

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2003

West High ready to rumble

Traverse City West Senior High School stages West Side Story



Riff, played by Forrest Nelson, tries to play it "Cool" as he and his fellow Jets gear up for a war council with their cross-town rivals the Sharks in this scene from the Traverse City West High School production of "West Side Story."



Tony, played by Steve Wood and Maria, played by Jennifer Smith, sing the love song "Tonight" as they stand hand-in-hand on a fire escape balcony.

Traverse City West Senior High School will stage the musical "West Side Story" at 7:30 p.m. on March 5-6, March 12-13 and March 18 and 20 in the school auditorium. Two matinee performances will be held at 2 p.m. on March 14 and 21. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 students. For ticket information, call 933-7509. West Side Story is directed by Pat Gallagher with musical direction by Russ Larimer and choreography by Erin Cate Peck. Steve Wood and Eric Smith are cast as Tony and Jennifer Smith and Ashley Larimer play Maria. Other main characters include Khaki Pixley and Amy Baumann as Anita, Forrest Nelson and Stephen Dillon as Riff, along with Greg Smith and Brian Stout as Bernardo.

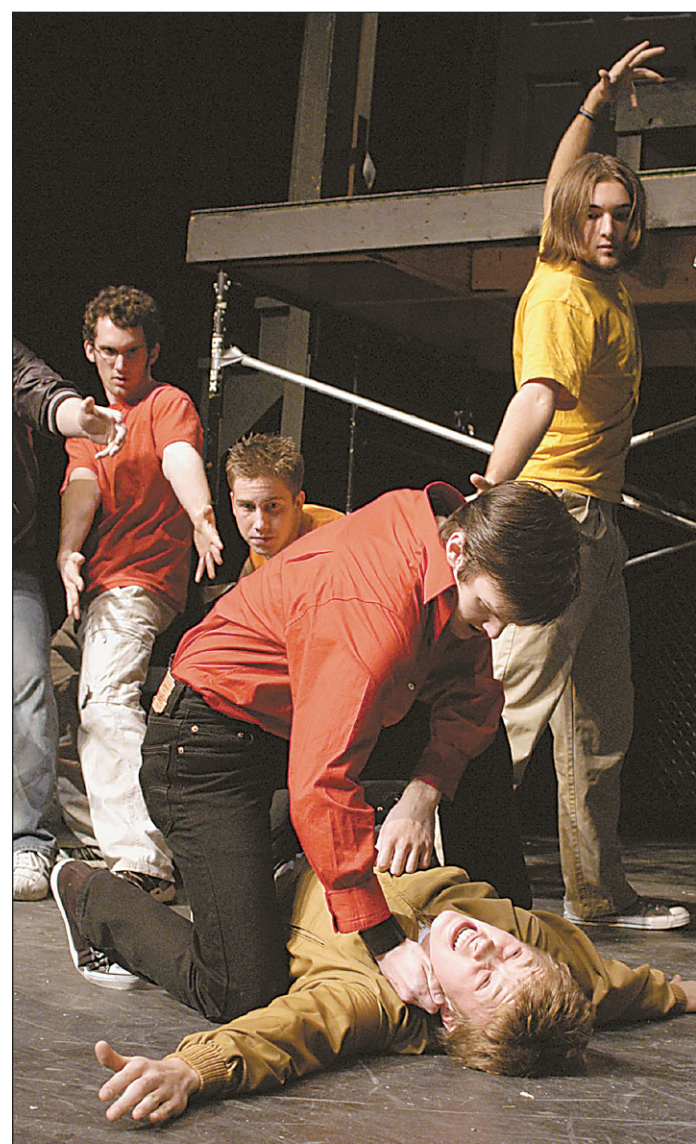


Above: Anita, played by Khaki Pixley, sings about coming to "America" as she and the other girls debate their new homeland and the land they left behind — Puerto Rico.



Tony, played by Eric Smith, and Maria, played by Ashley Larimer, are thrust into the spotlight as the star-crossed lovers from different New York neighborhoods.

Right: West Side Story updates Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" to the 1950s era of juvenile delinquency with the characters of Tony and Maria and rival gangs the Sharks and Jets. The musical features highly charged and inventive song-and-dance numbers, passionate ballads and moody sets.



Bernardo, played by Greg Smith, holds down a Jet gang member as he and his fellow Sharks rumble with the Jets.

Herald photos by Garret Leiva

TC HAPPENINGS

Things to do, places to go, people to see

Fabulous food

The Grand Traverse Tasters' Guild dinner and auction, featuring international cuisine, live music, wine tasting, live and silent auctions will benefit the Great Lakes Culinary Institute. The event begins at 7 p.m., Friday at Northwestern Michigan College's Great Lakes Campus on East Front Street. Tickets are \$25 per person in advance, and in limited supply, \$30 at the door. Tickets are available at Folgarelli's Market and the Great Lakes Culinary Institute office. For more information, call 947-8466 or 955-1376.

Big Band music

The Northwestern Michigan College Jazz Big Band will present "The Orchestral Side of the Jazz Big Band," at 8 p.m., Friday at the Milliken Auditorium in the Dennon Museum Center, 1701 E. Front Street. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students. For more information, call 955-1553.