AUDITION INFORMATION AND CASTING BRIEF

Opera Australia and GWB Entertainment are proud to announce the 2019 tour of the critically acclaimed BB Group production of West Side Story.

Hailed as the “No. 1 Greatest Musical of all Time” (The Times), West Side Story is a modern retelling of Romeo and Juliet. This tragic love story is set in a New York City enveloped by bitter tension between two teenage gangs: the Jets, self-styled “Americans”, and the Sharks, a group of young Puerto Ricans.

The genius of its four creators – Leonard Bernstein (music), Jerome Robbins (concept & choreography), Arthur Laurents (book), and Stephen Sondheim (lyrics) – produced a piece whose great artistic quality remains unquestioned to this day.

Director Joey McKneely’s vibrant staging will feature a cast of young Australian talent performing Jerome Robbins’ original ground-breaking choreography with a full orchestra.

Director & Choreographer Joey McKneely
Musical Supervisor Donald Chan

Actors must be available for the entire tour period between March 2019 – Mid October 2019 (including rehearsals) for the following seasons:

- Arts Centre Melbourne, State Theatre: 6 April - 28 April 2019
- China & Germany (Schedule TBA): May - August 2019
- Sydney Opera House, Joan Sutherland Theatre: 16 August - 6 October 2019

Successful actors will be required to commit to the entire length of the tour signing three contracts covering:

a) Run of Play Melbourne
b) International (Asia and Germany TBD)
c) Run of Play Sydney

Please find following a casting brief detailing the roles for the production - please note the specific requirements for each role and submit accordingly. All ethnicities are encouraged to submit for an audition.
## AUDITION DATES

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## AUDITION INFORMATION

### SYDNEY
August 21<sup>st</sup> – August 26<sup>th</sup> 2018

Dance calls for Jets on Tuesday August 21<sup>st</sup> and for Sharks on Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Actors must be available at other times during these dates for callbacks, with final auditions on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

### MELBOURNE
August 28<sup>th</sup> – September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018

Dance calls for Jets on Tuesday August 28<sup>th</sup> and for Sharks on Wednesday August 29<sup>th</sup>. Actors must be available at other times during these dates for callbacks, with final auditions on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

Specific requirements for auditions will be provided with confirmation of audition time. Auditions cannot be guaranteed for all applicants submitted.

### PLEASE NOTE:
1. Artists should be available for the entire audition period. Any restrictions must be noted in the submission.
2. Auditions will take place in Sydney and Melbourne only.
3. Auditionees may be photographed and recorded as part of their participation in the audition process for casting purposes.

## SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submissions may be emailed to Natalie Gilhome (Casting) at natalie@gwbentertainment.com by Thursday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and should include:

- Current biography (in pdf format)
- Headshot (file clearly named)
- The city the performer normally resides in PLUS audition city according to the dates above
- Role suggestion (an audition for suggested role cannot be guaranteed)

## SUBMISSIONS CLOSE ON THURSDAY AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

*West Side Story auditions are at the risk and sole financial responsibility of the auditionee. Opera Australia and GWB Entertainment are committed equal opportunity employers.*
ROLES

CHARACTER: **TONY**
AGE: Late Teens – Early 20s
VOCAL: Tenor with a solid Bb
DETAILS: Handsome, sandy-haired (Polish), older teenager who has outgrown the Jets.

CHARACTER: **RIFF**
AGE: Late Teens – Early 20s
VOCAL: Tenor
DETAILS: Glowing, driving, intelligent, slightly wacky leader of the Jets.

CHARACTER: **BERNARDO**
AGE: Late Teens – Early 20s
VOCAL: Baritone
DETAILS: Handsome, proud, fluid leader of the Sharks, with a sardonic chip on his shoulder. Latino.

CHARACTER: **MARIA**
AGE: Late Teens – Early 20s
VOCAL: Soprano with a high C
DETAILS: Lovely young and obedient girl, excited and enthusiastic about her new life in America, but with stubborn inner strength that allows her to evolve into a strong woman. Latina.

CHARACTER: **ANITA**
AGE: Late Teens – Early 20s
VOCAL: Alto/mezzo-soprano
DETAILS: Older and wiser in the ways of the world, flashy, sharp-tongued, and with a knowing sexuality. Latina.

CHARACTER: **LIEUTENANT SCHRANK**
AGE: Early 40s – Mid 50s (male)
VOCAL: Non-singing role
DETAILS: Plainclothes policeman used to being in charge, superficially pleasant to cover his venom, fear, and bigotry.

CHARACTER: **OFFICER KRUPKE**
AGE: Mid 40s – Mid 50s (male)
VOCAL: Non-singing role
DETAILS: A not-too-bright street cop; aggressive; hard-nosed. Will understudy the rest of the Adult roles.

CHARACTER: **DOC**
AGE: 50's + (male)
VOCAL: Non-singing role
DETAILS: Drug Store Owner, tired and worn out.
CHARACTER: GLADHAND
AGE: Late 30’s-mid 40’s (male)
VOCAL: Non-singing role
DETAILS: Nerdy, overly cheerful and ill-equipped social director at the local gym dance. Will understudy the rest of the Adult roles.

CHARACTER: JET BOYS
AGE: 17-25 yrs old
VOCAL: Strong ballet/jazz dancers who can sing
DETAILS: American gang members. Urban, economically depressed with a sense of empowerment, aggressive. Desperately holding on to their little bit of street.

ACTION - Angry, volcanic temper with a chip on his shoulder. Wants to be leader of the gang.
BABY JOHN - Innocent, naive, still a child trying to keep up with the older boys.
A-RAB - Energetic, volatile, a boy trying to be a man. Takes care of Baby John.
SNOWBOY - Cocky in attitude. A follower.
BIG DEAL - Quick with the jokes. Has a conscience. A follower.
ANYBODYS - (17-20 yrs old FEMALE) Desperately trying to be one of the Jet Boys. Sexually ambiguous, venerable, a fighter and a survivor. Singing a plus.

CHARACTER: JET GIRLS
AGE: 17-25 yrs old
VOCAL: Must be strong ballet/jazz dancers. Singing a plus.
DETAILS: Girlfriends to the Jet Boys. Urban, attractive and aggressive.

CHARACTER: SHARK BOYS
AGE: 17-25 yrs old
VOCAL: Must be strong ballet/jazz dancers. Singing a plus
DETAILS: Shark gang members. Angry, strong and fighting against the racism they face from the Jets. Latino.

CHARACTER: SHARK GIRLS
AGE: 17-25 yrs old
VOCAL: Must be strong ballet/jazz dancers. Singing a plus.
DETAILS: Girlfriends to the Shark Boys. Vivacious, sexy, strong and loud. Latina.

ALL ETHNICITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT.