

West Side Story

Forty actors and actresses, twenty-seven musicians, scores of theater technicians, a handful of support staff and six directors working with many other helpful teachers, coaches and a fantastic Activities Office brought WEST SIDE STORY to the stage of the Robert B. Gaw Theater in the dazzling style for which ISKL's Fine Arts programs are notorious. In the end, over 25% of the entire high school student body had a hand in this production, whether it was involving technical areas, orchestra or acting. It was also one of the first productions in recent years where athletes from first season sports and other activities were allowed to cross over into the theatre production. The acting, singing and dancing were very sophisticated tasks for any performing arts program and that is to say nothing of the feat of organizing the orchestra to play some highly difficult musical numbers, which they did admirably.

The production process began at the end of last school year as several students auditioned to become a part of "the WSS company." When school started this August, new students were allowed to audition. This began the two-month process of hard work that would be necessary to mount a show like WSS. Of course we faced some rough times, the ever present issue of illnesses, and several cast and orchestra members missing for IASAS athletics the week before we opened, but in the end it proved that the result was worth the struggle.

October 21st, the show opened with a 6:00 make up call, 7:00 for warm ups and waiting for the 8:00 p.m. curtain time with one thing on everyone's mind: "We have worked so hard for this. Let's get everything out of it!" These fine actors, musicians and technicians did exactly what they were trained to do, whether it was their first time on stage or they were seasoned veterans. They never looked back and built this show night after night to receive three, well deserved, consecutive standing ovations.

In the end it was a fantastic experience and the most beautiful part is to look around campus and to see the new friendships that blossomed from the production because they all were able to share this experience together. It is definitely a wonderful thing to see the pride of the parents and the students and the school because everyone knows that they did a first rate job and that for two months we created magic in The Robert B. Gaw Theater on the Ampang Campus.

