

# West Side Story The Musical

## Key information for parents, guardians & applicants

Thank you for your interest in Bowden Theatre Works' First Summer Project, West Side Story 2024. We politely ask that you read this information carefully as it contains everything that you need to know before applying for a place on this project and attend our open auditions on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The minimum age requirement for participants is that they must be moving into year 7, at school, in September 2024 and be no older than 18 years of age by Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Proof of ID may be requested, such as a passport or birth certificate. Unfortunately we are not able to make any exceptions to the age restrictions due to licensing rules and regulations and also the content of the show.

## Story Overview

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. Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is transported to 1950s New York City as two young, idealistic lovers, Tony and Maria, 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 heart-wrenching and relevant musical dramas of our time.

## Audition Information

Our open auditions will take place on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at New Mills Art Theatre, Jodrell Street, New Mills, SK22 3HJ. Please enter by the main doors to the theatre on Jodrell St where members of our team will register and sign in all young people. All participants should arrive promptly to ensure the day runs to schedule. Young people under the age of 17 years MUST be signed in and collected from the theatre by a parent or guardian. ALL participants must bring with them a passport sized photograph which will be kept by the creative team for casting purposes.

## Auditions schedule for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

8.45am Registration & signing in

9.15-10.15am workshop 1

10.15-10.30am Break

10.30-11.30am Workshop 2

11.30-11.45am Break

11.45-12.45am Workshop 3

12.45-1.15pm Lunch Break/ Parents and guardians notified of collection or recall times.

1.30-4.30pm recalls\*

\*We may request to see you for recalls on the day you have auditioned, so please ensure that you and your young people have availability between 1.30-4.30pm to stay at, or return to the theatre.

### **How the audition day works**

Once everyone is signed in the members of the production team will introduce themselves and explain how the audition workshop will run. Participants will be supported throughout the day by our team.

### **What to prepare?**

You do not need to prepare anything for the audition workshop. Participants will be taught a verse and a chorus of a song from the show and they will be taught a short dance piece on the day. Participants will also take part in an acting workshop where they will explore the characters and the script. All of this will be in a group setting but may require participants to perform individually or in small groups.

### **What to wear?**

You will be required to dance at the audition workshops, so please bring clothes that you can easily move in, as well as appropriate footwear. Please note you may also wish to bring a number of layers to wear to keep warm when you are not dancing. You will not be allowed to dance in bear feet or socks.

### **What happens at the end of the 3 workshops?**

There will be a short break for lunch. All participants will work with members of staff to notify parents as to whether or not they need to continue to stay in the theatre for the afternoon recall session.

Please note – it will not be possible to see everyone for a recall in the afternoon and our decision to do so will be based on what we see from the morning session. If you are not recalled, this does not yet mean that you have not been unsuccessful, we may be looking into casting specific roles which could take a little longer than just the morning.

### **What happens if we are recalled?**

We will select individuals to come back for recalls later on the same day from 1.30-4.30pm, so it's vital that you are available for this. If you are asked to stay on you can wait in the waiting area until you have been seen.

### **Any thing else to know?**

We would recommend bringing a mobile phone so that parents can be contacted regarding the pick up and end of the audition day. If you do not have one, we can assist with this.

## **Rehearsals and performance dates and times**

### **Rehearsals**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 9.30-5.30pm  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 9.30-5.30pm  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 9.30-5.30pm  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 9.30-5.30pm  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 9.30-5.30pm

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 9.30-5.30pm  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 9.30-5.30pm  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 9.30-5.30pm  
Friday August 9.30-5.30pm  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 9.30-5.30pm

### **Technical/Dress Rehearsals**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 6-9pm  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 6-9pm  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 6-9pm

### **Live Performances**

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September (6.15 call) 7.15pm show  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September (1.15 & 6.15pm calls) 2.15 & 7.15pm shows

Full commitment is expected throughout the rehearsal and production period. All participants must be available for all rehearsals and performances.

### **Membership Fee**

**£175 per participant, inclusive of all fees and main items of costume.**

(Please note parents/guardians may be requested to provide simple items of clothing and footwear to supplement costumes)

If a family has more than one sibling in the project, each additional sibling will be charged at a reduced rate of £150.

### **Fee payment**

Full payment of the membership fee is to be made by 21<sup>st</sup> July on accepting a place on the project. Failure to pay by the deadlines will result in the applicant being excluded from the project.

### **Costume & Props**

Although we will be providing costumes and props, participants will be asked to provide some elements of clothing that hopefully can be found easily at home or from a charity shop etc. A full list of any items that will need to be provided, once places in the show have been accepted, will be given out.

### **Decisions**

You will be notified of the result of the audition by email no more than 2 weeks after the audition. If we have been unable to cast any of the roles from our initial auditions, we may need to hold a second audition day and as such, the full cast list will not be shared until all roles have been filled and accepted.

### **Next steps/ how to apply**

1. Complete & submit the application form on the link page.  
[www.bowdentheatreworks.co.uk/wss](http://www.bowdentheatreworks.co.uk/wss)
2. Ensure your young person attend the audition day and brings with them a passport size photograph which will be kept by the production team for casting purposes.
3. Please ensure that you and your young person(s) are available from 8.45-4.30pm on the audition day.

Best of luck for your auditions and we look forward to meeting you

Bowden Theatre Works x