

*West Side Story*  
*Character Breakdown*

**Book by Arthur Laurents**  
**Music by Leonard Bernstein**  
**Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim**  
**Based on a Conception by Jerome Robbins**

Character Breakdown

**Riff (Caucasian Male)**

A spritely, quick-tempered leader. 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 top: G4/Vocal range bottom: Bb2*

**Tony (Caucasian Male)**

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 top: Bb4/Vocal range bottom: Bb2*

**Bernardo (Hispanic Male)**

A proud, strong, handsome Puerto Rican man. 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 top: Eb4/Vocal range bottom: Bb2*

**Maria (Hispanic Female)**

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.

*Vocal range top: C6/Vocal range bottom: Bb3*

**Anita (Hispanic Female)**

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. Puerto Rican.

*Vocal range top: D5/Vocal range bottom: F3*

**Chino (Hispanic Male)**

An angry and, at times, naive Shark who turns murderous and vengeful. Suitor to Maria and friend of Bernardo's.

**Anybodys (Caucasian Female)**

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.

**Adult Cast:****Doc (Older Male)**

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.

**Schrank (Older Male)**

A local police detective frustrated by the ongoing violence between the Jets and Sharks. Blunt, brash, and unapologetic.

**Krupke (Caucasian Male)**

The local beat cop. He has no patience for the gang conflict and tries to keep tensions from erupting between them. Regularly mocked by the local gangs.

**Glad Hand (Caucasian Male)**

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

**Ensemble (Male & Female – To play teenaged years)****Jets Males and Females**

Seeking Caucasian actors to play supporting and featured roles in the ensemble. (Diesl, Action, A-Rab, Baby John)

**Sharks Males and Females**

Seeking Diverse (non-Caucasian) actors who dancers and sing to play supporting and featured roles in the ensemble. (Pepe, Indio, Luis, Rosalia, Consuela, Fransisca)