



STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

For Immediate Release

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CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL'S BERKMAN THEATER PRESENTS "WEST SIDE STORY"

Catholic Central High School proudly presents "*West Side Story*", a stage musical conceived by Jerome Robbins with music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and a book by Arthur Laurents. Inspired by William Shakespeare's play '*Romeo and Juliet*', the story is set in the mid-1950s in the Upper West Side of Manhattan in New York City, then a multiracial, blue-collar neighborhood. The musical explores the rivalry between the Jets (white) and the Sharks (recent migrants from Puerto Rico), two teenage street gangs who vie for dominance of the neighborhood with the police trying to keep order. The young protagonist, Tony, a former member of the Jets and best friend of the gang's leader, Riff, falls in love with Maria, the sister of Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks.

Nominated for the 1958 Tony Award for Best Musical, *West Side Story* features such beloved songs as "*Something's Coming*," "*Maria*," "*America*," "*I Feel Pretty*," and "*Somewhere*".

Performances will be on March 9 and March 10 at 7pm, and March 11 at 2pm in Berkman Theater in Lanman Hall at Steubenville Catholic Central High School.

Catholic Central's cast features Haley Cherepko as Maria (Tony's love interest/Bernardo's sister), Benjamin Schweitzer as Tony (Maria's love interest/ex-leader of the Jets), Marino Alexander as Riff (Jets leader/Tony's best friend), Ceci Gessler as Anita (Maria's best friend/Bernardo's girlfriend) and Thomas Kanzelberger as Bernardo (Maria's brother/Shark leader/Anita's boyfriend).

The entire cast and crew totals over eighty students on stage and behind the scenes. Directed by Joe Hahn, with Assistant Director Naomi Nelson and Associate Director Gaby Taylor & choreography by Emma Barnes. Susanne Manocchia returns as the vocal music director, Sam Johnston again directs the orchestra & is music director and Emily Ward is stage manager, assisted by Elizabeth Schmiesing forming a great production team. *West Side Story* is sure to please people of all ages.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 students & seniors (65 & older) & children over 3, \$44 family max & children 3 and under free, will be sold at the door, or can be purchased at the school office. Doors open a half an hour before each show.

Catholic Central High School is located at 320 West View Ave. in Steubenville. For more information, contact the high school's main office at 740-264-5538.