

WEST SIDE: Director: 'CGOA wants to embrace a diverse audience'

continued from B1

thing like present day, with gangs that are a mixture of genders and speech that reflects the several languages. We hope that we have found a respectful middle ground between tradition and making 'West Side Story' speak to, and reflect, our present moment.

"One important difference is that now, we probably don't see the white Jets as the 'good guys' and the Sharks as the enemies. If we do the musical correctly, everyone should be equally responsible for the violence."

The musical cast of more than 40 people large and, by necessity, diverse. It contains a large number of Hispanic members.

Portions of the dialog are done solely in Spanish, as well as the classic song "I Feel Pre-

ty/Mi Siento Hermosa."

"First, and most obviously, appropriate casting of the gangs in 'West Side Story' requires that the Sharks be predominantly — if not entirely — Hispanic. We are happily no longer satisfied using Caucasian actors in dark makeup (as the film did), and locally, our ability to stage the show depended on casting members of our Latino community," Steighner said.

"Equally important, I — and CGOA — wanted to stage WSS as a sign of recognition and a calling card to our Latino population that maybe isn't aware of CGOA or attend performances. CGOA wants to be an organization that embraces a diverse audience, whether we do this through programming, ticket incentives, marketing or on-stage participation."



FIGHT SCENES are choreographed just as are the dance numbers. Chino (Gerardo Vasquez) and Action (Matt Hartman) in a February rehearsal, left, and on March 2.



ORCHESTRA MEMBER Kathy Hannen-Smith, left, and cast members listen as CGOA Music Director Mark Steighner gives instructions during first dress rehearsal on March 2 at Wy'east PAC.

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, is the day that people everywhere wear green. Born in Great Britain during the time of the Roman Empire, St. Patrick was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland where he worked as a shepherd. He fled to France but eventually returned to Ireland as a missionary. He is the patron saint of Ireland.

The Blarney Stone

The Blarney Stone is a rock slab set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the village of Blarney.

According to legend, an old woman cast a spell on the stone to reward a king who had saved her from drowning. Kissing the stone gave the king the ability to speak sweetly and convincingly.

Kissing the stone is not an easy task, because it is difficult to reach. Anyone who wants to try has to lie on his or her back, bend backwards and downwards, and hold on to iron bars for support.

It is said that those who kiss the Blarney Stone are given the gift of gab, or Blarney. The skill to get anyone to do what he or she wants. This is persuasive talk!

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use reading skills to understand a variety of texts including legends.

Leprechaun Gold

Look at the words on each of the gold coins. Put them in the pot in alphabetical order before the Leprechaun disappears with all the gold!

RAINBOW COIN
LUCKY LUCK GREEN
HIDDEN CLOVER IRISH
BLARNEY

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

Standards Link: Spelling: Organize words alphabetically.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Starting at the upper left clover, leap across the shamrocks, adding and subtracting numbers as you go. Find a path that totals 30. Avoid the toadstools!

START

+2	+8	-4	+2	+9	TOADSTOOL
+7	+13	TOADSTOOL	+3	-4	+2
+11	+4	+10	+6	+12	+2
TOADSTOOL	6	+1	+2	6	FINISH

Standards Link: Number sense: Calculate sums and differences.

Kid Scoop Together: Lookalike Leprechauns

Each leprechaun below has a twin. Draw a line between each twin but remember: Leprechauns can be VERY tricky! Look closely.

How to Draw a Leprechaun

How many shamrocks can you find on this page in three minutes? Now have a friend try. Who found the most?

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

BLARNEY	I R E L A N D	K I S S I N G	L E P R E C H A U N	S T O N E	C A S T L E	S P E A K	C L O V E R	C O B B L E R	R A I N B O W	S A I N T	G O L D	T A L K	R O C K	B E N D																																																																											
N	U	A	H	C	E	R	P	E	L	L	T	E	A	R	O	N	K	D	H	O	N	W	K	C	T	I	N	E	C	O	I	L	K	C	S	A	L	S	O	K	A	E	P	S	L	T	G	P	B	T	S	E	I	E	S	O	O	A	B	Y	E	N	R	A	L	B	V	N	L	K	G	I	C	D	N	E	B	E	E	E	L	L	W	O	B	N	I	A	R

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Abbreviations

St. is an abbreviation for Saint. Circle six examples of abbreviations from the newspaper. Write the whole word for each abbreviation.

Standards Link: Vocabulary: Identify abbreviations; know the words that are abbreviated.

Write On!

I'm Green

Explain what you do to help the environment. Why is this important to you?

Standards Link: Research: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Create your own silly story!

Select one or more words from the WHO, WHAT and WHERE columns. Use these words to start a story.

WHO	WHAT	WHERE
St. Patrick	Blarney Stone	in a castle
king	shamrock	under the Blarney Stone
queen	rainbow	at the end of the rainbow
leprechauns	gold	in a pot of gold
fairies	hat	in a field of shamrocks
cobbler	coin	by a river
teacher	magical shoes	at a parade
boy	fiddle	in a small cottage
girl	tiny boat	in a dark forest

Standards Link: Writing: Write narratives with a main idea and supporting details.

Extra! Extra! Newspaper Story

Find a WHO, a WHAT and a WHERE in the newspaper. Use these to start a story.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Extra! Extra! Newspaper Story

Follow the trail to find the gold coin. Add or subtract the numbers along the correct trail. Write the total on the gold coin.

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences.