

West Side Story Auditions

Teatru Astra, March 2024

For its seventh musical production, Teatru Astra is happy to announce its most ambitious production yet.

"West Side Story."

From the first notes to the final breath, West Side Story is one of the most memorable musicals and greatest love stories of all time. Arthur Laurents' book remains as powerful, poignant and timely as ever. The score by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim are widely regarded as among the best ever written. The world's greatest love story takes to the streets in this landmark Broadway musical that is one of the theatre's finest accomplishments. Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is transported to contemporary times as two young, idealistic lovers find themselves caught between warring street gangs, the Jets and the 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.

As this is also one of the most challenging of musicals which require acting, dancing and singing of the highest levels we will be having a number of separate auditions for all three disciplines. We are looking to amalgamate the best of all three branches of the performing arts to produce a show like no other.

We look forward to seeing a wide variety of ages, ethnicities, talents and strengths at auditions. Only this way can we create the authentic spirit of this great show.

Auditions

Auditions will be held in Malta and in Gozo

You can attend any of the auditions.

Dance bootcamp.

Your dance audition will consist of a bootcamp where you will spend a couple of hours with the Choreographer. You will work in groups, be given challenges as individuals and will also be asked to work on partner work. For your dance bootcamp, you are required to bring the following items:

1. **GIRLS:** tight fitting leggings and leotard, a practice skirt, character shoes and jazz shoes or shoes that you will be comfortable to dance in
2. **BOYS:** fitting jazz pants and a tight fitted vest and jazz shoes or shoes that you will be comfortable to dance in

You can choose one of two opportunities!

GOZO Dance Bootcamp

SATURDAY 20 May 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
VENUE: Teatru Astra

MALTA Dance Bootcamp
SATURDAY 27 May 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
VENUE: Theatre Next Door

Please note that these bootcamps will be filmed and photographed for record purposes but may also be used for marketing purposes.

This is an initial audition. Recall auditions will follow.

You are strongly advised to attend one of the two bootcamps.

For those candidates who cannot make it to either of the bootcamps, please get in touch with us at musicals@teatruastra.org.mt. We will send a link to videos to film a prepared choreography.

Vocal Auditions

You can choose from one of the two opportunities!

GOZO Vocal Auditions
SUNDAY 21 May 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
VENUE: Teatru Astra

MALTA Vocal Auditions
SUNDAY 28 May 10.00 am to 2.00 pm
VENUE: Choral & Orchestral Society Maria Bambina – Address: 92, Triq il-Parrocca, Mellieha, Malta

Please prepare 2 songs.

One song from West Side Story. Preferably choose from:

Men: *Something's Coming*, *Jet Song* or *Cool*,

Women: *I Feel Pretty*, *America* or *One Hand, One Heart*

AND

One song from any Broadway/Westend musical which clearly shows your range, interpretation, and rhythmic qualities.

Also, during the auditions you'll be asked to sing a piece in 2 or 3-part harmony and/or a syncopated excerpt. These pieces will be given on the day and each applicant will have some time to study them.

If you cannot make it to any of the above, please get in touch with us to discuss possible showreel.

Acting Auditions

The first acting auditions will consist of assessing your interpretation in both song and dance. We are looking for an expressive quality both in song and dance.

CHARACTERS (age refers to character age, not actors!)

MARIA: Lead, Female, 18 -20

a hopeless romantic and innocent young girl; she falls in love with Tony and finds herself in the centre of a violent conflict between gangs; strong soprano must move well;
range: Bb3 – C6.

TONY: Lead, Male, 18 -26

a romantic young man and former leader of the Jets, he has found a new life that does not involve gangs; Tony finds himself violently torn between his friendships and his love; genuinely sweet and sincere; strong tenor voice must move well;
range: Bb2 to Bb4.

ANITA: Lead, Female, 18-26

feisty and assertive; she is the “older sister” of the girls and tries to shield Maria from the dangers of the gangs; Bernardo’s girlfriend and leader of the female sharks; excellent dancer, strong belt, alto;
range: F3 – D5.

BERNARDO: Lead, Male, 20-28

a proud, strong handsome man; Bernardo seeks to care out his territory as a sense of identity and acceptance for him and his friends. Maria’s older brother and leader of the Sharks; excellent dancer and strong actor; some singing;
range: Bb2 – Eb4.

RIFF: Supporting, Male, 18-24

an athletic, quick-tempered leader of the Jets; he seeks to eliminate the Sharks and establish his own gangs’ dominance; Tony’s best friend, he is eventually murdered by Bernardo; excellent dancer, strong singer and actor;
range: bb2 – G4.

CHINO: Supporting, Male, 16-20

an angry and, at times, naive Shark who turns murderous and vengeful; suitor to Maria and a friend to Bernardo; speaking role; excellent dancer.

PEPE: Supporting, Male, 16-25

shark, excellent dancer/singing required;
baritone. G2 – G4

INDIO: Supporting, Male, 16-25

shark, excellent dancer/singing required;
tenor.

LUIS: Supporting, Male, 16-25

shark, excellent dancer/singing required;
baritone/bass.

ANXIOUS, NIBBLES, JUANO, TORO and MOOSE Male 16- 25
Sharks
mixture of baritone and tenor

ROSALIA: Supporting, Female 16-25
Indio's girlfriend, demurer, not too bright; excellent dancer must sing well;
mezzo soprano.

CONSUELA: Supporting, Female, 16-25
tough, young, Pepe's girlfriend; excellent dancer must sing well;
alto.

FRANCHESCA: Supporting, Female, 16-25
kind, sweet, young. Luis' girlfriend; excellent dancer must sing well;
soprano.

ANBODYS: Supporting, Female, 14-18
a spunky tomboy who is desperate to become a member of the Jets; the other Jets mock
her, but generally appreciate her company; full of energy and heart; speaking role;
excellent dancer strong singer and actress.

DIESEL: Supporting, Male, 16-25
second in command of the Jets; excellent dancer;
baritone/bass.

ACTION: Supporting, Male, 16-25
second in command of the Jets; excellent dancer;
baritone/bass.

A-RAB: Supporting, Male, 16-25
slightly less quick tempered than Action; bay John's best friend; excellent dancer;
baritone.

SNOWBOY Male, 16-25
Snowboy fancies himself the "smart" one of the Jets, whether or not he is
Baritone

BIG DEAL, GEE-TAR, MOUTHPIECE and TIGER Male 16-25
Tenor

BABY JOHN: Supporting, Male, 16-25
the youngest Jet; sweet, kind, lovable, trying to fit in; excellent dancer;
tenor.

VELMA Supporting, Female 18- 24

Riff's girlfriend; excellent dancer strong singer and actress.
Mezzo-Soprano

MINNIE, CLARICE AND PAULINE Ensemble Female 18-24

Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto

OFFICER KRUPKE: Supporting, Male, 30-55

the local beat cop; he has no patience for the gang's conflict and tries to keep tensions from erupting; a little off, he is regularly mocked by the neighbourhood; speaking role.

DETECTIVE SCHRANK: Supporting, 35-60

a local police detective frustrated by the ongoing violence between the Sharks and the Jets; blunt, brash, racist, and unapologetic; speaking role.

DOC: Supporting, 50-80 male or female

the adult owner of the store where the Jets hang out; he tries.

GLAD HAND: 25-50

nerdy, overly cheerful and ill-equipped social director at the school dance; speaking role.

[Rehearsal schedule.](#)

As this is a very ambitious musical the rehearsal schedule will start from September. This will focus on vocal and dance workshops as well as note-bashing. Rehearsals will be approximately twice a week. Rehearsals in earnest will start immediately after Christmas. In both cases rehearsals will take place in Malta and Gozo as and when required and will include weekends. This will mean travelling between the islands for both Maltese and Gozitans in both directions.

If you are interested, please fill in the attached form and send back to us as soon as possible. So that we can confirm your presence at the initial audition.

Please note that *West Side Story* contains adult themes involving violence and sexual aggression and is not particularly suited for actors under 16.

Parental approval would be needed with any applications below that age.