



MEDIA RELEASE

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MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER
ICONIC AMERICAN MUSICAL
WEST SIDE STORY
ON SALE EVENT BROKE BOX OFFICE RECORDS
WITH NEARLY \$300,000 IN SALES

June 27, 2019– (Milwaukee) [Milwaukee Repertory Theater](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com) kicks off the 2019/20 Season with a record-breaking on-sale for the iconic American musical ***West Side Story*** based on a conception of **Jerome Robbins** with book by **Arthur Laurents**, music by **Leonard Bernstein** and lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**. The Monday, June 24, 2019 on-sale event resulted in nearly \$300,000 in sales, making it the highest grossing on-sale for a musical in the Quadracci Powerhouse, beating out last year’s record holder *In The Heights*. Several performances are nearly sold out and several performances only have individual seats left. Best availability is Sunday-Thursday the first two weeks of the run. ***West Side Story*** runs September 17 – October 27, 2019 in the Quadracci Powerhouse. Purchase tickets at www.MilwaukeeRep.com, by calling the Ticket Office at **414-224-9490** or in person at **108 E. Wells Street** in downtown Milwaukee.

West Side Story is directed by Artistic Director **Mark Clements** who is celebrating his 10th Anniversary with Milwaukee Rep and stars Rep newcomers **Jeffrey Kringer** (*Cruel Intentions* Nat’l Tour) as Tony, **Liesl Collazo** (*On Your Feet*, Gateway Playhouse) as Maria, **Danielle Marie-Gonzalez** (*Clueless: The Musical*, Signature Theater) as Anita and **José-Luis Lopez, Jr.** (*On Your Feet*, Broadway) as Bernardo.

West Side Story creative team includes music direction by Rep Associate Artist **Dan Kazemi** (*In The Heights*, *Ring of Fire* at Milwaukee Rep), choreography by **Jon Rua** (Broadway co-choreographer for *The Cher Show* and *Sponge Bob Square Pants*), set design by **Todd Edward Ivins** (*Junk*, Milwaukee Rep), costume design by **Alexander B. Tecoma** (*Guys and Dolls*, Milwaukee Rep), lighting design by **Yael Lubetzky** (*South Pacific*, Drury Lane), co- sound design by **Daniel Erdberg** (*Anything Goes*, Arena Stage) and **Megan B. Henninger** (*In The Heights*, Milwaukee Rep), with music supervision by Rep Associate Artist **John Tanner** (*A Christmas Carol*, Milwaukee Rep).

West Side Story is a passionate adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* filled with some of the most unforgettable songs including “Maria,” “Tonight,” “I Feel Pretty” and “America” telling the greatest love story ever told in a larger-than-life musical.

West Side Story is presented by **The Plunkett Family Foundation** and sponsored by **BMO** with executive producers **Jo Ann and Richard Beightol, Four-Four Foundation, Inc.** and **Gina and Eric Peter** with Associate Producer **Suzy B. Ettinger Foundation**. The Rep is sponsored in part by the **United Performing Arts Fund**.

Get a sneak peek of **West Side Story** with cast performances at the following local festivals this summer:

- Wednesday, July 10, 6pm at **NEWaukee Night Market** (W Wisconsin Ave, between Plankinton and Vel R. Philips Ave.)
- Tuesday, July 23, 6pm at **Chill on the Hill** in Humboldt Park (3000 S Howell Ave.)
- Sunday, August 4 at **Puerto Rican Family Festival** in Humboldt Park (3000 S Howell Ave.)
- Tuesday, August 6, 7pm at **Skyline Music Festival** (Selig-Joseph-Folz Amphitheater in Kilbourn – Kadish Park, between North Ave and Reservoir Ave.)
- Thursday, August 8, 7pm at **Colectivo Lakefront** with De La Buena (1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr.)
- Wednesday, August 14, 6pm at **Washington Park Wednesdays** (1859 N. 40 St)
- Thursday, August 15, 7pm at **Jazz in the Park** (Cathedral Square, 520 E Wells St)

For more information, please visit www.MilwaukeeRep.com.

Cast Biographies

Jeffrey Kringer, Tony

Jeffrey's credits include the first National Tour of *Cruel Intentions* as Sebastian Valmont. Additional credits include *The Secret Garden* at The Palace Theatre of NH and *Annie* at the Axelrod Performing Arts Center. A recent graduate of Fredonia State University of New York's BFA in Musical Theatre program, Jeffrey participated in several productions during his undergraduate career including *Spring Awakening* and *Peter and the Starcatcher* at the Walter Gloor Stage, as well as *Suburbia* with the Fredonia Performing Arts Company.

Liesl Collazo, Maria

Liesl is a native of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico and holds a BFA in Musical Theater and an MA from University of Michigan. Recent credits include *On Your Feet* at Gateway Playhouse. Her undergrad credits include Maria in *West Side Story* at Ann Arbor in Concert, as well as Franca in *The Light in the Piazza*.

Danielle Marie Gonzalez, Anita

Danielle credits include the off-Broadway production *Clueless: The Musical* at Signature Theatre. She has also been part of the *Saturday Night Fever*, *Flashdance: The Musical* and *Rock of Ages* National Tours. Additional credits include *West Side Story* at 5th Avenue Theater, *A Chorus Line* at the Westchester Broadway Theatre, *9 to 5* at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina and *Legally Blonde* at the White Plains Performing Arts. As well as *Noises Off*, *A Chorus Line*, and *City of Angels* at the La Guardia Arts at Lincoln Center.

Jose-Luis Lopez, Jr., Bernardo

Jose-Luis Lopez, Jr. Broadway credits include the Tony and Grammy Award-winning musical *In the Heights*, and *On your Feet!* He was also part of the First National Tour of *In the Heights* as Graffiti Pete, and *Jesus Christ Superstar* at The Muny.

About Milwaukee Repertory Theater

Milwaukee Rep is the largest performing arts organization in Wisconsin in terms of audiences served and one of the largest professional theaters in the country. Each year, The Rep welcomes up to 275,000 people at nearly 700 performances of 15 productions ranging from compelling dramas, powerful classics, new plays and full-scale musicals in its three unique performance venues – the Quadracci Powerhouse, Stiemke Studio and Stackner Cabaret. For over 65 years, The Rep has gained a national reputation as an incubator of new work, an agent of community change and a forward-thinking provider of vital arts education programs. Under the leadership of **Artistic Director Mark Clements** and **Executive Director Chad Bauman**, Milwaukee Repertory Theater ignites positive change in the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its community by creating world-class theater experiences that entertain, provoke, and inspire meaningful dialogue among an audience representative of Milwaukee's rich diversity.

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