

West Side Story

Character Descriptions

THE JETS

ACTION The most enthusiastic and most aggressive member of the Jets, a cat-like ball of fury; Sings "Cool" and takes over the gang when Riff is dead. He tries to keep everyone together and thinking straight. Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced (Audition Song: "Gee, Officer Krupke")

RIFF A spritely, quick-tempered leader of the Jets. Glowing, driving, intelligent, slightly wacky. He seeks to eliminate the Sharks and establish his own gang's dominance. Tony's best friend, he is eventually murdered by Bernardo. Vocal Range: Bb2 - G4 / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced (Audition Song: "The Jet Song")

TONY A romantic young man and former leader of the Jets, he has found a new lifestyle now. Tony finds himself violently torn between his friendships and love. Falls in love to Maria and meets an untimely death. Genuinely sweet and sincere. Vocal Range: Bb2 - Bb4 Dance Ability: Moderate (Audition Songs: "Maria" and "Tonight")

A-RAB Small of stature, enjoys everything, takes nothing seriously, unaware, can be explosive; Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Moderate to Intermediate

BABY JOHN Youngest member of the Jets, awed at everything, even being a Jet; tries to act like a big man, but is vulnerable. Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Moderate to Intermediate

DIESEL Lieutenant to Riff, big, slow, steady. Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Moderate to Intermediate

SNOWBOY Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

BIG DEAL Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

GEETAR Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

MOUTHPIECE Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

THEIR GIRLS

ANYBODYS Scrawny teen-aged girl, 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. She's pathetically dressed to imitate the Jets, and wants desperately to be taken seriously by them. Speaking Role Vocal Range: Alto / Dance Ability: Moderate

GRAZIELLA Girlfriend of Diesel, impressed with herself. Vocal Range: Alto / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

VELMA Riff's girlfriend, young, slithery, sexy, lost in a world of jive. Vocal Range: Alto / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

MINNIE Vocal Range: Alto/Mezzo Soprano / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

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CLARICE Vocal Range: Alto/Mezzo Soprano / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

THE SHARKS

BERNARDO A proud, strong, handsome Puerto Rican man and leader of the Sharks. Has a sardonic chip on his shoulder. Bernardo seeks to carve out territory as a sense of identity for he and his friends. Maria's brother and Anita's boyfriend. Leader of the Sharks. Vocal Range: Bb2 - Eb4 / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

CHINO Shy, gentle, sweet-faced young boy, the intended husband of Maria. An angry and, at times, naive Shark who turns murderous and vengeful. Close friend of Bernardo's. Male Speaking Role Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate.

PEPE Lieutenant to Bernardo, typically proud, and resentful of discrimination; Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

INDIO Typically proud, and resentful of discrimination; Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

LUIS Typically proud, and resentful of discrimination; Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

TORO Typically proud, and resentful of discrimination; Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

JUANO Typically proud, and resentful of discrimination; Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

ANXIOUS Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

NIBBLES Vocal Range: Baritone / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

THEIR GIRLS

ANITA Feisty and assertive. She dispenses "older sister" advice to Maria and tries to shield her from the dangers of the gangs. Wiser in the ways of the world, flashy, sharp-tongued, and with a knowing sexuality. Bernardo's girlfriend and Maria's friend. Puerto Rican. Vocal Range: F3 - D5 / Dance Ability: Advanced (Audition Songs: "America" and "A Boy Like That")

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 sister. Puerto Rican. Female Range: Bb3 - C6 / Dance Ability: Moderate (Audition Song: "Tonight")

ROSALIA Young Puerto Rican girl, more demure, not too bright; mezzo-soprano /Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced (Audition Song: "America")

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CONSUELO Tough, young Puerto Rican girl with bleach blond hair and lots of baubles;
mezzo-soprano / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

TERESITA Vocal Range: Alto/Mezzo Soprano / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

FRANCISCA Vocal Range: Alto/Mezzo Soprano / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

ESTELLA Vocal Range: Alto/Mezzo Soprano / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

MARGUERITA Vocal Range: Alto/Mezzo Soprano / Dance Ability: Intermediate to Advanced

THE ADULTS (Speaking Roles Only) **Please Note: These characters may be played by adults.**

DOC The owner of the candy 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.
Male Speaking Role Only

DETECTIVE SCHRANK A local police detective frustrated by the ongoing violence between the Jets and Sharks. Blunt, brash, and unapologetic.
Male Speaking Role Only

OFFICER KRUPKE The local beat cop. He has no patience for the gangs conflict and tries to keep tensions from erupting between them. Regularly mocked by the local gangs.
Male Speaking Role Only

GLAD HAND Nerdy, overly cheerful and ill-equipped social director at the local gym dance. Speaking Role Only