

42nd Annual Zilker Summer Musical

Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater

Music by
LEONARD BERNSTEIN

Lyrics by
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by
ARTHUR LAURENTS
Based on a conception of **JEROME ROBBINS**

Entire
Original Production
Directed and
Choreographed by

JEROME ROBBINS

Originally Produced on Broadway by Robert E. Griffith and Harold S. Prince
By Arrangement with Roger L. Stevens

WEST SIDE STORY



This production is funded in part by the City of Austin (under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission), the Junior League of Austin, the Austin Community Foundation, as well as many other friends.



*Lola Wright
Foundation*

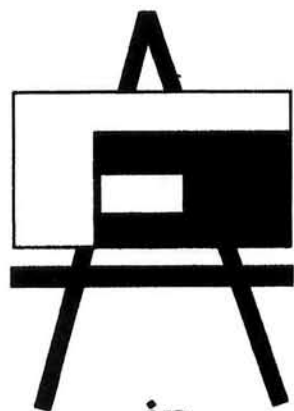
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Holt,
Rinehart &
Winston





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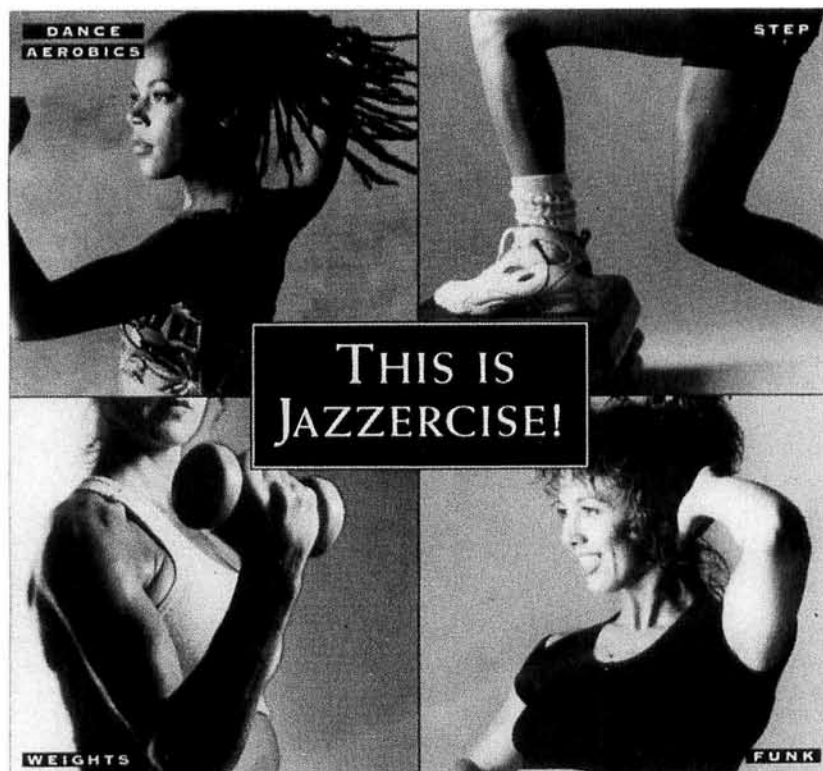
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featuring

ROXANE ALEXANDER

as Maria

DENNIS WHITEHEAD

as Tony

JILL LEBERKNIGHT

as Anita

JO BETH HENDERSON

as Riff

ADAM PEÑA

as Bernardo

Directed by

JAY JENNINGS

Choreography

MELISA MAY-MONCUS

Music Direction

LYN KOENNING

Scenic Design

STEPHEN MONCUS

Costume Design

SHEILA HARGETT

Lighting Design

ROBERT T. WHYBURN

Properties by

RACHEL MONCUS

Combat Choreographer
and Weapons Specialist

PAUL SCHIMELMAN

Sound Design

BILL MESTER

Produced by

ZILKER THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

This production is funded in part by the City of Austin (under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission), the Junior League of Austin, and the Austin Community Foundation.



WEST SIDE STORY is presented through special arrangement with
Music Theatre International, 545 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10018

ZILKER THEATRE

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On behalf of the Board of Directors of Zilker Theatre Productions welcome to the Beverly S. Sheffield Hillside Theatre and our 42nd annual Zilker Summer Musical production. If the Summer Musical has been a part of your summer schedule for years – welcome home to the hillside! If this is your first experience we're glad you're here!

Enthusiasm abounds from the Board, the volunteers working the concession/hillside and backstage, our members, corporate sponsors, supporters, cast and crew. The dedication of all these people make this production possible, as does funding from the community, we urge you to be generous.

Our goal is to exceed your expectations – every year. The hillside production is like no other theater in Austin – spread out your blanket, kick off your shoes, relax and enjoy theatre under the stars – Austin style.

42 Years of Summer Musical Tradition

1959	Seventeen	1973	You're A Good Man Charlie Brown	1987	The Unsinkable Molly Brown
1960	Girl Crazy			1988	Camelot
1961	Anything Goes	1974	Paint Your Wagon	1989	Carnival
1962	Wildcat	1975	1776	1990	Annie
1963	Finian's Rainbow	1976	L'il Abner	1991	Into The Woods
1964	Brigadoon	1977	Fiddler on The Roof	1992	Westside Story
1965	Oklahoma!	1978	Pippin	1993	Oklahoma!
1966	The King and I	1979	Man of La Mancha	1994	Little Me
1967	Once Upon A Mattress	1980	Jesus Christ Superstar	1995	Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
1968	A Funny Thing Happened on The Way to The Forum	1981	Fiorello!	1996	Once Upon A Mattress
1969	The Music Man	1982	Most Happy Fella	1997	Guys & Dolls
1970	Oliver	1983	How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying	1998	South Pacific
1971	Peter Pan	1984	Good News!	1999	Big River, The Adven- tures of Huckleberry Finn
1972	Hello Dolly	1985	Guys & Dolls		
		1986	Miss Liberty		

BEVERLY S. SHEFFIELD, 1913-1999

"Public recreation - that's going to be my chance."

So said a young Beverly Sheffield upon graduating from the University of Texas in 1934, and so it was. He joined the Recreation Department for the city of Austin that year and by the time he retired from it in 1973, he had developed a parks system for the city that was a model across the country.

Of course, Sheffield's career wasn't about recognition or fame. No, it was about his chance to fulfill a calling. In public recreation, he had found, as he said in a 1997 interview, "my way of expression, my way of life." Beverly Sheffield believed that leisure activities, diversions, play were essential to a complete life, and he wanted to do all that he could to help Austinites find room to play.

He started simply, as a playground leader. But before long, he was teaching swimming classes at city pools and was named aquatics director. Then, within a few more years, he graduated to director of the entire Recreation Department, and over time, he saw to it that the city's parkssystem was brought under his jurisdiction and his division renamed the Parks and Recreation Department. Under his guidance, a department overseeing 12 playgrounds and 14 athletic fields on a budget of about \$20,000 grew to manage 39 parks, 25 playgrounds, eight greenbelts, along with numerous golf courses, museums, swimming centers, the Austin Nature & Science Center, and the Zilker Botanical Gardens, on a budget of close to \$3 million. Much of that growth is owed directly to Beverly Sheffield's vision for the city's parks system and outlets for public recreation, and to his unwavering commitment to seeing it realized. That vision has been kept alive in the three decades since Sheffield retired and continues to be the driving force in the way most Austinites believe the city's parks should be managed.

Beverly Sheffield contributed much, more more to the city in his long life, from his organization of a boys' club to help troubled youth to his coordination of events for visiting dignitaries, such as 1960 Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy, to his quiet but insistent campaign to integrate Austin's swimming pools and parks, eliminating the signs designating "white" and "colored" restrooms at City Coliseum and Palmer Auditorium, to his establishment of the Austin Community Foundation, a nonprofit created to channel funds from individuals and corporations to local charities and which currently awards more than \$5 million in grants annually. Still, it is the wealth of urban greenspace and natural beauty in the heart of our city that feels most like Sheffield's legacy.

And it is in the midst of that natural beauty that it feels most appropriate to pause and honor him - and there's no better place than on the hillside facing the theatre which bears his name and which held such a special place in his life. In 1937, Sheffield was told to devise some way of beefing up attendance for the municipal band's concerts in Zilker Park. So he created a postage-stamp stage in front of some wooden risers and a trellis of moonflower vines, and the Hillside Theatre was born. But simple as it may have been, Sheffield made it a glorious place to be, inviting amateur comedians, singers, dancers, and jugglers to perform and leading sing-alongs. Attendance improved, all right, by the thousands, and it prompted Sheffield to remark in later years, "Of all the things I did, the theatre was the neatest thing." One of the events he programmed on the hillside in those days was a weekly gospel music concert on Sundays. He dubbed those shows the Church of the Moon & Stars. The gospel may be gone, but one look skyward will show you that the church is still meeting and we can rest assured that it will for many years to come. For that and for all your good work, Brother Sheffield, we thank you. Amen.

- Robert Faires

As we dedicate this year's Zilker Summer Musical production to the memory of
Beverly S. Sheffield

we also remember other former cast members and friends

who are no longer with us. As a tribute to their memory, a tree was planted in the grove near the
Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theater that posterity may know and appreciate those who have truly given
their all to see that this art form continues.

Phil Allen • Jim Barnes • John Bustin • Arturo Castillo
Dr. W. H. "Deacon" Crain • Bettie Dahlberg • Daniel Moncivias
Tucker Parmlee • Joe Ryan • Sean Somoskey • Philip Stansbury

Director's Notes

The initial germ of an idea, that would eventually grow into *West Side Story*, was conceived by famed choreographer Jerome Robbins in 1949. With book by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein, and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, the production became one of the most innovative and influential musicals of the century.

The story is based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The Bard took his tale from an old Italian legend once told by traveling troubadours. The new version is set in New York City, where the feuding Capulet and Montague families are transformed into two street gangs – the Jets and the Sharks. Romeo and Juliet, the star-crossed lovers, become Tony and Maria, who struggle past social and ethnic barriers to find one another.

The original production won two Toni awards, and the 1960 movie version won ten Academy Awards, making *West Side Story* an international hit despite its serious subject matter. The New York opening sent shock waves through the 'Great White Way' as it was one of the first Broadway musicals to be based on a tragedy. It's hard-edged story, ripped from the streets of the ghetto, combines with lush music and lyrics to keep it a perennial favorite of theater goers all around the globe. In Austin alone, there have been at least three previous productions in the last eight years. Why then yet another go at *West Side Story*?

We searched for a musical worthy enough to celebrate the coming of the new millennium. *West Side Story* won hands down. It's themes concerning immigration and gang warfare are two social issues that are currently a concern to our city and state. On a happier note, the popular upsurge in Latino culture and music make *West Side Story* a natural choice.

Shakespeare's legend has passed its 400th birthday, and Robin's interpretation is approaching its 50th. Tonight we hope to apply some fresh concepts to this beloved classic. Rather than placing our story in the past, as is traditionally done, we have placed it in the near future, after the fall, in a somewhat post apocalyptic world where high technology has come to a standstill. The point we hope to make is that human nature, stripped of its modern guise, remains the same. Similar problems will continue to plague us, and yet the same seeds of hope will remain. In the end, it is still love that is the elixir of life that heals the heart. We have added a few more experimental ideas to tonight's production, but leave them for you to discover as the play unfolds. We hope our new explorations will add zest to this, one of the most popular tales in Western culture.

Richard Castillo

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Synopsis

Overture

~ Act One ~

The action takes place on the West Side of New York City during the last days of summer.

~ Prologue: The Months Before ~

Scene 1: 5:00 PM, The street
Prologue Jets & Sharks
Jet Song Riff & Jets

Scene 2: 5:30 PM, A back alley
Something's Coming Tony

Scene 3: 6:00 PM, A bridal shop

Scene 4: 10:00 PM, The Dance
The Dance Company
Promenade Company
Manbo Company
Cha-Cha Company
Meeting Scene Tony & Maria
Tango Tony, Maria, & Company
Maria Tony

Scene 5: 11:00 PM, A back alley
Balcony Scene Tony & Maria
America Anita, Bernardo, & Sharks

Scene 6: Midnight, The drugstore
Cool Riff & Jets

~ The Next Day ~

Scene 7: 5:30 PM, The bridal shop
One Hand, One Heart Tony & Maria

Scene 8: 6:00-9:00 PM, The neighborhood
Tonight Jets, Sharks, Anita, Tony, Maria, Riff, & Bernardo

Scene 9: 9:00 PM, Under the highway
The Rumble Jets & Sharks

~ Act Two ~

Scene 1: 9:15 PM, A bedroom
I Feel Pretty Maria & Girls
Ballet Sequence and Scherzo Tony, Maria, & Company
Somewhere Tony, Maria, & Company
Procession & Nightmare Tony, Maria, & Company

Scene 2: 10:00 PM, Another alley
Gee, Officer Krupke Jets

Scene 3: 11:30 PM, The bedroom
A Boy Like That & I Have a Love Anita & Maria

Scene 4: 11:40 PM, The drugstore
The Taunting Scene Anita & Jets

Scene 5: 11:50 PM, The cellar

Scene 6: Midnight, the street
Finale Maria & Tony

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Cast List

THE JETS

Riff, <i>The Leader</i>	Jo Beth Henderson
Tony, <i>Her Friend</i>	Dennis Whitehead
Action	Isaac Byrne
A-Rab	Evan Coburn
Baby John	Tyler Rhodes
Snowboy	Michael Mallard
Big Deal	Charles Neal
Diesel	Robert Corkill, Jr.
Gee-Tar	Adam Combs
Mouth Piece	Jason Yau

Their Girls

Graziella	Jessica Lindemood
Velma	Jaklin Kaden
Minnie	Chika Aluka
Clarice	Vicki Burns
Pauline	Allison Clark
Bambi	Jennifer R. Clark
Anybodys	Tanya Atherton

THE SHARKS

Bernardo, <i>The Leader</i>	Adam Peñala
Maria, <i>His Sister</i>	Roxane Alexander
Anita, <i>His Girl</i>	Jill Leberknight
Chino, <i>His Friend</i>	Paul Sanchez
Pepe	Marcos Esparza
Indio	Omar David Chavez
Luis	Chris Valentine
Juano	Jacob J. Ortuno
Toro	Julian G. Riano

Their Girls

Rosalia	Angela Lackey
Consuelo	Rebecca Greenstein
Teresita	Selena Friar
Estella	Odette Solitaire
Margarita	Melanie McIntyre
Francisca	Lariena Armstrong

THE ADULTS

Doc	John Iverson
Lt. Schrank	Daniel Potts
Officer Krupke	Paul Davis
Glad Hand	Katie Brock

ENSEMBLE

Geo Haynes (Understudy)
Gretchen Reidel (Maria/Anita Understudy)
Nick Walker (Tony Understudy)
Stewart Johnson
Sharon Atherton-Johnson

Cast Biographies

Roxane Alexander
Maria (Sharks)



Roxane Alexander spent the bulk of her teenage years appearing on the Nickelodeon series *Fifteen*. While attending Southwest Texas State University, she appeared in several shows including *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Falsettoland*, and *Into the Woods*. Several of her favorite roles have been Louise in *Gypsy*, Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Squeaky Fromme in *Assassins*. Roxane would like to thank Jay for this opportunity, her family for their support, and Miker for the love!

Chika Aluka
Minnie (Jets)



West Side Story is Chika Aluka's Zilker Summer Musical debut. Chika is pursuing a bachelor's degree in English at UT where she is a senior. Trained in dance and ballet for eight years, she has performed in many competitions and recitals where she gained top awards. Chika hopes to dance on Broadway and to write professionally. She would like to thank God, from the bottom of her heart, for everything. Chika also expresses her love and gratitude to her friends who have been like family to her.

Lariena Armstrong
Francisca (Sharks)



West Side Story is Lariena's central Texas debut performance. Prior to her recent return to her Texas home Lariena was employed as a dancer/singer in south Florida. Some of her more notable credits are

Jennifer — *Babes in Arms*, *Gay Wellington* — *You Can't Take it With You*, and *Threepenny Opera*. She is most proud of her accomplishments as the Captain of the Western Steppers Dance Team and their recent victories at the Desert Sands Dance Competition in Las Vegas. In the future Lariena plans to sing country music in Austin and dance to her heart's content. Lariena wishes to thank ZTP for giving her this chance to shine. She dedicates her performance in *West Side Story* to her family and God to thank them for never letting go of her dreams.

Tanya Atherton
Anybods (Jets)



Tanya Atherton is a native of Austin who will be attending the University of Texas College of Business in the fall. She has been performing and competing in dance and gymnastics since the age of five, and is currently teaching both subjects at the Joyce Willett School of Dance. She was awarded a scholarship to the Edge Performing Arts School in Los Angeles. Tanya recently worked on costume production for *Firefly*, the annual Believe in Me project, and has done both set design and stage management. She regularly performs traditional African, jazz, and modern dance locally with Toni Bravo, formerly of the Kinesis Dance Theater Project.

Sharon Atherton-Johnson
Ensemble



Sharon was most recently seen as a tormentor and dancer in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (AMT). Her credits include *Gypsy* (AMT), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *King Henry IV* (Colonial Shakespeare Co.), *Once Upon a Mattress* (ZTP), and *Children*

of Eden. She has also appeared in Australia and California productions of *42nd St.*, *Cabaret*, *A Chorus Line*, and others. Sharon is happy to be outside at Zilker again, and sends her love to Stewart and Tesia Salomé.

Katie Brock
Glad Hand



Katie Brock is making her first appearance with Zilker Theatre Productions and is honored to be part of *West Side Story*. She is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University with a BFA in acting. Katie's favorite roles have included Sara Jane in *Assassins*, Mrs. Bradman in *Blithe Spirit*, and Doatsy Mae in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Katie dedicates this performance in loving memory of Frank Rendon in hopes that his light will continue dancing with all of us.

Vicki Burns
Clarice (Jets)

Vicki Burns, a sophomore at Southwest Texas State University has performed in *Hair*, *Jack or The Submission*, and *A Company of Wayward Saints*. Vicki has danced for 17 years and has performed at two Dallas Cowboys Games and at the Atlanta Olympics. This is her first performance with Zilker Theatre Productions. Vicki would like to thank her parents and her sister for their love and support and bestowing her with wisdom and guidance.

Isaac Byrne
Action (Jets)

Isaac Byrne is happy to be performing in his first Austin production in the Zilker Summer Musical. He is currently studying at Southwest Texas State University and has been dancing for four years. A professional actor since the age of fifteen, Isaac is elated to be playing his favorite role in one of his favorite shows. He hopes the audience will forgive him for his singing.

Omar David Chavez
Indio (Sharks)



Omar David Chavez, a sophomore in college, plans to become a professional singer and music producer. He has appeared in productions such as *The Christmas*

Carol, *Beauty and the Beast*, and in concert with a special 1998 National High School Choral Ensemble at Carnegie Hall. He would like to dedicate this performance to his parents and gives all glory to God.

Allison Clark
Pauline (Jets)



This is Allison's first Zilker Summer Musical production. Other musicals she has performed in include *Into the Woods* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Allison

is currently a theater major at Southwest Texas State University with extensive dance training. She would like to thank her mother for all of her love, encouragement, and support.

Jennifer R. Clark
Bambi (Jets)



Jennifer R. Clark received her Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre and dance from the University of Texas in December 1989. A dancer since the age of two,

Jennifer has trained with companies in Denton, Waco, and her hometown of College Station. Recently she performed at the Austin Music Hall for the *New Year's Eve Millennium Affair*. Jennifer's work as a registered massage therapist is only an extension of her interest in bodywork. She is studying for an Associate of Applied Science degree and will work as a surgical technician.

Evan Coburn
A-Rab (Jets)



Evan is currently pursuing a BFA in acting at SWTSU. At SWT he has appeared in *Hair* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Back home in Houston, Evan has performed in *Godspell*, *The*

Who's Tommy, and *The Foreigner*. This is Evan's first attempt at the wonderful musical *West Side Story*. Evan would like to thank his family and friends for supporting him with his addiction to theater – for which he is seeking help. "It's not how far you go, it's how go you far."

Adam Combs
Gee-Tar (Jets)



This year's Zilker Summer Musical is Adam's professional stage debut. Adam, the baby of the group, attends school at McNeil High School where he has appeared in

Oklahoma. Adam has also worked with AMT's junior company and Kids Acting where he played the constable in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Most of all, Adam likes to dance to 'the oldies' (like Michael Jackson) and is glad to be part of this show.

Robert Corkill, Jr.
Diesel (Jets)



West Side Story marks Robert's first Zilker Summer Musical as well as his first production in Austin. Robert graduated from Texas Tech University in Lubbock

with a BS in psychology. While at Tech, Robert was a cheerleader and received dance and gymnastics training. He would like to thank his family, relatives, and that someone special for all their love and support through the years.

Marcos Esparza
Pepe (Sharks)



Marcos Esparza has just completed his first year at The University of Texas at Austin in the Department of Theater and Dance. He has completed his first UT production,

All's Well That Ends Well, which moved on and was performed at the Off Center Theatre. Marcos' next show will be *Madwoman of Chailot* playing at UT next fall. Marcos would like to thank his mother for giving him wings to fly.

Selena Friar
Theresita (Sharks)



Selena, who has been dancing since the age of two, is making her Zilker Summer Musical debut in *West Side Story*. She has recently appeared in the *Nutcracker*.

Selena has studied dance around the country on scholarship and has also taught dance. She is thrilled to be a part of this production!

Rebecca Greenstein
Consuelo (Sharks)



A graduate of SWTSU with a BFA in musical theater, Rebecca just completed a fun run with AMT's *Music Man* where she pick-a-littled, Grecian urned, and participated in many more ensemble activities.

Her favorite role thus far was playing Lucy Westenra (the self-absorbed diva) in *Dracula: A Musical Nightmare* with the Violet Crown Players. Some of her other credits include Hanah Glawari (the widow) in *The Merry Widow*, Yenta in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Mme. de Volange in *Dangerous Liaisons*. Rebecca is very excited about becoming part of the tradition that is the Zilker Summer Musical and sends her love to HFP!

Geo Haynes

Ensemble
Understudy



Geo is thrilled to be making his Zilker Hillside Theater debut. He is a second year theater major and dance minor at Southwest Texas State University.

Previous theatre credits include *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Big River*, *Bye, Bye, Birdie*, *Odyssey*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *A Chorus Line*, *Me and My Girl*, *Tango, Bagels, and Blues*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Fenced In*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Geo's choreography credits include the 1996 Summer Youth Theatre Program, *Oliver!*, *Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs* (Waco Civic Theatre), *Hair* (SWTSU), the 1999 Summer Youth Theatre Program, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Butterfield Stage). Thanks and much love to Jay Jennings, Melissa May-Moncus, Jerry MacLauchlin, Cousin, the "family" and crazy HOT to those who know.

Jo Beth Henderson

Riff (Jets)



Jo Beth, a recent Austin arrival, has studied vocal and stage performance for several years at SWTSU as well as with her father, Jim R. Henderson.

Recent performances include *Into the Woods* — directed by Dennis L. Whitehead, the *X and Y Trilogy* by Ethos, and various projects with the outstanding and innovative Vortex Repertory Co. Jo Beth makes the rounds of many of this city's venues as a singer-songwriter-guitarist. This is Jo Beth's debut with the Zilker Summer Musical. She sends her best wishes and thanks to her dearest friends and family in Big D and Austin, the gods and goddesses for everything, Jay Jennings for his magnificence and Jeffrey K. Botta for the greatest joy!

John Iverson

Doc



John Iverson received his BFA from Southwest Texas State University, studied acting and writing with Daniel Rogers, and has been working in the Austin the-

ater community for the past three years. John has written one full length play and several one acts, has performed improvisational comedy, and hopes to see some of his own work produced in the near future. John would like to thank his mom for all her love, support, and encouragement through the tough times.

Stewart Johnson

Ensemble

Stewart is happy to be on the hillside again, after having played the Wizard in *Once Upon a Mattress* a few years ago. He thanks Theresa Leckbee and Jay Jennings for creating such an intriguing concept which beget a role for him on his performance-release program out of Huntsville Federal Penitentiary. Enjoy the show, think cool, and drink plenty of liquids.

Jaklin Kaden

Velma (Jets)



Ms. Kaden is delighted to be making her professional debut with Zilker Hillside Theatre. Jaklin, a native of Greenville, Texas, moved to

Austin in the fall of 1999 and is currently studying theater and dance at the University of Texas. She has performed in other musicals such as, *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *Cats*. Jaklin has also danced and competed with the North East Texas Dance Company. Jaklin would like to thank her friends and family for their unconditional love and support, and above all, God, for His constant provision.

Paul Davis

Officer Krupke



Paul Davis, an Austin original, returns to his home town after a stint in the U.S. marine Corps. Paul who has attended Texas Tech and UT Arlington brings

his acting skills to the fore in this production. He has also worked in the technical side of theater and film.

(Ed. Note: Mr. Davis is out of alphabetical order because of a very last minute cast change.)

Angela Lackey

Rosalie (Sharks)



Angela is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University where she earned a BFA in acting. Her favorite college roles include the *Wicked Witch of the West* and

Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*. She is happy to be back in Texas after a season with Syracuse Stage regional theater in upstate New York as a costume technician. Angela will begin graduate studies at SWT this fall. She would like to thank her family and her wonderful boyfriend.

Jill Leberknight

Anita (Sharks)



Jill, a graduate of Penn State University, moved to Austin to attend the MFA acting program at The University of Texas. Some of her favorite roles during her time at

UT were Hermione in *The Winter's Tale*, Jenny in *The Threepenny Opera*, and Langwidere in this spring's *Time Again In Oz*. Jill has taught at Austin Theatre For Youth and Zachary Scott Theatre and this fall will join the faculty of St. Stephen's Episcopal School as the acting instructor for Theatre Focus. *West Side Story* is Jill's post graduate debut.

Jessica Lindemood
Graziella (Jets)



Jessica is a BFA acting junior at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. She has been seen in SWT's productions of *Hair*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and

Dead Man's Apartment. Jessica is very blessed with a huge family, four of the best friends a gal could ask for, and big huge tires! Thanks JAD!

Michael Mallard
Snowboy (Jets)



This summer's production of *West Side Story* marks Michael's debut with Zilker Theatre Productions. Previously Michael has been involved with the

Southwest Texas Department of Theater and is now working pro-fessionally in Austin. Following the run of the show Michael plans to further pursue his career in New York. Michael would also like to thank everyone at the Silver Haze Company for their friendship and support.

Melanie McIntyre
Margarita (Sharks)



Melanie, a senior at UT pursuing a BA in theater and dance, is thrilled to be making her Zilker Park debut with this crazy cast! Her university shows include *Time Again*

In Oz and *The Threepenny Opera*. Other credits include *Damn Yankees* (Galveston Outdoor Musicals), *Snow White* in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (Lone Star Children's Theatre), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Kim), *Working*, and *Godspell*. Melanie has also had the pleasure of singing in the chorus of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* at Carnegie Hall in NYC. To Mom, Dad and Melissa, "Thank you for all your love and support! I love you!"

Charles Neal
Big Deal (Jets)



Charles is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University and is overjoyed to be in this production of *West Side Story*. Chuck recently made his Austin acting

debut in *The Day They Shot John Lennon*. Some of his favorite roles include: Lloyd in *Noises Off*, an Aggie Dancer in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Agador in *The Birdcage*, and the title character in *Richard III*. Chuck would like to thank his parents and sisters for all their support. He would also like to thank his best friends: Kristy, Eric, Doug, and Liza Minnelli.

Jacob J. Ortuno
Juano (Sharks)



Jacob Ortuno is excited to be making his theatrical debut. Jacob, majoring in marketing at Southwest Texas State University, also

plays for their men's Volleyball Club Team and performs in their Panorama Steel Drum Band. Jacob would like to thank his friends, family (much love to every cuz), and Natalie for all their love and support, especially his parents. He dedicates his performance to his Rose above.

Daniel Potts
Lt. Shrank



Daniel Potts began acting in his childhood, in Houston, where he graduated from the Alley Theatre young actors program and appeared in

various productions including performances with Theatre Under The Stars and the Houston Shakespeare Society. Daniel received training at the

American Academy of Dramatic Arts, with Michael Shurtleff in Los Angeles, and has studied theater at both Texas A&M and University of Texas. Over the years, he has performed in numerous productions, and has recently been seen by Austin audiences as Boris Kolenkhov in State Theatre's production of *You Can't Take It with You* and as Sagot in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Daniel last appeared at the Vortex Theatre as Mitch in *Streetcar Named Desire*.

Adam Peña
Bernardo (Sharks)



Adam Peña is a musical theater major at Southwest Texas State University and is making his professional debut with Zilker Theatre Productions.

Adam was a cheerleader for SWT, and wrote, co-produced, directed, and performed in his own film *Encontrar*. He also performed in the SWT production of *Hair* and in Flame Failure Production's *Servant of Two Masters*. Adam hopes to one day perform in both New York and Los Angeles in film and theater. He'd like to dedicate this performance to his grandfathers Toribio Lopez Peña and Oscar Mario Peña, "I hope they are proud of me."

Tyler Rhodes
Baby John (Jets)



Tyler, a junior at SWTSU, is a musical theater major and is excited to again be doing *West Side Story* with the superb cast assembled.

Tyler's favorite roles include Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Steve in *Hair*, Hugo in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Nick in *Fame: The Musical*, and Sonny in *Foxtales* which toured St. Petersburg and Moscow. Tyler would like to thank his friends and especially his family - "I love you!"

Gretchen Reidel*Ensemble**Understudy (Maria, Anita)*

Gretchen Reidel is currently a sophomore at Southwest Texas State University and is making her debut with Zilker Theatre Productions' *Summer*

Musical. Gretchen appeared in last year's Southwest Texas State University's production of *Hair*. Gretchen would like to thank her heavenly Father for giving her such wonderful gifts.

Odette Solitaire*Estella (Sharks)*

Odette Solitaire appears in a ZTP Musical for the first time. A junior at SWT, she is majoring in nutrition. Odette has under-

gone and continues extensive training at the Edge Performing Arts School in Los Angeles. Currently, Odette is an instructor/choreographer at the Joyce Willett School of Dance and at the Genesis Dance Academy. Most of Odette's performances have been in dance and she is pleased to be making her acting debut in *West Side Story*.

Julian G. Riano*Toro (Sharks)*

Julian Riano is originally from Texas City where he trained vocally with Dr. John May. He currently trains in dance at Ballet Austin Academy and has been

featured in such ballets as *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker* as Nutcracker Doll. Other musicals he has appeared in are *South Pacific* and *Once Upon a Mattress*.

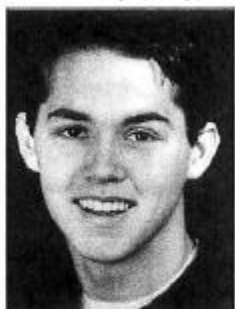
Paul Sanchez*Chino (Sharks)*

Paul, though born and raised in a small town, Weatherford, Texas, has been in many big productions. While this is his first Austin performance, at

other venues he has appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Caiaphas), *Godspell* (Jesus), *Man of la Mancha* (Sancho), and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Pseudelous). Paul would like to thank his family, friends from Weatherford College and Courts Methodist Church for their support and Zilker Theatre Productions for allowing him the opportunity to work with very talented directors and cast.

Chris Valentine*Luis (Sharks)*

This is Chris's first production at Zilker Park. Some of his past roles have been Uncle Louie in *Lost in Yonkers*, Touchstone in *As You Like It*, and a Protean in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Chris aspires to be a stage combat choreographer and also do film stunt work.

Nick Walker*Ensemble**Understudy (Tony)*

Nick is excited to be making his Zilker Hillside debut in *West Side Story*. He is, however, not a stranger to the Austin theater scene; some local credits include:

The Latino Comedy Project (actor, writer), *The X and Y Trilogy* (Skotos), *Lui*, *The Dragon King* (Mama Dang), *Basement Refugees* (Ray), *The Gospel According to Texas* (Judd), *The Wonder Hat* (Pantalone), *Trouble in Santa's Workshop* (Rex), and *The Orphan Train* (Danny). Currently finishing his studies at UT Austin with a degree in theater and dance, he has also worked as a theme park entertainer and magician. He would like to thank his family and friends for all their love and support.

Dennis Whitehead*Tony (Jets)*

Dennis holds a BFA in musical theater and an MA in directing from Southwest Texas State University. He has appeared in Austin Musical Theatres'

productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Annie*, and *Peter Pan*, as well as in Zachary Scott Theatre's production of *Dreamgirls*. Dennis' directing and musical directing credits include *Assassins*, *West Side Story*, *Annie*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Godspell* and *Children of Eden*. Dennis' favorite roles include Matt (*Fantastiks*), Padre (*Man of la Mancha*), Paul (*Six Degrees of Separation*), and M'Bengue (*A Map of the World*). He is thrilled to be working with the Zilker Summer Musical and would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support.

Jason Yau*Mouth Piece (Jets)*

This is Jason's second appearance on the Zilker Summer Musical stage having played Jo Harper in last year's production of *Big River*. Jason is currently a

junior voice major with a minor in business at The University of Texas at Austin. His roles in past musicals range widely from characters like Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls* to Chip in *Beauty and The Beast*. Jason would like to dedicate this performance to his supportive family, loving friends, and his vocal instructor.



Orchestra

Conductor
Lyn Koenning
 Violin
Jamie Desautels
 Reed I*
Joey Colarusso, David Box
 Reed II*
Paul G. Whit, Rick Lawn
 Trumpet I
Chip Crotts
 Trumpet II
Andy Cheetham
 Trombone I
Brad Kent
 Trombone II
Mike Hoffer
 Guitar
Mike Gardner
 Piano
Kyle Sigrest
 Bass
George Fahlund
 Drum Set
David Glover
 Percussion
Kim Nolen, Stephen White**

* alternating, ** student intern

Staff List

Administrative Producer Krin Brooks Perry
 Director Jay Jennings
 Choreographer Melissa May-Moncus
 Music Director Lyn Koenning
 Scenic Designer Stephen Moncus
 Costume Designer Sheila Hargett
 Combat Choreographer Paul Schimelman
 Lighting Designer Robert T. Whyburn
 Sound Designer Bill Mester
 Property Master Rachel Moncus
 Weapons Specialist Paul Schimelman
 Production Stage Manager Theresa Leckbee
 Stage Manager Robin Chenoweth McShaffry
 Zilker Park Stage Manager Bill Wise
 House Manager Stephen A. Laban
 Technical Director Don Day
 Assistant Music Director Kyle Sigrest
 Assistant Choreographer Geo Haynes
 Fight Captain Jaklin Kaden
 Costume Design Assistant Theresa Mancuso
 Costume Shop Manager Sheila Hargett
 Head Cutter Draper Homa Khosh-Khui
 Cutters / Stitchers / Tailors / Wardrobe Stephanie Falleur,
 Tara Ann Fenstermacher, Jamie Trosper,
 Angela Valerio, Katrina Von Fange,
 Wardrobe Supervisor / Stitcher Sara Rochford
 Master Electrician David "Seb" Boone
 Light Board Operator Bob Fishbeck
 Lighting Crew Juf Jef, Chris Little, Brad Wilson
 Follow Spot Operators Katherine Black, Eleanor Fowler, Chip Howe
 Sound Mixer Bill Mester
 Deck Sound Technician Alex Herrin
 Sound Intern Karl Strand
 Dressers and Running Crew Chad Salvata
 Concessions Manager Krag Nordyke
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Staff Biographies

Jay Jennings

Director

Jay currently teaches acting and movement at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos where he directs one or more productions a year. Some notable plays include *Hair*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Hamlet*, and his own musical version of *The Tempest*. His performance credits include the national tour of *My Fair Lady* and numerous summer stock productions in San Francisco, Chicago, and Houston. Jay studied dance with Luigi in New York City. This marks his eighth adventure with *West Side Story* including a Mexico tour starring Chita Rivera.

Melissa May-Moncus

Choreographer

Melissa is a veteran performer, director and choreographer with over 100 musicals to her credit. A few highlights of her performing career include a national tour of *An Evening of Gershwin* for the Columbia Artists series as well as the roles of Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* and Anita in an Orlando, Florida production of *West Side Story*. Melissa has choreographed, among others, *Big River*, *Grease*, *Oklahoma*, *Cabaret*, *Nunsense*, *Man of la Mancha*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Hair*. She is thrilled to be working on her favorite musical in beautiful Zilker Park.

Lyn Koenning

Music Director

Lyn returns for her third consecutive season as Music Director for the Zilker Summer Musical. She has over 20 years' teaching, conducting and performing experience and has been nominated by the Austin Circle of Theatres and the Austin Critics' Table as Best Musical Director for *Five Guys Named Moe* (1994), *The Beggar's Opera* (1995), *A Day In Hollywood/A Night In The Ukraine* (1999) and *Big River* (1999). Lyn has served as musical director or piano/conductor for five shows named Best Musical in Austin including *Beehive*, *Rockin' Christmas Party* and *Dreamgirls*. Over the past year she has served as musical director for *Camelot* at the Mary Moody Northern Theatre, *A Christmas Carol* at the State Theater, and *Threepenny Opera* and *Time Again in Oz* at UT's B. Iden Payne

Theatre. Lyn holds a Master of Music degree from UT Austin and teaches private piano to students of all ages. Visit her on the web at musicworksstudios.com!

Stephen Moncus

Scenic Designer

Stephen, a lifetime artist, designer, illustrator, teacher and lecturer has been teaching art in Texas high school since graduating from Texas A&I, Kingsville in 1968. He has simultaneously established a name as a fine artist and book illustrator earning awards and honors for his drawings and paintings across the state. His credits for theater design range the gamut from large musicals such as *Grease* to ballets such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Sheila Hargett

Costume Designer

Sheila Hargett is currently Professor and Head of Costume Design and Technology in the Theatre Department at Southwest Texas State University where she has taught and designed for over twenty eight years. Sheila began her career as an actress and still performs from time to time. She holds a MA from Louisiana State University and a MFA from Southern Methodist University where she studied with Broadway designers Bill and Jean Eckart. She has designed for The Shakespeare Festival of Dallas, SMU Theatre, Eastfield College, Texas Playwright's Company Theatre, Live Oak Theatre, Austin Shakespeare in the Park, Texas Education Foundation, Texas Wax Museum, and Aquarena Springs theme park. Sheila has designed and/or supervised student designs for over 200 productions. Those among her own designs include *The Tempest*; *A Christmas Carol*; *A Long Day's Journey Into Night*; *West Side Story*; *Hair*; *Romeo and Juliet*; *The Glass Menagerie*; *Twelfth Night*; *The Government Inspector*; *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way to the Forum*; *The Miracle Worker*; *The Runner Stumbles*; *Come Back to the Five and Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean*; *A Man For All Seasons*, and *A Doll's House*.

Paul Schimelman

Combat Choreographer

Weapons Specialist

Paul Schimelman, a native of New York City, has studied stage combat, European and Asian fencing and other martial arts for 15 years. In 1996, he founded The Aslanian Academy of Martial Studies here in central Texas for the purpose of teaching swordsmanship and the stage combat arts. His choreography credits encompass a varied repertoire — from Shakespearean productions to science fiction.

Robert T. Whyburn

Lighting Designer

Robert has been working as a lighting designer for more than 11 years. *West Side Story* marks Robert's 11th Summer Musical since *Annie* in 1990. He regularly designs for Austin Shakespeare Festival and Zach Scott. Recent credits include *Othello* and *As You Like It* for Austin Shakespeare Festival, *Tapestry* at Zach Scott, and of course continues his annual contribution of Christmas lights on 37th Street. Robert, a graduate of UT with a BA in theater, has received many awards including the B. Iden Payne Award and the Critics Table Award. Robert is Technical Director at St. Stephen's school.

Bill Mester

Sound Designer

This is Bill's fourth season with Zilker Theatre Productions. Bill studied audio and recording technology at Houston Community College with a scholarship for academic achievement. He has worked several years in the corporate audio-visual field and has toured with local blues legend, Doyle Bramhall. Bill currently works at the University of Texas Performing Arts Center where you will find him providing audio support for Ballet Austin, the Austin Symphony Orchestra, touring productions and University events. His design credits include Austin Lyric Opera's *Salomé*, *Tosca*, *Don Giovanni*, *Candide* and *Aida*. When the Summer Musical is not in production, Bill rents out the ZTP audio equipment, using the proceeds to maintain and upgrade the system.

Rachel Moncus
Property Master

Although *West Side Story* is Rachel's first Zilker Summer Musical production, she brings considerable creative talent and experience with her from her hometown of Kerrville, Texas. Having grown up in a family deeply involved with theater and fine arts, Rachel has spent much of her relatively young life working both on stage as a performer and backstage with props and sets. Her artist's eye, theater experience, and vast organizational skills brought her to the attention of Zilker Theatre Productions who are very pleased that she has become part of the *West Side Story* family.

Kyle Sigrest
Assistant Music Director

Kyle has performed as a pianist with the Sewanee Festival Orchestra, LSU and Baton Rouge Symphonies, numerous instrumental chamber groups, choruses, vocal ensembles and soloists. He was grand prize winner in the 1989 Tourge de Bose International Piano Competition. He holds a master of music degree from the University of Texas at Austin

in piano performance also focusing on choral music and conducting. Kyle music directed his first show *Guys and Dolls* when he was seventeen which began a lifelong love affair with the theater. His most recent Austin projects have been *Time Again in Oz*, *A Christmas Carol*, and Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Putting It Together* and *Passion*. Kyle has performed for political notables such as former Louisiana Governor Buddy Romer, Barbara Jordon and Lady Bird Johnson. He is also a composer and is currently writing a music drama. Kyle would like to dedicate this performance to his mother, without whose support, his love for musicmaking would not be possible.

Theresa Leckbee
Production Stage Manager

Theresa holds a BA in theater arts from Texas Tech. Her diverse theatrical background includes stage managing, directing, acting and puppetry. She most recently stage managed *Children of Eden*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Extremities* and many others. Theresa has also enjoyed directing and acting in many other productions. Some of her favorites include *Laundry and Bourbon*, *A—MY Name is Alice*,

Liu — The Dragon King, *Comanche Cafe* and *Domino Courts*, *Cabaret*, *Life With Father*, *Traveler in the Dark*, *Waiting for Godot*, and many other exciting plays. Theresa would like to thank all her amazing family and friends. She hopes to someday be making movies of her own and running a successful production company with her talented family and friends.

Robin Chenoweth McShaffry
Stage Manager

This is Robin's second appearance at the Zilker Summer Musical. Robin served as Properties Designer for the 1997 hillside production of *Guys and Dolls*. Before earning her BA in Technical Theatre at the University of Houston, Robin apprenticed for five years with Casa Mañana Summer Musicals in Fort Worth. Since moving to Austin, Robin has filled a variety of production positions on *The Sum of Us*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *An O. Henry Christmas* and *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. By far her most outrageous credit, Robin was Makeup Director for the last two occurrences of Britannia Manor, the notorious West Austin haunted mansion, where she created over 50 characters in Hollywood-style prosthetic makeup each night.

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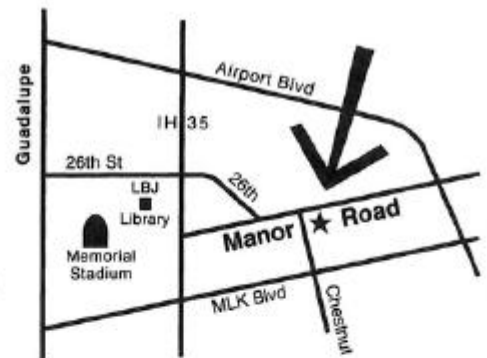
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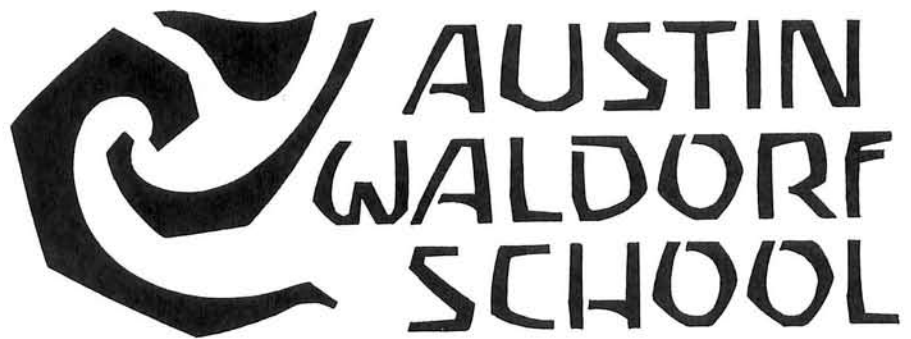
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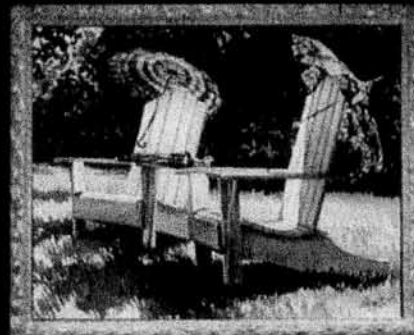
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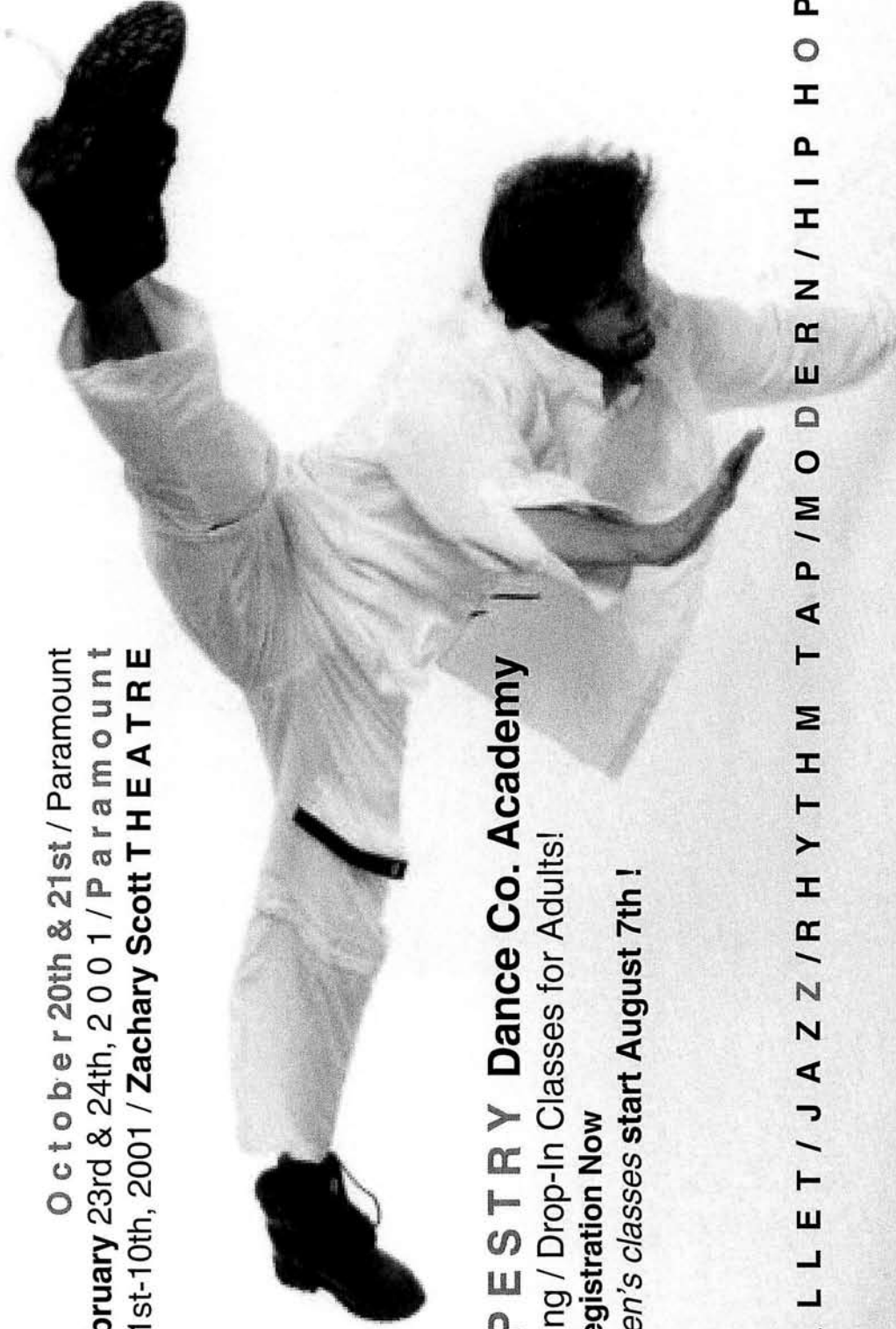
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