



West Side Story - How To Be Involved

ALIFAX AMATEURS'
THEATRE
YOUTH

This information should hopefully answer any questions you may have about being involved in our current show West Side Story which we are delighted to be performing at The Playhouse Theatre on the **26th - 29th October 2022**. Performances will be nightly at 7:30pm and a Saturday matinee at 2:30pm.

About The Show:

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet is transported to modern-day New York City, as two young idealistic lovers find themselves caught between warring street gangs, the "American" jets and the Puerto Rican sharks. Their struggle to survive in a world of hate, violence and prejudice is one of the most innovative, heart-wrenching and relevant musical dramas of our time.

The production team for West Side Story are:

Ashley Wade - Director

Graham Robbins - Musical Director

Keira Watson - Assistant Musical Director

Georgia Bloxham - Choreographer

Commitment:

If you are successful in gaining a place in this production don't underestimate the commitment that will be required of you. Rehearsals will begin in June and will take place on a Wednesday 6-9pm, Friday 7:30-9:30 and Sunday 11 - 2. All participants will need to be free for these rehearsals throughout the rehearsal period.

A rehearsal schedule will be issued so you know exactly when and for how long you will be needed each week. If you can't make a rehearsal for any reason such as illness you must notify us. If no notification is provided there is a '3 strikes and out' rule, which means you will be asked to leave the production.

You will also be expected to learn words and practice in your own time in order for us to move forward quickly. It is expected that you don't take any time off from rehearsals during October, just before the show.

For the week of the show you will be required to keep free the Sunday before as we will be moving into the theatre there may be various calls that day, Monday evening for the technical rehearsal, Tuesday evening for the dress rehearsal and then all of the show calls. If you cannot make any of those calls for the production you are unable to participate in the show.

Being part of a show is fun and very rewarding but like we've said, it is also lots of hard work!

Cost:

You need to be a member of the society in order to be in the show, annual membership for HATY costs £15.

There are lots of costs incurred when putting on a musical, including the rights to put it on, rehearsal space, costumes, sound and lights to name a few. There is a production fee to be part of the show to contribute to some of these cost this is £100.

We know this can sound like a lot but it works out at £5.27per week for 19 weeks of rehearsals. This payment will be required by the end of September and can be paid in instalments or all in one go.

How do we get involved?

To audition for this production you need to be in year 6 up to age 18 on the day of the auditions.

Anyone who wishes to be involved will need to complete an expression of interest form to have an opportunity to audition to be part of the cast. We want to try and include as many young people as possible, but due to the venue size we are unable to accept more than 35 into the cast.

For this production as everyone will be a named character, anyone wanting to be involved will need to attend a dance workshop and then an individual audition.

HATY has other activities, concerts and productions running throughout the year that are open access and don't require an audition process.

How do I get a chance to audition?

You will need to request a password from jane@haosproductions.com in order to review the audition material and make a decision on what position you wish to audition for. Due to the number of parts within the show all 35 cast members will be a named character with different amounts of involvement. Please look carefully at the roles on the web page to decide which part you wish to audition for. All individual auditions will include dialogue and song. Although you are only able to audition for 1 role you can also let us know which other roles you would like to be considered for.

You will then you need to complete the online Expression of Interest Form that is available. This needs to have been completed by **9pm on Wednesday 8th June** in order for you to be able to audition. This electronic form is available on each of the character pages.

You will then be invited to a workshop in the morning of Sunday 12th June. You need to ensure that you arrive on time, we won't be able to wait for people to start as there is a tight schedule for the day. You will also be provided with an audition time for your solo audition.

Is There a Chance to Practice Before the Auditions?

All the audition material and rehearsal aids are available by clicking on the characters for you to be able to practice at home before you attend your audition.

Drop in sessions will be available as follows for anyone who would like an opportunity to speak with the production team if they have any questions and also have the chance to sing through the audition songs with others before the day. These are not mandatory so if you feel happy to practice the material at home this is fine, but are there if you would find them helpful.

Date	Time
Wednesday 1st June	6:00 - 7:30
Sunday 5th June	11:00 - 12:30
Wednesday 8th June	6:00 - 7:30

What happens on the audition day?

The Workshop:

Everyone who would like to be considered to take part will need to attend a dance workshop on the morning of **Sunday 12th June** except those auditioning for Doc, Officer Krupke or Lieutenant Schrank and DON'T want the opportunity to be considered for anything else. The workshop will last approximately 1 hour from the time you are given to attend. If we have not received your expression of interest form before the deadline you will not be able to attend the workshop.

At the workshop you will learn a short dance piece that you will then perform in small groups. You don't need to prepare anything for the workshop. It is advisable that clothing and footwear is worn that allows for movement.

Individual Auditions:

Anyone interested in taking part in the show will also be required to complete an individual audition.

Individual auditions will then take place after the workshops on Sunday 12th June from approximately 11:00am. You will have an individual time slot of 5-10 minutes to come and perform the audition pieces for your chosen character. We will expect that you are familiar with the audition piece you have chosen to perform.

You can only audition for one character but can put down on your expression of interest form if you would also like to be considered for any other roles. There will be just you and the audition panel in the room for your individual audition.

Who are the audition panel?

The people on the audition panel are the people that will be there throughout the workshop and individual auditions watching you and making notes about how they think you have got on. After individual auditions on Sunday the panel will discuss everyone they have seen and make the difficult decision of casting the show.

Auditions can be scary and people can get very nervous, don't worry; the audition panel understand this and all of them have been in the same position as you on a number of occasions. They will try and support you and try to help put you at ease.

Other members of the committee will be there to meet and greet you on the day.

What are the panel looking for?

We are looking for a cast who work hard, try their best, practise and really want to work with us. West Side Story is a very dramatic piece and we need to see emotion

We are looking for people who can tell a story through song. We need people to perform when singing not just stand and sing nicely, we need to see character.

In individual auditions try and give yourself something to do during the dialogue and the song - what would your character be doing as they are speaking/singing?

How are decisions made about casting?

Roles will be offered to the strongest candidates on the day of the auditions who meet the specifications and are compatible with any other associated casting.

Where a clear decision cannot be made between two or more equally capable candidates, loyalty, support, commitment to the society and previous behaviour will be taken into consideration.

For more details about casting please see the HATY Casting Principles document available in the policy and procedure section on the HAOS Productions website.

When will I find out if I was successful?

The audition panel will make their decision about casting at the end of the audition day. As per the HATY casting principles document there will be a 24 hour period after casting has taken place before any decisions will be communicated.

If for any reason the audition panel are unable to cast a specific part they hold the right to ask others outside of the audition day to take this role.

What if I can't make the audition day?

Unfortunately if you are unable to make the audition day you will not be considered in the initial round of casting. However if you still submit your expression of interest form and we are unable to cast the full company you may be considered.