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Southland Area Theatre Ensemble
AT GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

proudly presents:


Governors State
UNIVERSITY



Directed by:
J.R. Rose

Music Directed by:
Ilana M. Atkins

Choreography by:
Rebecca DeDecker



center for
performing arts

July 25, 26, 27 2014

The Southland Area Theatre Ensemble, in partnership with The Center for the Performing Arts at Governor's State University could not be more thrilled to bring the area premier of **In the Heights** to south-suburban Chicago. Nominated for 13 Tony Awards and winning 4, including Best Choreography, Best Score, Best Orchestrations, and the Best Musical of 2008, **In the Heights** also won the Grammy for the Cast album and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. This groundbreaking musical is about life in Washington Heights, a tight-knit community where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open, and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. **In the Heights** is an audience phenomenon and acclaimed critical success with a gripping story, honest characters and incredible music and dance. **In the Heights** is an authentic and exhilarating journey into one of New York's most vibrant communities; with its universal themes of family, community, change and self-discovery, **In the Heights** can be enjoyed by people of all ages and backgrounds. Thank you for auditioning. If you have any questions please email me at jr@jrrose.org or call 708.767.7673. This summer is going to be muy caliente!!!

Always,



J.R. Rose

Artistic Director - SLATE Theatre

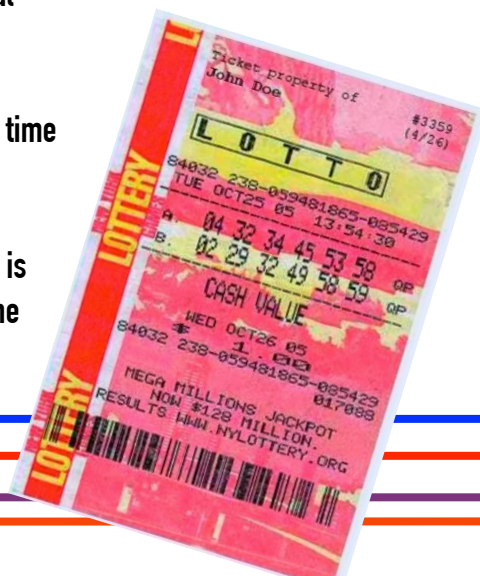


Audition Information

- ◆ Auditions will be held Monday, May 12, and Tuesday, May 13 in Sherman Recital Hall at Governors State University, with slots between 6:00 – 9:00 pm
- ◆ Invited callbacks will be **Saturday, May 17 from 10am–3pm**
- ◆ Please download, print, and complete the audition form and conflict sheet found on page 4 and 5 of this packet and bring to your audition.
- ◆ Please visit <http://wejoinin.com/sheets/cghkk> to schedule your audition time or scan the QR code to the right.
- ◆ Upon completion of your sign-up the website will confirm your sign-up with an email. If you need to cancel or change your slot, there is a link in that email to help. The site will also email you two days prior with a reminder. You can also send this audition info right into your outlook, or googlecal.
- ◆ This is a non-paying, non-equity performance. SLATE does not charge a participation or costume fee but we do ask each cast member to sell a minimum of 12 tickets.



- ◆ Please prepare 60–90 seconds of a contemporary pop musical theatre piece or a selection from **In the Heights**. Please bring picture, resume, and sheet music. Since we are not doing monologues, or cold readings at the audition, your song choice should highlight your ability to create a character, and act through the song. In addition, if you have rap skills and wish to be considered for a character who raps, please prepare a short bit of rapping to be done when your singing audition is complete.
- ◆ You may sing from In the Heights, but are not required to. We recommend singing from In the Heights if you are really going after a specific role in the show. Sing that character and prove you can do it. If not, feel free to sing anything that fits the requirements above.
- ◆ Please bring music in the proper key, an accompanist will be provided. **Accapella singing is NOT ALLOWED**. If you wish to sing from In the Heights, you do not need sheet music, but be sure to check keys, as vocal selections, online downloads and full scores are not always in the same key.
- ◆ After everyone in your group sings there will be a short dance audition. There will not be time to change, so dress appropriately.
- ◆ Please audition regardless of your conflicts. Rehearsals will be scheduled after the show is cast to accommodate conflicts. Just be honest, and we will work around your schedule the best we can.



Casting and Character Breakdowns

This show was created for, and we are seeking, a multicultural company.
We are looking for all races, and all body types. No role must be played by an actor of any specific race.

Usnavi De La Vega – charismatic leading man with tremendous heart. Baritone with very strong, clear rap narrative skills

24 year old owner of De La Vega's Bodega, his parents emigrated from the Dominican Republic and have since passed away. He lives with Abuela Claudia (Grandmother Claudia), who isn't actually his grandmother but they are as close as family. Usnavi is in love with Vanessa and remains the eyes and ears of his Washington Heights neighborhood.

Nina Rosario – hardworking, good guy; can be a character actor; Bari-tenor; moves well

19 year old Nina has just finished her freshman year at Stanford University. She is the daughter of Kevin and Camilia Rosario. Nina is the only member of her family and friends who made it to college. She is best friends with Vanessa and a beacon of hope and inspiration to all who know her; she represents the opportunity outside of "the Heights."

Kevin Rosario – hard exterior; baritone

In his forties and owner of Rosario Car and Limousine, Kevin is a husband to Camila and father to Nina. While Kevin was born and raised in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, he immigrated to New York City with Camila. Kevin immediately started working to provide a better life for his newly-arrived family. He is stubborn, hot tempered at times and can be quick to act without thoughts of repercussions.

Camilla Rosario – no-nonsense; strong-willed; Mezzo range

Also in her forties, she is the co-owner of Rosario Car and Limousine with her husband Kevin. Also from Arecibo, Puerto Rico, she fell in love with Kevin at 19 and immigrated with him to New York City. She is cool-headed yet keeps a subtle but strong leash on Kevin. Her daughter Nina has just returned for the summer from her first year at Stanford.

Benny – hardworking, good guy; can be a character actor; Bari-tenor; moves well

Now a 24 year old cab driver for Rosario Car and Limousine, he once was a street punk and hoodlum, often finding himself in trouble. Kevin saw promise in Benny and helped shape him into a responsible, hard-working young man. Benny has enormous respect for Kevin and sees him as a father figure. Eventually falling in love with Nina, Benny sees a future for them by becoming a businessman. He and Usnavi are best friends.

Vanessa – beautiful, strong high belt; great dancer

A 19 year old shampoo girl at Daniela's Salon, Vanessa is strong, intelligent and grew up with Benny and Usnavi. Though Usnavi would like to be something more than Vanessa's "friend", he has never made any attempt. Vanessa dreams of leaving to create her own life away from her alcoholic mother.

Sonny – a strong mover / rap skills

15 years old and Usnavi's cousin, Sonny is spending the summer working for Usnavi at the bodega. He usually hangs out on the street with his friend Graffiti Pete but avoids trouble. He is an extremely intelligent young man who strives to emulate Usnavi. Passionate to solve the social and economic problems of the city, he is someone that needs guidance or risks ending up a street punk.

Abuela Claudia – Alto belt – showstopper number

In her late 60's, she raised Usnavi after his parents passed away and continues to live with him. She emigrated from Cuba when she was very young. Of all the characters, Abuela Claudia has been in "The Heights" the longest. She struggled to learn English, struggled to find work and in turn has helped others who have followed in her path. She is clearly the matriarch of the neighborhood.

Daniela – tough on the surface, compassionate underneath; good belt; good dance.

In her thirties, she is the owner of Daniela's Salon. Savvy to say the least, she is quick witted, brassy and outspoken. While she retains a motherly relationship with Vanessa, she remains the gossip queen of the neighborhood. No-nonsense, she has built a successful business but is being forced out the neighborhood because of the rent hikes.

Carla – innocent; good comedienne; strong dance

In her mid-twenties, she is a hairdresser at Daniela's salon. Born and raised in Queens, she is a pure, sweet, innocent and loving young woman who is devoted to her family and friends though she is easily taken advantage of because of her naivety. She and Daniela are best friends.

Graffiti Pete – sings; very strong dancer; acrobatics a plus

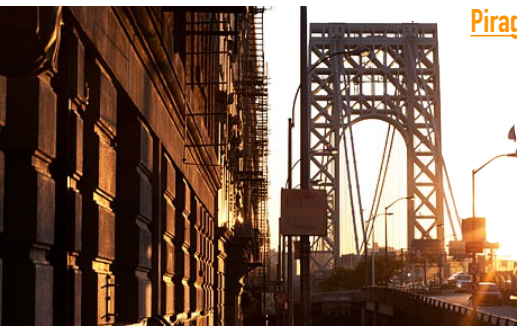
An 18-year old graffiti artist and the nemesis of Usnavi, he is always hanging out on the streets, dancing to his boom box music, spraying any surface he can. Usnavi is unhappy that Sonny and Graffiti Pete are friends because Graffiti Pete epitomizes everything that Usnavi hopes that Sonny will not grow up to be.

Piragua Guy – tenor, strong singer, good hearted

In his mid-thirties, he walks the hot and humid streets of Washington Heights selling piraguas (flavored ice shavings) to earn a living. He represents a rhythm of the islands in the big city.

ENSEMBLE

Residents of Washington Heights, Men and women. Auditions and casting are open to actors from all ethnic groups. Latino(a) performers are particularly encouraged to attend, but our ensemble will be multi-racial.





Audition Form

Please print this form and the conflict calendar on the next page and bring them completed to your audition. Please answer all questions honestly, and be up front about conflicts. We will work around conflicts as much as possible, but need to know about them before casting decisions are made.

If possible, please bring a resume and recent headshot or snapshot.

Name: _____ My real age falls: 14-18 19-23 24-29 30+

Height: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

City _____ Zip _____ Cell Phone: _____

Vocal Range: Soprano Mezzo Alto Tenor Baritone Bass

Audition Song Selection: _____ From: _____

Are you auditioning for a specific role(s)? If so, which one(s): Yes No

If you are cast, will you accept any role you are cast in? If no, please be specific: Yes No

Do you understand that if you are cast you will be required to purchase /sell a minimum of twelve (12) tickets for the show? Yes No

Do you understand that the performances are July 25,26,27 2014? Yes No

Do you understand that by signing this form you are committing to ALL rehearsals and performances except those you indicate on your conflict sheet and absences may result in your role being changed or eliminated? Yes No

Do you understand that all cast members may be responsible for supplying/purchasing stage make-up as well as some costumes and shoes for the show? Yes No

Do you understand that if cast, GSU requires a \$100 check that will **not** be cashed and will be returned after you complete strike duties and after all props, costumes, and scripts are checked in. Yes No

Do you speak Spanish at any level? Yes No

By signing this document, I hereby consent to the use, publication, broadcast, telecast, distribution, and circulation of my name, photograph, image, and/or likeness by SLATE at Governors State University in any SLATE-sponsored product and/or publication used for recruiting, promotional, advertising, or commercial purposes. This shall include, but is not limited to, the SLATE website, playbills, ads, and brochures. I further understand and agree that this picture release consent shall remain in full effect unless canceled in writing and in reasonable advance of any said publication.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please list all conflicts from May 18- July 27. Please list the date and times you are unavailable. Please include weekend events. Rehearsals will be scheduled around conflicts, so please list them now. This includes family obligations, work activities, vacations and appointments.

Weekday rehearsals will be 7:00-10:00 pm. Weekend rehearsal times will be dependent on cast conflicts
Please note: Major Conflicts after July 7 might make it difficult for you to be cast in the show.

NAME: _____

2014	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
May	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
June	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
June	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
June	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
June	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
July	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
July	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
July	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
July	20	21	22	23	24	25 Opening	26 Perf. 2
August	27 Closing /Strike	28	29	30	31	1	2