



QUEENSLAND **PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE**

MEDIA RELEASE

17 May 2010



WEST SIDE STORY

"Broadway's Greatest Dance Musical"
The Times (UK)

"If you buy one ticket, make it this one"
The Observer (UK)

This hot new production of *West Side Story*, one of the most acclaimed musicals of all time, will play a limited season at the **Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC)** from 3 November 2010.

The moment the curtain rose on *West Side Story* on Broadway, musical theatre was at once changed forever. With groundbreaking choreography by the legendary **Jerome Robbins**, book by **Arthur Laurents**, an unforgettable score by **Leonard Bernstein** and lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**, *West Side Story* created a new face for musical theatre, redefining an entire theatrical genre, with its superb musicality and dramatization.

Packed with unforgettable songs including *Maria*, *Tonight*, *Somewhere*, *America* and *I Feel Pretty*; *West Side Story* remains a theatrical landmark. The film version went on to win an incredible 10 Academy Awards (including Best Picture) and further cemented the reputation of this undoubted masterpiece.

Now **Joey McKneely's** vibrant new stage production arrives in Perth after wild acclaim in London, Tokyo, Paris and Beijing. Joey was personally chosen by Jerome Robbins to reproduce his choreography for *West Side Story* which he has now done throughout the world. On Broadway Joey has substantial directing and choreography credits, having won a number of Awards and been nominated for two Tony Awards.

Recently **Joey McKneely** announced the dynamic young cast who will star in the Australian national tour of *West Side Story*.

"I believe this Australian cast will be the best cast I have assembled in 10 years of doing West Side Story. Their talent has impressed me. Really, Broadway calibre!" – Joey McKneely.

Based on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, in West Side Story two young people meet, fall in love and pledge their eternal loyalty to one another. Their different backgrounds ensure they are denied a happy future because of the intolerance and hatred of two antagonistic cultures. Fate leads the star-crossed lovers into a tragedy of heartbreaking proportions. West Side Story is as relevant today as when it first burst onto the international theatre scene over 50 years ago – and in every way a ground breaking musical.

"The greatest Broadway musical of all time"
The Guardian (UK)

For more information go to www.westsidestorythemusical.com.au

MICHAEL BRENNER FOR BB PROMOTION GMBH, HOWARD PANTER FOR AMBASSADOR THEATRE GROUP, TULCHIN/BARTNER PRODUCTIONS AND LUNCHBOX THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS AND DAVID ATKINS ENTERPRISES PRESENTS WEST SIDE STORY

WHERE

Lyric Theatre, QPAC, Cultural Centre, South Bank

WHEN

From 3 Nov

TICKETS

\$50 to \$130

BOOKINGS

www.qpac.com.au or 136 246

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Further cast information follows:

The lead male role of Jets leader turned good-guy **Tony**, is to be played by **Josh Piterman** whose voice has become well known across the world thanks to his time with the smash hit singing group The Ten Tenors. A graduate of the Ballarat College of the Arts, Josh has toured with the Melbourne Opera Company, lived and performed in Japan, and has just finished currently sharing a stage with Geoffrey Rush in *The Drowsy Chaperone* at Melbourne Theatre Company.

The innocent romantic dreamer Maria will be brought to life by Sydney Conservatorium Scholarship winner **Julie Goodwin**, who has recently completed 200 performances in the lead role of Christine in Australian tour of *Phantom of the Opera*. Julie is a graduate of both the Sydney Conservatorium High School, and the prestigious Talent Development Project. Having toured in Asia and across Australia Julie is tremendously excited to have won the coveted role of Maria.

The bad boys of West Side Story are the swarthy, hot tempered Bernardo and the all-American troublemaker Riff. **Bernardo** will be brought to life by the highly experienced NIDA graduate **Nigel Turner-Carroll**. With roles in hit musicals such as *Hot Shoe Shuffle* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and the highly dramatic *Gallipoli* for the Sydney Theatre Company, Nigel brings a defining edge to the character of Bernardo.

The role of **Riff** will be played by **Rohan Browne**, whose credits stretch from performing in *Happy Feet* for George Miller, to *The Drowsy Chaperone* for Melbourne Theatre Company. With a background including *Cats*, *Chicago* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* Rohan comes well prepared for this demanding role.

The seamstress with the biting humour and quick wit is **Anita**, to be played by Green Room Award winner **Alinta Chidzey**. Having just returned from an overseas tour with *Dirty Dancing*, and a tour with the premiere cast of *Dusty: the original Pop Diva*, Alinta is looking forward to an exciting tour as the fiery Anita.

Please see attached full MR inc. cast and creative's list

