

*West Side Story* – December 4, 2017

1957 musical by Arthur Laurents (book/script), Leonard Bernstein (music), Stephen Sondheim (lyrics), Jerome Robbins (choreography)

- Other musicals by Stephen Sondheim (b. 1930): *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1962), *Follies* (1971) *Company* (1970), *Sweeney Todd* (1979), *Into the Woods* (1987)

1961 film – directed by Jerome Robbins

- Won Academy Award (Oscars) for Best Picture (10 awards total)

Plot:

- Set in New York City
- Based on William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*
- Main characters are rivals in two gangs:

Jets (Gang of white teenagers)

Tony – falls in love with Maria

Sharks (Gang of Puerto Rican teenagers)

Maria – falls in love with Tony

Riff – Tony’s best friend and leader of the gang

Bernardo – Maria’s brother and leader of the gang

Chino – Maria’s fiancé in an arranged marriage

Anita – Bernardo’s girlfriend

Themes of the musical:

- Gang violence
- Tension between different ethnic groups
- The immigrant experience in America
- The excitement of becoming an adult
- Tension between teenagers and adults or authority figures (like police officers)

The songs in a musical help you get to know the characters through what they say and their musical style.

### “Jet Song” (sung by the Jets: Riff, Snowboy, Ice)

**RIFF**

When you’re a Jet,  
 You’re a Jet all the way  
 From your first cigarette  
 To your last dyin’ day.  
 When you’re a Jet,  
 Let them do what they can,  
 You got brothers around,  
 You’re a family man!  
 You’re never alone,  
 You’re never disconnected!

You’re home with your own--  
 When company’s expected,  
 You’re well protected!  
 Then you are set  
 With a capital J,  
 Which you’ll never forget  
 Till they cart you away.  
 When you’re a Jet,  
 You stay  
 A Jet!

**SNOWBOY**

When you're a Jet,  
You're the top cat in town,  
You're the gold-medal kid  
With the heavyweight crown!

**ICE**

When you're a Jet,  
You're the swingin'est thing.  
Little boy, you're a man;  
Little man, you're a king!

**ALL**

The Jets are in gear,  
Our cylinders are clickin'  
The Sharks'll steer clear  
'Cause every Puerto Rican's  
A lousy chicken!

**ALL**

Here come the Jets  
Like a bat out of hell--

Someone gets in our way  
Someone don't feel so well!  
Here come the Jets:  
Little world, step aside!  
Better go underground,  
Better run, better hide!

We're drawin' the line,  
So keep your noses hidden!  
We're hangin' a sign  
Says "Visitors forbidden"--  
And we ain't kiddin!  
Here come the Jets,  
Yeah! And we're gonna beat  
Every last buggin' gang  
On the whole buggin' street!

One the whole!  
Buggin'--!  
Ever --!  
Lovin'--!  
Street!!

**"Something's Coming" (sung by Tony)**

Could be!  
Who knows?  
There's something' due any day;  
I will know right away  
Soon as it shows.  
It may come cannonballin'  
Down through the sky,

Gleam in its eye,  
Bright as a rose!  
Who knows?

It's only just out of reach,  
Down the block, on a beach,  
Under a tree.  
I got a feelin' there's a miracle due,  
Gonna come true,  
Comin' to me!

Could it be? Yes, it could.  
Something's coming, something' good,  
If I can wait!  
Something's comin', I don't know what it is  
But it is  
Gonna be great!

With a click, with a shock,  
Phone'll jingle, door'll knock  
Open the latch!  
Something's comin', don't know when,  
But it's soon--  
Catch the moon,  
One-handed catch!  
Around the corner,  
Or whistling' down the river,  
Come on -- deliver  
To me!

Will it be? Yes, it will.  
Maybe just by holdin' still  
It'll be there!  
Come on, something', come on in,  
Don't be shy,  
Meet a guy,  
Pull up a chair!

The air is hummin',  
And something' great is comin'!  
Who knows?  
It's only just out of reach,  
Down the block, on a beach.  
Maybe tonight.

**"Maria" (sung by Tony)**

*(spoken)*

Maria . . .

*(sings)*

The most beautiful sound I ever heard:

Maria, Maria, Maria, Maria . . .

All the beautiful sounds of the world in a single  
word . . .

Maria, Maria, Maria, Maria . . .

Maria!  
I've just met a girl named Maria,  
And suddenly that name  
Will never be the same  
To me.  
Maria!  
I've just kissed a girl named Maria,  
And suddenly I've found  
How wonderful a sound  
Can be!

Maria!  
Say it loud and there's music playing,  
Say it soft and it's almost like praying.  
  
Maria,  
I'll never stop saying Maria!  
  
The most beautiful sound I ever heard.  
Maria.

### **"America" (sung by Sharks girls: Anita, Rosalia)**

#### **ANITA**

Puerto Rico,  
My heart's devotion--  
Let it sink back in the ocean.  
Always the hurricanes blowing,  
Always the population growing,  
And the money owing.  
And the sunlight streaming,  
And the natives steaming.  
I like the island Manhattan,  
Smoke on your pipe and put that in.

#### **GIRLS (chorus)**

I like to be in America,  
Okay by me in America,  
Everything free in America -

#### **BERNARDO**

For a small fee in America.

#### **ANITA**

Buying on credit is so nice.

#### **BERNARDO**

One look at us and they charge twice.

#### **ROSALIA**

I'll have my own washing machine.

#### **JUANO**

What will you have, though, to keep clean?

#### **ANITA**

Skyscrapers bloom in America.

#### **ANOTHER GIRL**

Cadillacs zoom in America.

#### **ANOTHER GIRL**

Industry boom in America.

#### **BOYS**

Twelve in a room in America.

#### **ANITA**

Lots of new housing with more space.

#### **BERNARDO**

Lots of doors slamming in our face.

#### **ANITA**

I'll get a terrace apartment.

#### **BERNARDO**

Better get rid of your accent.

#### **ANITA AND THREE GIRLS**

Life can be bright in America.

#### **BERNARDO**

If you can fight in America.

#### **ALL GIRLS**

Life is all right in America.

#### **ALL BOYS**

If you're all white in America.

(an interlude of WHISTLING and DANCING)

#### **ANITA AND CONSUELO**

Here you are free and you have pride.

#### **BERNARDO**

Long as you stay on your own side.

#### **ANITA**

Free to be anything you choose.

#### **ALL BOYS**

Free to wait tables and shine shoes.

#### **BERNARDO**

Everywhere grime in America,  
Organized crime in America,  
Terrible time in America.

#### **ANITA**

You forget I'm in America.

(An interlude of MORE DANCING)

#### **BERNARDO**

I think I go back to San Juan

#### **ANITA**

I know a boat you can get on.

**BERNARDO**

Everyone there will give big cheer.

**ANITA**

Everyone there will have moved here.

**“Tonight” (sung by Tony and Maria)**

**MARIA**

Only you, you're the only thing I'll see forever,  
In my eyes, in my words and in everything I do,  
Nothing else but you  
Ever!

**TONY**

And there's nothing for me but Maria,  
every sight that I see is Maria.

**MARIA**

Tony, Tony...

**TONY**

Always you, every thought I'll ever know,  
Everywhere I go, you'll be.

**MARIA**

All the world is only you and me!

**TONY**

Tonight, tonight,  
It all began tonight,  
I saw you and the world went away.

**MARIA**

Tonight, tonight,  
There's only you tonight,  
What you are, what you do, what you say.

**TONY**

Today, all day I had the feeling  
A miracle would happen --  
I know now I was right.

**BOTH**

For here you are  
And what was just a world is a star  
Tonight!

**“Gee, Officer Krupke” (sung by Jets boys: Riff, Snowboy, Ice, Action)**

**TIGER** (spoken)

(imitating Officer Krupke)  
Hey, you!

**RIFF** (spoken)

Me, Officer Krupke?

**TIGER** (spoken)

(as Krupke)  
Yeah, you! Gimme one good reason  
For not draggin' ya down to the  
Stationhouse, ya punk.

**RIFF** (sings)

Dear kindly Sergeant Krupke,  
Ya gotta understand--  
It's just our bringin' upke  
That gets us outta hand.  
Our mothers all are junkies,  
Our fathers all are drunks.  
Golly Moses -- natcherly we're punks.

**ALL**

Gee, Officer Krupke, we're very upset;  
We never had the love that every  
Child oughta get.  
We ain't no delinquents,  
We're misunderstood.

Deep down inside us there is good!

**RIFF**

There is good!

**ALL**

There is good, there is good,  
There is untapped good.  
Like inside, the worse of us is good.

**TIGER** (imitating Krupke)

That's a touchin' good story.

**RIFF**

Lemme tell it to the world!

**TIGER** (imitating Krupke)

Just tell it to the Judge.

**RIFF** (\*\*to Snowboy)

Dear kindly Judge, your Honor,  
My parents treat me rough.  
With all their marijuana,  
They won't give me a puff.  
They didn't wanna have me,  
But somehow I was had.  
Leapin' lizards --that's what I'm so bad!

**SNOWBOY** (imitating a Judge)  
Right!  
Officer Krupke, you're really a square;  
This boy don't need a judge, he  
Needs a analysis's care!  
It's just his neurosis that oughta be curbed--  
\*\*He's psychologically disturbed.

**RIFF**  
I'm disturbed!

**ALL**  
We're disturbed, we're disturbed,  
We're the most disturbed,  
Like we're psychologically disturbed.

**SNOWBOY** (still acting part of Judge)(spoken)  
Hear ye, Her ye! In the opinion  
Of this court, this child is  
Depraved on account he ain't had a normal  
home.

**RIFF** (spoken)  
Hey, I'm depraved on account I'm deprived!

**SNOWBOY** (as judge - spoken)  
So take him to a headshrinker.

**RIFF** (to Action)(sings)  
My Daddy beats my Mommy,  
My Mommy clobbers me,  
My Grandpa is a Commie,  
My Grandma pushes tea.  
My sister wears a mustache,  
My brother wears a dress.  
Goodness Gracious, that's why I'm a mess!

**ACTION** (as psychiatrist)  
Yes!  
Officer Krupke, he shouldn't be here.  
This boy don't need a couch, he needs  
A useful career.  
Society's played him a terrible trick,  
And sociologically he's sick!

**RIFF**  
I am sick!

**ALL**  
We are sick, we are sick,  
We are sick sick sick  
Like we're sociologically sick!

**ACTION** (speaks as psychiatrist)  
In my opinion, this child does not need  
To have his head shrunk at all.  
Juvenile delinquency is purely a  
Social disease.

**RIFF** (spoken)  
Hey, I got a social disease!

**ACTION** (spoken as psychiatrist)  
So take him to a social worker!

**RIFF** (to ARAB)(sings)  
Dear kindly social worker,  
They tell me get a job,  
Like be a soda-jerker,  
Which means like be a slob.  
It's not I'm anti-social,  
I'm only anti-work.  
Gloryosky, that's why I'm a jerk!

**ARAB** (as social worker)  
Eek!  
Officer Krupke, you've done it again.  
This boy don't need a job, he needs a  
Year in the pen.  
It ain't just a question of misunderstood;  
Deep down inside him, he's no good!

**RIFF**  
I'm no good!

**ALL**  
We're no good, we're no good,  
We're no earthly good,  
Like the best of us is no damn good!

**SNOWBOY**  
The trouble is he's lazy.

**JOYBOY**  
The trouble is he drinks

**BABY JOHN**  
The trouble is he's crazy.

**ARAB**  
The trouble is he stinks,

**MOUTHPIECE**  
The trouble is he's growing.

**ACTION**  
The trouble is he's grown!

**ALL**  
Krupke, we got troubles of our own!  
Gee, Officer Krupke,  
We're down on our knees.  
'Cause no one wants a fella with  
A social disease.  
Gee, Officer Krupke,  
What are we to do?  
Gee, Officer Krupke --  
Krup you!

**“I Feel Pretty” (sung by Maria with Sharks girls: Anita, Rosalia, Consuelo)**

**MARIA**

I feel pretty,  
Oh, so pretty,  
I feel pretty, and witty and gay,  
And I pity  
Any girl who isn't me today.

I feel charming,  
Oh, so charming--  
It's alarming how charming I feel,  
And so pretty  
That I hardly can believe I'm real.

See the pretty girl in that mirror there:  
Who can that attractive girl be?  
Such a pretty face,  
Such a pretty dress,  
Such a pretty smile,  
Such a pretty me!

I feel stunning  
And entrancing--  
Feel like running and dancing for joy,  
For I'm loved  
By a pretty wonderful boy!

**ROSALIA, CONSUELO, FRANCISCA**

Have you met my good friend Maria,  
The craziest girl on the block?  
You'll know her the minute you see her--  
She's the one who is in an advanced  
State of shock.

She thinks she's in love.  
She thinks she's in Spain.  
She isn't in love,  
She's merely insane.

It must be the heat  
Or some rare disease  
Or too much to eat,  
Or maybe it's fleas.

Keep away from her --  
Send for Chino!

This is not the Maria  
We know!

Modest and pure,  
Polite and refined,  
Well-bred and mature  
And out of her mind!

**MARIA**

I feel pretty,  
Oh, so pretty  
That the city should give me its key.  
A committee  
Should be organized to honor me.

I feel dizzy  
I feel sunny,  
I feel fizzy and funny and fine,  
And so pretty,  
Miss America can just resign!

See the pretty girl in that mirror there:

**ROSALIA, CONSUELO, FRANCISCA**

What mirror where?

**MARIA**

Who can that attractive girl be?

**ROSALIA, CONSUELO, FRANCISCA**

Which? What? Where? Whom?

**MARIA**

Such a pretty face,  
Such a pretty dress,  
Such a pretty smile,  
Such a pretty me!

**ALL**

I feel stunning  
And entrancing--  
Feel like running and dancing for joy,  
For I'm loved  
By a pretty wonderful boy!

**“One Hand, One Heart” (sung by tony and Maria)**

**TONY**

Make of our hands one hand,  
Make of our hearts one heart,  
Make of our vows one last vow:  
Only death will part us now.

**MARIA**

Make of our lives one life,  
Day after day, one life.

**BOTH**

Now it begins, now we start  
One hand, one heart;  
Even death won't part us now.

Make of our lives one life,  
Day after day, one life.  
Now it begins, now we start

One hand, one heart,  
Even death won't part us now.

**“Somewhere” (sung by Tony and Maria)**

**TONY**

There's a place for us,  
Somewhere a place for us,  
Peace and quiet and open air  
Wait for us  
Somewhere.

**MARIA**

There's a time for us,  
Someday a time for us,  
Time together with time to spare,  
Time to learn, time to care  
Someday!

**TONY**

Somewhere  
We'll find a new way of living

**MARIA**

We'll find a way of forgiving  
Somewhere.

**TONY AND MARIA**

There's a place for us,  
A time a place for us.  
Hold my hand and we're halfway there.  
Hold my hand and I'll take you there  
Somehow,  
Someday,  
Somewhere!

**“Cool” (sung by Ice)**

**ICE**

Boy, boy, crazy boy--  
Get cool, boy!  
Got a rocket, in your pocket--  
Keep coolly cool, boy!  
Don't get hot,  
'Cause man, you got  
Some high times ahead.  
Take it slow and, Daddy-o,  
You can live it up and die in bed!

Boy, boy, crazy boy--  
Stay loose, boy!  
Breeze it, buzz it, easy does it --  
Turn off the juice, boy!  
Go man, go,  
But not like a yo-yo school boy--  
Just play it cool, boy  
Real cool!

**“A Boy Like That/I Have a Love” (sung by Maria and Anita)**

**ANITA**

A boy like that, --  
Who'd kill your brother,  
Forget that boy and find another!  
One of your own kind--  
Stick to your own kind!

A boy like that will give you sorrow--  
You'll meet another boy tomorrow!  
One of your own kind,  
Stick to your own kind!

A boy who kills cannot love,  
A boy who kills has no heart.  
And he's the boy who gets your love  
And gets your heart--  
Very smart, Maria, very smart!

A boy like that wants one thing only,

And when he's done he'll leave you lonely.  
He'll murder your love; he murdered mine.  
Just wait and see--  
Just wait, Maria,  
Just wait and see!

**MARIA**

Oh no, Anita, no--  
Anita, No!

It isn't true, not for me,  
It's true for you, not for me,  
I hear your words--  
And in my head  
I know they're smart  
But my heart, Anita,  
But my heart  
Knows they're wrong.  
You should no better.

You were in love -- or so you said  
You should know better---

I have a love, and it's all that I have  
Right or wrong, what else can I do?  
I love him; I'm his,  
And everything he is  
I am, too.  
I have a love and it's all that I need,  
Right or wrong, and he needs me too.

I love him, we're one;  
There's nothing to be done,  
Not a thing I can do  
But hold him, hold him forever,  
Be with him now, tomorrow  
And all of the my life!

**MARIA AND ANITA**

When love comes so strong,  
There is no right or wrong,  
Your love is your life!