This hot new production of West Side Story, one of the most acclaimed musicals of all time, will play a limited season at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) from 4 November 2010.

The moment the curtain rose on West Side Story on Broadway, musical theatre was at once changed forever. With groundbreaking choreography by the legendary Jerome Robbins, book by Arthur Laurents, an unforgettable score by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, West Side Story created a new face for musical theatre, redefining an entire theatrical genre, with its superb musicality and dramatization.

Packed with unforgettable songs including Maria, Tonight, Somewhere, America and I Feel Pretty, West Side Story remains a theatrical landmark. The film version went on to win an incredible 10 Academy Awards (including Best Picture) and further cemented the reputation of this undoubted masterpiece.

Now Joey McKneely’s vibrant new stage production arrives in Perth after wild acclaim in London, Tokyo, Paris and Beijing. Joey was personally chosen by Jerome Robbins to reproduce his choreography for West Side Story which he has now done throughout the world. On Broadway Joey has substantial directing and choreography credits, having won a number of Awards and been nominated for two Tony Awards.

Recently Joey McKneely announced the dynamic young cast who will star in the Australian national tour of West Side Story.

"I believe this Australian cast will be the best cast I have assembled in 10 years of doing West Side Story. Their talent has impressed me. Really, Broadway calibre!" – Joey McKneely.

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Based on Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet, in West Side Story two young people meet, fall in love and pledge their eternal loyalty to one another. Their different backgrounds ensure they are denied a happy future because of the intolerance and hatred of two antagonistic cultures. Fate leads the star-crossed lovers into a tragedy of heartbreaking proportions. West Side Story is as relevant today as when it first burst onto the international theatre scene over 50 years ago – and in every way a ground breaking musical.

“The greatest Broadway musical of all time”
The Guardian (UK)

For more information go to www.westsidestorythemusical.com.au

MICHAEL BRENNER FOR BB PROMOTION GMBH, HOWARD PANTER FOR AMBASSADOR THEATRE GROUP, TULCHIN/BARTNER PRODUCTIONS AND LUNCHBOX THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS AND DAVID ATKINS ENTERPRISES PRESENTS WEST SIDE STORY

WHERE
Lyric Theatre, QPAC, Cultural Centre, South Bank

WHEN
From 4 Nov
*Tickets on sale from 19 May 2010

TICKETS
$50 to $130

BOOKINGS
www.qpac.com.au or 136 246

Media Enquiries:
Cindy Ullrich, Publicity Manager, QPAC ~ 07 3840 7589 ~ cindy.ullrich@qpac.com.au or
Inga Tracey, Publicity Coordinator, QPAC ~ 07 3840 7984 ~ inga.tracey@qpac.com.au

Further Information including cast follows:

The lead male role of Jets leader turned good-guy Tony, is to be played by Josh Piterman whose voice has become well known across the world thanks to his time with the smash hit singing group The Ten Tenors. A graduate of the Ballarat College of the Arts, Josh has toured with the Melbourne Opera Company, lived and performed in Japan, and has just finished currently sharing a stage with Geoffrey Rush in The Drowsy Chaperone at Melbourne Theatre Company.

The innocent romantic dreamer Maria will be brought to life by Sydney Conservatorium Scholarship winner Julie Goodwin, who has recently completed 200 performances in the lead role of Christine in Australian tour of Phantom of the Opera. Julie is a graduate of both the Sydney Conservatorium High School, and the prestigious Talent Development Project. Having toured in Asia and across Australia Julie is tremendously excited to have won the coveted role of Maria.
The bad boys of West Side Story are the swarthy, hot tempered Bernardo and the all-American troublemaker Riff. Bernardo will be brought to life by the highly experienced NIDA graduate Nigel Turner-Carroll. With roles in hit musicals such as Hot Shoe Shuffle and Jesus Christ Superstar, and the highly dramatic Gallipoli for the Sydney Theatre Company, Nigel brings a defining edge to the character of Bernardo.

The role of Riff will be played by Rohan Browne, whose credits stretch from performing in Happy Feet for George Miller, to The Drowsy Chaperone for Melbourne Theatre Company. With a background including Cats, Chicago and Jesus Christ Superstar Rohan comes well prepared for this demanding role.

The seamstress with the biting humour and quick wit is Anita, to be played by Green Room Award winner Alinta Chidzey. Having just returned from an overseas tour with Dirty Dancing, and a tour with the premiere cast of Dusty: the original Pop Diva, Alinta is looking forward to an exciting tour as the fiery Anita.
Michael Brenner for BB Promotion Gmbh, Howard Panter for Ambassador Theatre Group, Tulchin/Bartner Productions, Lunchbox Theatrical Productions and David Atkins Enterprises Present

The Original Broadway Classic

West Side Story 2010

Based on a conception of Jerome Robbins

Book by Arthur Laurents
Music by Leonard Bernstein
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Entire Original Production Directed and Choreographed by Jerome Robbins

Originally Produced on Broadway by Robert E. Griffith and Harold S. Prince by Arrangement with Roger L. Stevens

Director Joey McKneely
Musical Supervisor Donald Chan
Choreography reproduced by Joey McKneely
Set Design Paul Gallis
Costume Design Renate Schmitzer
Light Design Peter Halbsgut
Sound Design Rick Clarke
Make Up Design Hannelore Uhrmacher
Technical Supervision Andreas Rescheneder

Jet Boys Shark Boys
Action Dan Hamill Chino Turanga Merito
A-Rab Mitchell Woodcock Pepe William Centurion
Baby John Nathan Pinnell Louis Travis Khan
Snow Boy Blake Bowden Anxious Christopher Favaloro
Big Deal Jordan Pollard Moose Hilton Denis

Diezel Brendan Yeates

Jet Girls Shark Girls
Graziella Natalie Somerville Rosalia Jenna Baxter
Velma Metta Cornall Consuelo Cristina D'Agostino
Minnie Emma Hawthorne Francicita Leah Lim
Clarice Scilla Stavrou Estella May Yen Cheah
Anybodys Georgia Taylor Margarita Monica Swayne

Swing
Matt Holly Emmanuel Carella Natalie Peroni

West Side Story is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also provided by MTI, 421 West 54th Street, New York, New York 10019, Tel.: (212) 541-4684, www.mtishows.com
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"BROADWAY'S GREATEST DANCE MUSICAL" - The Times (UK)