



LEGENDARY BROADWAY MUSICAL WEST SIDE STORY SET TO DAZZLE AUDIENCES AT MARINA BAY SANDS THIS SEPTEMBER

SINGAPORE, 27 March 2017 - A boy. A girl. Two rival gangs. One fatal love affair. Described as 'Broadway's Greatest Dance Musical' by The Times, UK, the international award-winning production of **WEST SIDE STORY** is set to electrify Singapore audiences when it plays at the MasterCard Theatres, Marina Bay Sands from 13 September for a strictly limited season. Tickets to the public are available from today.

Inspired by Shakespeare's tumultuous love story Romeo and Juliet, and set amidst the vicious rivalry of teenage gangs in 1950s New York, **WEST SIDE STORY's** ground-breaking choreography by the legendary Jerome Robbins, unforgettable score by Leonard Bernstein and powerful lyrics by Stephen Sondheim changed the face of musical theatre for ever when it burst onto the Broadway stage in 1957. This timeless story remains as relevant today as it has ever been.

"THIS IS A SHOW THAT TRULY HAS IT ALL. BLAZINGLY UNDIMINISHED"

The Sunday Express (UK)

This vibrant new production of the classic dance musical, is receiving wild acclaim during sold-out seasons around the world, including London, Tokyo and Sydney. Joey McKneely's award-winning staging of **WEST SIDE STORY**, the only production in the world to currently feature Jerome Robbins' original choreography, will tour to Hong Kong, Singapore and Manila during 2017.

"IT'S A FABULOUS, EMOTIONALLY POWER-PACKED REVIVAL"

London Evening Standard (UK)

The international tour of **WEST SIDE STORY** coming to Singapore boasts an all-American cast – many of whom come direct from Broadway - and one of the best **WEST SIDE STORY** creative teams the world has ever seen. The cast will captivate audiences with their impassioned high-energy dance routines and their astounding vocal range in such classic songs as *Maria*, *Tonight*, *Somewhere*, *America* and *I Feel Pretty*. The musical supervisor is renowned conductor Donald Chan, who studied under Leonard Bernstein himself, and who leads a live orchestra of 21 musicians. Music highlight: <http://www.lunchbox-productions.com/wp-content/uploads/wss.mp3>

Presenter and CEO of Lunchbox Theatrical Productions, James Cundall says, "**WEST SIDE STORY** is one of the world's greatest musicals for a reason, and no one ever forgets their first time seeing this iconic show. I am hugely excited to be able to bring this passionate love story -- one of the most

successful stage shows of all time -- back to Singapore. It's a truly remarkable show with a level of intensity unmatched in musical theatre."

Chantal Prudhomme, CEO of Base Entertainment Asia added, "It's a great mix of dance, music, song and story, and we are extremely proud to have 70 new, young and energetic people in our team of cast and company to deliver the modern love story of 'Romeo & Juliet'."

"QUITE SIMPLY A MASTERPIECE"

London Evening Standard (UK)

ABOUT THE SHOW:

The action takes place over no more than a few hours of two consecutive days and portrays a love story, action thriller and social study all at the same time. **WEST SIDE STORY** tells the tale of a love between two young people whose happiness is destroyed by the hate of two enemy camps in New York City's urban jungle.

In a sweltering New York summer, the boys from the Upper West Side neighbourhood are on the prowl. Ready to explode at any moment they dance with their girls, the air vibrating with the rhythms of mambo, rock 'n' roll and jazz. They belong to two enemy street gangs ruling the immigrant quarter – the Jets and the Sharks – and a clash is imminent. The Jets, sons of previous immigrants to America, are fighting the new arrivals from Puerto Rico, the Sharks, for domination of the streets in the area. Among them, Tony, a Jet, and Maria, sister to the leader of the Sharks, fall in love.

ABOUT THE ORIGINAL CREATIVES:

WEST SIDE STORY packs a powerful punch, both dramatically and musically. With choreography by the legendary Jerome Robbins, book by Arthur Laurents, score by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, the show was ambitious in that each of the four aimed to contribute their talent equally and unreservedly. The result was awe-inspiring. They achieved a unity of music, dance, book and lyrics that no one had ever realised before, and that has hardly been matched since.

Youthful desires, fears and swagger described so tersely and precisely in Arthur Laurent's script, have been masterfully translated by legendary choreographer Jerome Robbins into some of the most exhilarating dance routines in the world of musical theatre, full of provocative finger snapping from street gangs and Puerto Rican girls' whirling skirts on New York City's flat rooftops.

The now-famous score by Leonard Bernstein braved uncharted waters at the time it was written, and combines influences from American jazz with classical and Latin American music to create a sublime work of art. The songs have gone on to become musical hits, with versions recorded by artists around the world.

Stephen Sondheim, then only an unknown young musician and lyricist who would later rise to great musical heights with works such as *Gypsy*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Into The Woods*, managed to condense the painful process of coming-of-age, passionate love and fateful conflict into concise and punchy song lyrics.

WEST SIDE STORY has been produced three times on Broadway, twice in London's West End, and enjoyed numerous US, UK and international tours over the last 60 years. The movie version, released in 1961, went on to win an incredible 10 Oscars (including Best Picture) and further cemented the reputation of this undoubted masterpiece.

Don't miss your chance to see this celebrated production of the greatest Broadway musical of all time.

BB Promotion GmbH in association with Sundance Productions, Inc. NY, Lunchbox Theatrical Productions and David Atkins Enterprises present a production of Michael Brenner.

SEASON DETAILS

Editor's Notes:

Show Name: WEST SIDE STORY

Season: From 13 September

Venue: Grand Theatre, MasterCard Theatres at Marina Bay Sands

Cast: US Cast

Images: <https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/sPYCE>

PERFORMANCE TIMES:

Tuesday to Friday: 8pm

Saturday: 2pm & 8pm

Sunday: 1pm & 6pm

TICKET PRICE:

From S\$55

** Excludes the booking fee of SGD\$4 per ticket*

BOOKINGS:

INTERNET: www.MarinaBaySands.com/ticketing or www.sistic.com.sg

PHONE: +65 6688 8826

IN PERSON AT:

Marina Bay Sands Box Offices (Museum, Theatres, SkyPark, Retail Mall and Hotel Tower 1 Lobby).

For more information please log onto - www.MarinaBaySands.com

ABOUT BB GROUP

The companies under the umbrella of BB Group are among the market leaders in the premium live entertainment sector in Europe. They are pioneers in the production, marketing and staging of national and international tours of musicals, shows and events, as well as in the organisation of concerts and events in the west and the southwest of Germany. BB Group's portfolio is equally dominated by a variety of music, dance and stage shows as well as musical plays including successful international productions such as West Side Story, We Will Rock You, Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show, Hairspray, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Cats, STOMP!, Ballet Revolución, Yamato – The Drummers of Japan, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Martha Graham Dance Company, Ballet Nacional de España, Rambert Dance Company, Béjart Ballet Lausanne, Bodyguard – Das Musical and many more resulting in more than 800 shows a year worldwide.

ABOUT LUNCHBOX THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

Founded in Hong Kong in 1992 by James Cundall, Lunchbox Theatrical Productions has established an unrivalled reputation for producing top quality international entertainment across five continents, and is now headquartered in the United Kingdom with companies in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and The Philippines.

Productions include musicals such as *Cats*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Miserables*, *Wicked*, *Mamma Mia*, *West Side Story* and *Chicago*; spectaculars such as *Riverdance* and *Cirque du Soleil's Alegria*; boutique shows such as *Stomp*, *Tap Dogs*, *Slava's Snowshow*, *Potted Potter*, *Circus Oz* and Barry Humphries' Farewell Tour '*Eat, Pray, Laugh!*'; musical concerts including *Thriller Live*, *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber* and *Abba Mania*; international artists Jamie Oliver, Rick Stein and Elaine Paige; plays such as *The Woman in Black*, *The Mousetrap* and *The 39 Steps*; children's shows *Thomas the Tank Engine* and *Barney's Space Adventures*; events such as Yorkshire's *Winter Wonderland* (an outdoor Christmas ice rink and funfair in York, UK) and *The Last Night of the Proms* for the Hong Kong Handover; and The Imperial Ice Stars' productions of *The Sleeping Beauty on Ice*, *Swan Lake on Ice*, *Cinderella on Ice* and *The Nutcracker on Ice*.

As well as producing this portfolio of shows, James Cundall spent the first five months of 2010 based in Shanghai, as Producer of the Outdoor Opening Ceremony of Expo 2010 Shanghai China, on behalf of David Atkins Enterprises.

In addition to *West Side Story* in Hong Kong and Auckland, future productions for 2017 include: *Wicked* in Hong Kong and Manila; *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, in South Africa; *The Nutcracker on Ice* at Milano; *Chicago* in Singapore; *The Play That Goes Wrong* in Australia; *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in New Zealand.

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ABOUT BASE ENTERTAINMENT ASIA

Base Entertainment is a live entertainment company with offices New York, Las Vegas, Houston and it opened its Asia headquarters in Singapore in 2010. Base Entertainment Asia has since become the largest presenter of live theatre entertainment in Southeast Asia. It is the resident developer, producer, programmer and manager of live entertainment at Singapore's Mastercard Theatres at Marina Bay Sands.

The company has presented over 150 of the world's most recognised shows of varied genres; musicals - *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Disney's The Lion King*, *Wicked*, *Jersey Boys*, *CATS*, *My Fair Lady*, *Annie*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Sound of Music*, *Blue Man Group*; stage magic- *The Illusionist*; circus – *Le Noir*, *Cirque Adrenaline*, *Cirque Eloize ID*; concerts - *Michael Bolton*, *Bjorn Again*, *Cliff Richard*, *AR Rahman*, *Air Supply*, *Elvis Costello*; performing arts – *Cavalia*; classical concert – *The Music of John Williams*; ballet – *Superstars of Ballet Gala*; children – *Disney Live*, *Hi-5*.

In 2016, Base Entertainment Asia launched BasXclusive, the client services and group sales division.

Along with supporting international content, it is part of Base Entertainment Asia's on-going efforts to give Asian content a platform to showcase their talent – *Kabuki* (Ebizo, Takizawa), *Cai Xiao Hu*, *Kit Chan*, *The Lee Kuan Yew Musical* and more. In 2016, Base Entertainment Asia started its arts education, the Applause Program. The company collaborated with leading arts and entertainment talents from around the world to develop the Musical Theatre Workshop for Singapore's aspiring artists. The Musical Workshop is not only an opportunity for performers to refine their skills but also for anyone with a passion for the arts to learn skills for being on stage and to meet others who share the same passion and interest. Base Entertainment Asia conducts these workshops annually.

Base Entertainment Asia pursues a 360-degree approach in its consideration of entertainment property production and development - creative value, audience appeal, differentiation of product, assessment of market competition, anticipated show performance, commercial viability and investment yield. Base Entertainment Asia regularly consults on entertainment properties and

productions across the globe and has capabilities of managing entertainment venues worldwide.

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MARINA BAY SANDS PTE LTD

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

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