarita | Sara Rydzewski |
| | | Bethany L. Rydzewski |
| Doc | | Glenn Bugala |
| Shrank | | Curt Waugh |
| Krupke. | | Patrick Persons |
| | | David Beaulieu |
| | | |

The Cast

Erik Abbott-Main (Snowboy) is currently finishing his final year at EMU and graduating with a BFA in Theatre and Dance. Upon graduation, Erik plans to attend stunt school in Seattle followed by the continuation of his education in graduate school. He is delighted to have had the opportunity to work with such a dedicated cast in his first show with A2CT. Other credits include: Anyone Can Whistle, Honk!, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, and Swan Lake. He thanks and dedicates this performance to his Mother and Grandmother for all of their support.

Reynaldo Arceno, Jr. (Bernardo) enjoys performing in his third show with A2CT. His previous roles with A2CT were men's chorus in Lysistrata and the title role in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Other recent roles were the Schoolmaster/Father in The Rainbow with the Blackbird Theatre and Judas in Godspell with Stagecrafters. Rey currently works (and many times fails) as an online poker player under the name roxtar. Please donate your time and money to him; he needs it. Rey would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support and throw a shout out to TAC! Enjoy the show.

Daniel Atwood (Gee-Tar) At 18 years of age, Dan is a graduate of Pinckney Comm. High School and is currently enrolled as a student of Washtenaw Community College. He has performed in high school productions such as Guys & Dolls and was antagonist "Chuck Cranstin" in Footloose. He also mimed with the famed Michael Lee in the Riverside Mime Co. He recently returned from the International Thespian Festival (Lincoln, Nebraska) as head of the set crew in the original high school production of Lascaux: Dawn of Art. He also has a strong background in dance, ranging from modern to tap. One day he hopes to impart the art of dancing onto others as a teacher. "I would like to thank my friends and family for helping me pursue my dreams, and I thank God for blessing me with the opportunity to learn from the incredible performers you are about to see tonight (I love you, Ashley!)."

Andy Ballnik (Action) is happy to be back with A2CT once again for his fourth musical in a row and his third show with the fabulous trio of Wendy, Tawna and Debbie. Previously he was in Cabaret, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and On the Town. Other shows have included Bye Bye Birdie (Albert), Tommy (Capt. Walker), The Nerd (Rick), Skin of Our Teeth, Big, Ragtime, Cymbaline, Ten Little Indians, Miss Firecracker Contest, Anything Goes (Billy), South Pacific (Joe Cable), Much Ado About Nothing, and The

Crucible. Andy has studied musical theatre at both Wayne State University and American Musical and Dramatics Academy in New York City. He is currently attending EMU in the Education program, hoping to teach and direct theatre professionally. Look for Andy to make his directorial debut with A2CT this upcoming spring with The Nerd. Andy wishes to thank Jack, his family, friends and Kohl's family for all their love and support and to the cast and crew for another great time!

David Beaulieu (Hector, Glad Hand) Is thrilled to be working with Wendy, Tawna, and Debbie for the third time this year in West Side Story. David most recently collaborated with them on Bye Bye Birdie, in which he played Harvey Johnson and also in A2CT's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, playing Benjamin. Other A2CT credits include, My One and Only and Dinner with Friends. He has also appeared in local productions of The Music Man, Picnic, and The Miracle Worker. David is currently a student at WCC. He would like to thank Wendy, Tawna and Debbie for the opportunity to perform in another incredible show, as well as his parents for their support in his passion.

Amy Bogetto-Weinraub (Rosalia) This is Amy's fourth production with AACT. She has previously been seen in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tzietel), *Tommy* and *Evita*. Amy would like to thank her wonderful husband, Jonathan, for supporting her during this production, and for taking such good care of their beautiful daughter, Ava. Cheers to the No Cooking Club!

Glenn Bugala (Doc) has been involved with A2CT for 8 years now, acting, producing and directing. For A2CT, he directed Our Town, Tommy, Midsummer Night's Dream, Front Page and A Little Night Music. Regionally, he has directed Victor/Victoria (for WCC), Little by Little (for Adjective Arts), and five productions for Gabriel Richard High School. As an actor, he has been seen in A2CT's On the Town, Chicago, Evita, Chorus Line, Taming of the Shrew, Merchant of Venice and Blithe Spirit, among others. Regionally he has been seen in Performance Network's The Lights and Ben Cohen's Lay Your Comfort Down. Glenn recently completed a term on the A2CT Board of Directors. Prior to coming to Ann Arbor, Glenn enjoyed a professional acting career in Chicago. He received an MFA in Performance from Purdue University and a BA in Theatre from U of M-Flint. By day, Glenn is a Marketing Communications Director, and he also enjoys singing and playing in Ann Arbor Vineyard Church's band. He sends his love to his lovely wife Emily and his wonderful daughter Sophie.

Brandon Cave (A-Rab) is excited to be appearing in West Side Story. His past shows with A2CT include Tommy, Jekyll and Hyde, Chicago, Fiddler on the Roof, and On the Town. He has also been seen in CAP's Oliver, and Washtenaw Community College's Guys and Dolls. He would like to thank the cast and crew, and his friends and family. TAC 4 Life.

Sandra Federico (Velma) is delighted to perform in West Side Story with A2CT. Past credits include On the Town with A2CT and choreographing Guys and Dolls, Footloose, and Oklahoma! at Pinckney High School where she teaches dance. In the dance world, Ms. Federico has choreographed and performed with InSync Dance Theatre, and has been honored to have two dances selected as finalists for the Maggie Allessee New Choreography Award. "Fed" wishes to thank her students for being her inspiration.

Rachel Francisco (Francesca) is still trying to get over not being cast as the blond Shark girl. This marks Rachel's thirteenth(!!) show with A2CT, not counting a couple of Halloween-related escapades she is still in therapy to try to forget. She is the proud mommy of Annika, who really is hers despite having inherited 99.99% of her daddy Timo's Norwegiswedish genes. She sends love to her four-legged girls at home and her primarily two-legged Shark-girl cohorts.

Sarah Fuller (Clarice) is a junior at Pioneer High School and is appearing in her first A2CT production. She has been dancing for over 10 years and has performed with the Moscow Ballet in The Nutcracker and Pioneer Theatre Guild's Beauty and the Beast and Future Stars. Sarah combines her interest in theatre with a passion for Will Ferrell movies and the Beatles.

Michelle Gasco (Anita) is a 2nd/3rd grade teacher at Eastern Washtenaw Multicultural Academy in Ann Arbor. This is her fifth musical production with A2CT. Her other shows have included Tommy, Jekyll and Hyde, Chicago, and On the Town. Michelle is very excited to have this opportunity to be Anita. This has been a dream come true! Michelle would like to give thanks to her Heavenly Father for all his blessings in her life and to Wendy for believing in her as Anita. Michelle would also like to send her love to her daughter Mika, her family, and to Ryan.

Melanie Hearsch (Estrella) is performing in her 11th Civic show, primarily appearing as a dancer of some type in all of them. She hopes you appreciate the hair color sacrifices she made for this show as she was not a very convincing redheaded Puerto Rican when rehearsals started. She thanks Dan and all the grandmas and grandpas who helped make it possible for her to schlep to Ann Arbor from Farmington Hills several times a week, and sends love to Molly who at this point wonders who the black-haired lady is who tucks this very pale blond, blue-eyed child into bed each night. (Answer, according to her: "DADA!")

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The Production Staff

Susie Berneis (Costume Designer) is backstage again after making her last appearance in A2CT's Inherit the Wind. Working with Wendy and Co. is a winning proposition since it brought her the first of two Best Costumer A2CT awards for Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical (the other was for The Scarlet Pimpernel). Let's try for a sweep again this year, Wendy! Thanks to my able assistants, Ashley, Alix and a special thanks to Sue, for helping to make things run like a dream! Break a leg, everyone! (And thanks to the ever-patient Paul!)

Cathy Cassar (Co-Set Designer, Set Construction, Stage Manager) Miss Cassar is pleased to once again be lending her talents to yet another A2CT production, as the Co-Set Designer and Stage Manager. She was most recently not seen as the Stage Manager and Co-Set designer for A2CT's Production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and the Technical Director for A2CT's production of On the Town. She is very grateful for the opportunity to work on another A2CT production with such a talented cast, crew and staff. While not in a theater you can find her designing roads throughout the state. She would like to thank her family, all of her friends and especially her parents for their enduring support! Break a leg everyone.

Tiff Crutchfield (Lighting Designer) has designed lighting for several A2CT musicals, including last winter's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He occasionally appears in small roles onstage, most recently in 2004 in *On The Town*. He is also quite active behind the scenes, serving at times in various production and design capacities, as well as on the board as an officer and committee chair. Currently he is A2CT's president and chair of the fundraising committee.

Tanya Dabney (House Manager) moved to Ann Arbor from San Diego, CA four years ago and currently holds the position of Office Administrator for the Society for College and University Planning. She always enjoys attending and supporting A2CT and "of course" her daughter, Tawna. She served on the A2CT 75th Anniversary Gala Committee, currently serves on Civic Theatre's board, and this is her fifth time acting as house manager for A2CT productions. She thinks this is a wonderful group to work with that offers great opportunities for the community to become involved.

Tawna Dabney (Choreographer, Graziella) Tawna is incredibly happy to have her Damon back in town! She is Damon's mom, a dance instructor, performer, and a professional student!:) She has performed in and choreographed a number of A2CT productions

and values every one of those experiences! This is her seventh show working with Wendy (having choreographed Jekyll & Hyde, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, as well as co-choreographed Chicago with Jennifer White for A2CT under Wendy's direction). She was thrilled to have the opportunity to work so hard on West Side Story! What an incredible show. She would like to give a BIG shout out to the fabulous dancing cast members who have sweat up a storm without complaint throughout the course of the rehearsal process...wow! This was her most challenging choreographic experience and she was impressed by the talent and dedication of the performers; YAHOO!! :) As usual, she had a ball working with Debbie and Wendy! This show has taken the story to new heights and she is PROUD to have been part of the creative process.

Megan Jacobs (Assistant Director) This is Megan's first attempt to help back stage. She has been around the theatre most of her life and attended many rehearsals as a spectator. This time her mother, Wendy, decided to put her to work, since she comes anyway. You can check with her later to see what she thinks about all the work. Megan would like to send her love to her husband, Dave, and Mavrick.

John Reiser (Producer) When John is not producing a show about knife and gun-fighters, he's trying to hold them accountable as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Once again, he's amazed at the caliber of the show that Wendy has put forward. John is looking forward to his next role as diaper-changer as he and Patricia are expecting a baby girl next month.

Mike Sielaff (Co-Set Designer, Set Construction, Stage Crew) Just look at the stage and you will see what Mike did with his summer. He would like to tell his wife, Wendy, "This was not an easy set, and everything was not already built". He would like to thank Cathy Cassar for being a good build buddy. Mike would love to fish and golf, if he remembers how to.

Wendy Sielaff (Director) This is Wendy's fourth time directing for A2CT. Her previous shows have been Little Shop of Horrors, Jekyll and Hyde, Chicago, and most recently Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Wendy wants to thank her friends for being her friends, and her family that continuously shakes their head in disbelief at the amount of time and energy that goes into a show. She would like to thank her husband Mike, for giving tirelessly of himself and enduring the question "Is the set going to be done on time?", a million times, and her daughter Megan, for actually working at a rehearsal. Wendy would like to add "Without the theatre and all these people that I love and respect I would not be who I am today, crazy and exhausted".

Bob Skon (Sound Designer) has been involved with A2CT for now his 5th season. He's been behind the scenes designing and running sound for Tommy, Pajama Game, Smile, Chicago, Fiddler on the Roof, Our Town, and Cabaret He has been on stage as an ensemble member in Evita and On the Town, and had the role of John Utterson in Jekyll and Hyde. Bob is also a singer/songwriter whose CD "2nd Time Around" will be released September 20th at the Firefly Club, www.bobskon.com.

Debra Thomas (Music Director) is happy to be involved her eighth A2CT production! Debra previously directed the music for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat for A2CT. She has also directed the music for Bye Bye Birdie for the Spotlight players and The Wizard of Oz for Milan Area Schools, where she is an elementary music teacher. Debra also loves performing and was most recently seen as Mrs. Rose in Hello Dolly at the Croswell Opera House and as Mrs. Stark in Rebel Without a Cause for A2CT. She would like to thank Wendy and Tawna for being so fun to work with, the cast and orchestra for being so amazingly talented and Jason for his love and support!

Valerie Wilkinson (Co-Properties Master) Valerie would like to thank Wendy for welcoming her back onto her staff; as always, it's been a pleasure working with such a wonderfully talented cast and crew. You'll find Valerie currently directing and producing the A2CT Junior Theatre show *Dorothy Meets Alice*, which runs November 3-6 at WCC's College Theatre. As always, love to the family (this one's for Matts!) and thank you for supporting community theatre!







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This bawdy, rollicking musical finds the lovely ladies at a popular Texas brothel thrown for a loop when a vote-seeking politician