

NEWS RELEASE



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“Something’s Coming...” *West Side Story* Mambos Its Way to Alabama Shakespeare Festival!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY, AL (June 2, 2008) The Alabama Shakespeare Festival brings the stellar Broadway hit *West Side Story* to the Festival Stage beginning July 18. Bringing her talent and expertise to the piece is director and choreographer Karen Azenberg. While this will mark her twelfth production of *West Side Story* in nine different states with casts of all shapes and sizes, Ms. Azenberg says, “It is a great thrill to be coming to ASF...the theatre is terrific!”

What better way to end ASF’s “Season of Romance” than with *West Side Story*, the musical re-telling of Shakespeare’s classic *Romeo and Juliet*. Romeo and Juliet are re-created in star-crossed lovers Tony and Maria, who fall for each other as rival gangs clash on the rough streets of 1950’s New York City. When Tony accidentally kills Maria’s brother while breaking up a rumble, more violence erupts. This popular Broadway musical features fast paced choreography and classic songs such as “Something’s Coming,” “Maria,” “America,” “Somewhere,” “Tonight,” “I Feel Pretty” and “Cool.”

Speaking about her interpretation of Jerome Robbins’ original choreography, Ms. Azenberg states, “The story itself is brilliant and wonderfully told...I utilize the skills of dancers, especially male dancers, in the 21st century, with their better technique, talent and athleticism, just like Mr. Robbins would have done.”

Say adios to another triumphant season at Alabama Shakespeare Festival with a ticket to *West Side Story*. Tickets are on sale now! Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Weekday matinee performances are currently available on July 23, 29, August 7, 13 and 19 at 2 p.m. Check the calendar for specific dates. Preview tickets are still available for July 18 and 19 and range from \$17 to \$19. Regular ticket prices range from \$20 to \$45. Special rates are available for groups of 10 or more. All dates, times and prices are subject to change. For more information, call the ASF Box Office toll free at (800) 841-4273 or online at www.asf.net.

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount’s gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.

This program/project has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Fact Sheet

West Side Story

Based on a conception of Jerome Robbins

Book by Arthur Laurents

Music by Leonard Bernstein

Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Entire original production directed
and choreographed by Jerome Robbins

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2007-2008 Season

Produced by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival

Dates: **Previews:** July 18 & 19, 2008 **Opening:** July 20, 2008

Regular Performances: beginning July 23, 2008. Tuesdays - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Some weekday matinees at 2 p.m.

Prices: Preview performances and Opening only \$19! Tickets range in price from \$20 - \$45. Ages 6 – 18 only \$20, 19 – 25 only \$30! To purchase, call the ASF Box Office at (334) 271-5353 or toll-free at 1-800-841-4273. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.asf.net.

Website: www.asf.net;

Location: The Festival Stage in the Carolyn Blount Theatre, home of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, located in the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park, on Woodmere Boulevard just off East Boulevard.

Production Staff:	<i>Director/ Choreographer</i>	Karen Azenberg†
	<i>Musical Director</i>	Thomas Hinds
	<i>Assistant Musical Director</i>	Carolyn Violi
	<i>Scenic Designer</i>	Paul Wonsek
	<i>Costume Designer</i>	Patrick Holt
	<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Paul Wonsek
	<i>Sound Designer</i>	Richelle Thompson
	<i>Dramaturg</i>	Susan Willis
	<i>Stage Manager</i>	Mark D. Leslie*
	<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Sara Lee Howell*
	<i>Production Assistant</i>	Crystal McCall**
	<i>Dance Captain</i>	Maria Totten*
<i>Rehearsal Accompanist</i>	Joel Jones, Robert Webb	

Cast:

THE JETS

<i>Riff (The Leader)</i>	Eric Santagata*
<i>Tony (His Friend)</i>	Loren Christopher*
<i>Action</i>	Richard Gatta
<i>A-Rab</i>	E. Scott Brateng*
<i>Baby John</i>	John William Hobson*
<i>Snowboy</i>	Michael Apuzzo
<i>Big Deal</i>	Brandon Tyler Fields*
<i>Diesel</i>	Timothy Hughes*

THEIR GIRLS

<i>Graziella</i>	Tara Dunleavy*
<i>Velma</i>	Melissa Manning
<i>Clarice</i>	Ashley Adamek
<i>Anybodys</i>	Maria Totten*

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West Side Story (continued)

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THE SHARKS

<i>Bernardo (The Leader)</i>	John Paul Mateo*
<i>Maria (his sister)</i>	Nina Negri*
<i>Anita (his girl)</i>	Jacqueline Colmer*
<i>Chino (his friend)</i>	Jose R. Luaces*
<i>Pepe</i>	Ano Okera*
<i>Indio</i>	J. David Anderson
<i>Anxious</i>	Daniel Ryan Hunalp*
<i>Juano</i>	Albert Altovilla*

THEIR GIRLS

<i>Rosalia</i>	Laurena Barros*
<i>Consuelo</i>	Olivia Pollicicchio
<i>Teresita</i>	Ashley Adamek
<i>Francisca</i>	Cassie Abate
<i>Margarita</i>	Lauren Sambataro

THE ADULTS

<i>Doc</i>	David Spencer*
<i>Schrank</i>	Greg Thornton*
<i>Krupke</i>	Rodney Clark*
<i>Glad Hand</i>	Dennis McLernon*

UNDERSTUDIES

For *Tony*: Timothy Hughes*, for *Anita*: Laurena Barros*, for *Maria*: Cassie Abate*, for *Anybody*: Ashley Adamek, for *Chino*: J. David Anderson

<i>Keyboard 1</i>	Robert Webb
<i>Keyboard 2</i>	TBA
<i>Synthesizer</i>	Joel Jones, Carolyn Violi
<i>Reed 1/Flute/Piccolo</i>	Carol Franks
<i>Reed 2/Oboe/English Horn</i>	TBA
<i>Reed/Clarinet/Piccolo</i>	TBA
<i>Trumpet 2</i>	Rob Alley, Carly Johnson
<i>Trumpet/Flugelhorn</i>	TBA
<i>Bassoon</i>	David Simpson
<i>Trombone</i>	Chad Fisher
<i>Percussion</i>	Greg Jackson, Andy Martin, Laura Noah
<i>Violin</i>	Ashley Akins, Sun Young-Shin
<i>Guitar</i>	Carlos Pino
<i>Horn</i>	Adam Pandolfi
<i>Cello</i>	Dan Totan
<i>Bass</i>	Joe Cosgrove

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

**Member of Master of Fine Arts Stage Management Program

† Member of Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers

< more >

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Audience: **Recommended for ages 5+.** All patrons must have a ticket, regardless of age. Babes in arms not admitted into the theatre.

Synopsis: Star crossed lovers Tony and Maria fall for each other while rival gangs clash on the rough streets of New York City. When Tony accidentally kills his lover's brother while breaking up a rumble, more violence erupts. This popular Broadway musical features fast paced choreography and classic songs such as "Something's Coming," "Maria," "America," "Somewhere," "Tonight," "Jet Song," "I Feel Pretty," "One Hand, One Heart," and "Cool."

Setting: 1950s Upper West Side of New York City

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