

WEST SIDE STORY

LYCEUM THEATRE
SHEFFIELD

Ticket Hotline
0114 269 6568

8th-12th November 2011

JESUS

SHARKS

stos

sheffield
teachers
operatic
society

WEST SIDE STORY

Based on a conception of Jerome Robbins

Book by Arthur Laurents
Music by Leonard Bernstein
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Entire original production directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins

Originally produced on Broadway by Robert E. Griffith & Harold Prince
by arrangement with Roger L. Stevens

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
JOSEF WEINBERGER LIMITED on behalf of MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL, of NEW YORK



History

Sheffield Teachers' Operatic Society was founded in 1901 and remains one of the most successful amateur theatre companies in Sheffield.

STOS performs each year at The Lyceum Theatre in November and recent productions have included 'Disney's Beauty & the Beast', 'Hello, Dolly!', 'Oliver!', 'Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story' and 'The Pirates of Penzance.'

In recent years, STOS have also performed a number of smaller second shows, beginning with 'Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street' and continuing with 'The Baker's Wife' and 'She Loves Me.'

Executive Committee

STOS is managed on behalf of its members by an Executive Committee who are elected at the AGM each year. The current committee is as follows:

Chair / Treasurer	David Streeter
Vice Chair	Phil Brownhill
Secretary	Judy McMurray
Members Reps	Sally Brown
	Sue Cox
	Ray Hawkins
	Janet Sanders
Co-opted Member	Adam Walker
Health & Safety Rep	Pete Brown

The committee meets at least once a month to plan and manage the season, to appoint a Production Manager for each production and to appoint a Director, Choreographer and Musical Director (MD). The committee is also responsible for choosing productions to be performed and does this on the basis of availability for amateur performance, number and type of parts / chorus work, likely popularity / box office success etc.

Next Production

STOS' production for November 2011 is 'West Side Story' and STOS is delighted to have the opportunity to perform this exciting musical at the Lyceum Theatre from 8th to 12th November 2011.

We are delighted to welcome back the same great production team as last year with our Director / Choreographer Dee Bennie-Marshall, our Musical Director Anna Wright and our Assistant Choreographer/Dance Captain Claire Harriott. Dee has extensive experience of directing, choreography and staging and joined STOS for the first time last year for Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast'. Anna has worked with STOS as both MD and as a performer in recent years and this will be her 6th show as MD for STOS. Claire has been a member of STOS for a number of years and has experience choreographing for a number of local societies.

This year's Production Manager is Pete Brown and he will be assisted in this role by the committee. Pete will be working with Dee, Anna and Claire in the coming months to ensure that everything is in place for what we hope will be a fantastic show.

Rehearsals

STOS' main rehearsal night is a Friday. Further rehearsals will be held on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays and on Sundays as we get nearer to the show itself.

Friday night rehearsals take place at Wesley Hall in Crookes. Principal singing night has yet to be confirmed but is likely to be Monday nights at Anna's house, Tuesday & Thursday night rehearsals will mainly be held at Abbeydale Picture House. Sunday rehearsals are usually held at Ecclesall Junior School on Ringinglow Road. Specific venue and timing details will be updated during the season.

Rehearsals start promptly at 7.30pm during the week – please be sure to arrive in plenty of time for the vocal warm up that will take place at the start of every rehearsal. If you are not able to attend a rehearsal please notify the production team as soon as possible in case schedules need to be changed. Otherwise please contact one of the team on the number below;

Dee	07971 289394
Anna	07977 905774
Claire	07983 365886

Rehearsals for the first few weeks / couple of months of a season will usually be music rehearsals led by Anna which will give the whole cast the chance to learn all the musical numbers. When this is complete, Dee will begin to set the show 'on the floor' and recaps of this will take place regularly with her and Claire. Anna will also recap the music periodically to make sure no-one forgets it!

Membership

Anyone over the age of 16 is welcome to join as a member of STOS for an annual membership fee of £15.

If you also wish to perform on stage, the above membership fee must be paid before auditions. A mandatory show fee is also payable which varies with the show and must be paid within four weeks of the auditions. This covers a contribution towards rehearsal costs but most importantly towards the cost of insuring each member for both rehearsals and the performances themselves. This can be paid in stages to spread the cost.

The show fee for West Side Story is £30.

Performing a show at The Lyceum Theatre is a significant undertaking and STOS also needs an army of volunteers, friends and helpers for a range of jobs such as stage crew, dressers, costume planning and sourcing, make up, props, chaperones for children in performances, programme sellers, marketing / publicity to name just a few.

Members who wish to work with STOS in any of these and other capacities are always welcome. Please see a member of the Exec Committee if you wish to be involved 'back stage.'

Audition Process

As mentioned above, once you have joined STOS as a member, you are eligible to audition for that season's productions.

Auditions for West Side Story are scheduled for Sunday 19th June and you will be required to audition whether you wish to play a principal role or if you wish to be part of the Chorus / Ensemble Company.

Dee and Anna will specify what preparation is needed if you wish to audition for a principal part. This usually involves singing one or more of the character's songs from the show, performing a number of pieces of lib (spoken word) and performing some dance / movement as required by the character. The first few weeks of rehearsals will give you the opportunity to learn these pieces and prepare as well as possible.

Wherever possible, you should aim to learn the words for your lib and singing auditions as this will help you to portray the character as well as you can.

Auditions for Chorus / Ensemble Company will also be held. On the whole these will involve singing and dance / movement as required for the show and again you will have the opportunity to learn these pieces in the first few weeks of rehearsals.

In performing at the Lyceum Theatre, STOS aims to present as high a quality a show as possible so please be aware that you will be required to prove that you can sing alone and that you can hold a harmony when singing alongside other vocal parts. The ability to move is also key as STOS aims to involve all on stage members as much as possible in the action of a show!

All auditions will be held in front of an Audition Panel that will consist of the Director / Choreographer, MD, Assistant Choreographer, Chairman, Secretary and one other person of the committees' choosing.

If you wish to audition, you will be asked to complete a form which outlines which part you wish to be considered for and whether you would be happy to accept a different part if it was offered to you.

Please bear in mind that commitment to rehearsals is key and you should bear this in mind when considering whether to audition. Attendance levels at rehearsals will be monitored and anyone with poor attendance at rehearsals may be removed from the cast. You should be free from holiday / other show commitments for the four weeks before the performance.

All auditions will ideally take place on a single day – usually a Sunday. This year, auditions will be held on Sunday 19th June at Ecclesall Junior School. If you are not able to make this day, please notify a member of the Production

Team / Exec Committee as soon as possible to see if alternative arrangement can be made – unfortunately this cannot be guaranteed.

Decisions on casting of principal parts and chorus / ensemble company members will be made by the Audition Panel at the end of the day. These decisions are final. The full cast will then be announced on the STOS website and its facebook page as soon as possible. This is an attempt to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to find out the outcome as close to simultaneously as possible and to avoid concerns arising with rumour / postal delays etc! Anyone who doesn't have access to the internet will be phoned to let them know the outcome of their audition.

Any principal parts not cast or accepted / shortages of Chorus / Ensemble Company will be opened up to further audition – at this point, the Production Team / Exec Committee may invite individuals to audition or may advertise the vacant posts.

Miscellaneous

When attending rehearsals with STOS for the first time, please come knowing which vocal part you would prefer to sing. Most musicals are split into at least soprano, alto, tenor and bass but some split these parts into more than one section. Final vocal parts will be assigned by the MD following auditions.

Copies of the score and lib for each show will be available at the beginning of rehearsals. These are generally hired by the licensing company and the fee to members for hiring a lib/score this year is £20 with £10 refundable on return of the lib/score in a good condition.

The society can be charged for lost or damaged scores and libs so please take great care of them during the season. Charges incurred by the society will be passed on to the individual. Pencil marks may be made in the scores and libs but these should be in soft pencil only and must be erased before you return them.

STOS is wonderfully supported by a Ladies Committee who amongst other support, provide refreshments at Friday rehearsals and organise the annual dinner dance for all members. Tea / coffee, soft drinks and biscuits are available so please support the fundraising efforts of the Ladies Committee. They also run a raffle each Friday night which gives you a chance to win

half the takings so make sure you get your tickets as soon as you arrive at rehearsal!

Given the costs of performing a musical, it is likely that you will be asked to provide certain costume items yourself. These may be to complement costumes that are hired for you (with shoes, bags, hats, jewellery etc) or might involve the provision of whole costumes. Many society members have well stocked 'dressing up boxes' hidden away and will be able to give you help and advice on where to find things – charity shops are a great source of costume and prop items!

STOS members also become great friends and one way to start this is to join us for a drink after Friday night rehearsals – the usual venue is The Ball pub in Crookes so please come along and get to know everyone. Other social activities are often organised during the season – and during show week – so watch out for these too.

A sheet to sign in and out will be present at all rehearsals and at the theatre on show week. Please ensure that you sign in and out of each rehearsal and at the theatre as this is very important for Health & Safety purposes and enables us to keep track of attendance at rehearsals. If you don't sign in at a rehearsal we will think that you didn't attend.

And finally.....

Thank you for your interest in STOS and for coming along. You are very welcome and we look forward to you joining the society and remaining with us for many happy successful shows.

If you have any questions, queries, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the Exec Committee.

And most of all, HAVE FUN!

