

## WEST SIDE STORY Character Descriptions:

### The Sharks - A Puerto Rican gang

MARIA - A hopeless romantic and innocent young girl. She falls in love with Tony and finds herself at the center of the violent conflict between the two gangs. Bernardo's younger sister. Strong soprano voice. Range: Bb3 -- C6. Some dancing.

ANITA - Feisty and assertive. She dispenses "older sister" advice to Maria and tries to shield her from the dangers of the gangs. Bernardo's girlfriend and Maria's friend. Strong Alto (belt). Range: F3 -- D5. Strong dance background required.

BERNARDO - A proud, strong, handsome man. Bernardo seeks to carve out territory as a sense of identity for him and his friends. Maria's brother and Anita's boyfriend. Leader of the Sharks. Limited solo singing. Range: Bb2 b -- Eb4. Strong dance background required.

CHINO - An angry and, at times, naive Shark who turns murderous and vengeful. Suitor to Maria and friend of Bernardo's. Speaking Role. Dancing/Singing required.

PEPE, INDIO, MOOSE, LUIS AND OTHERS --- Gang members, Dancing/Singing required.

ROSALIA - Indio's girlfriend, more demure, not too bright. Featured in "America" Dancing/Singing required.

CONSUELA - Tough, young, bleach-blonde. Pepe's girlfriend. Dancing/Singing required.

FRANSISCA, TERESITA, ESTELLA AND OTHERS --- The Sharks' Girlfriends, Dancing/Singing required.

### The Jets – A Caucasian gang

TONY - A romantic young man and former leader of the Jets, he has found a new lifestyle now that doesn't involve gangs. Tony finds himself violently torn between his friendships and love. Falls in love with Maria and meets an unfortunate death. Genuinely sweet and sincere. Strong tenor voice. Range: Bb2 -- Bb4. Limited dancing.

RIFF - An athletic, quick-tempered leader of the Jets. He seeks to eliminate the Sharks and establish his own gang's dominance. Tony's best friend, he is eventually murdered by Bernardo. Strong singer. Range: Bb2 -- G4. Strong dance background required.

ANYBODYS - A spunky tomboy who is desperate to become a member of the Jets. The other Jets mock her for her ambitions, but generally appreciate her company. Full of energy and heart. Speaking Role. Dance role.

DIESEL - Second-in-command of the Jets. Leader after Riff's death. Baritone/Bass. Dancing/Singing required.

ACTION - The most quick-tempered member of the Jets, always ready for a fight. Featured in "Gee, Officer Krupke" Tenor. Dancing/Singing required.

A-RAB - Slightly less quick tempered than Action. Baby John's best friend. Baritone.

BABY JOHN - The youngest Jet. Arab's best friend. Tenor.

SNOWBOY, MOUTHPIECE, GEE-TAR, BIG DEAL, AND OTHERS - Gang members, Dancing/Singing required.

VELMA, GRAZIELA, MINNIE, PAULINE, AND OTHERS - The Jets' Girlfriends, Dancing/Singing required.

#### The Adults

OFFICER KRUPKE - The local beat cop. He has no patience for the gangs conflict and tries to keep tensions from erupting between them. A little dorky, he is regularly mocked by the local gangs. Speaking Role. No dance background.

DETECTIVE SCHRANK - A local police detective frustrated by the ongoing violence between the Jets and Sharks. Blunt, brash, racist, and unapologetic. Speaking Role. No dance background.

DOC - The adult owner of the store where the Jets hang out. He tries to guide the Jets youthful angst and provides a safe haven for Tony. Old fashioned and wise in his ways. Speaking Role. No dance background.

GLAD HAND - Nerdy, overly cheerful and ill-equipped social director at the school dance ("Mambo"). Speaking role. No dance background.