

Street Scene: Cast Facts and Trivia

Stage lovers reunite!

Besides concert duets with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Daniel Fosha (Sam Kaplan) and Judeth Shay Burns (Rose Maurant) have been the lead couple in three other Pikes Peak region productions: *The Merry Widow* for Opera Theatre; *The Lady of the Camellias* for Opera Theatre and UCCS Theatreworks and *Phantom of the Opera* for the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. In Boulder for the CU Lyric Theatre, they were Tony and Maria in *West Side Story*.

Local kids make it all the way!

Nisa Ari (Mae Jones) and Jeff Mills (Dick McGann) provide some welcome comic and choreographic relief in *Street Scene* as a pair of young and wild hipsters. They both are true products of the Pikes Peak region's arts scene: both are students of Opera Theatre's Vocal Arts Symposium, Martile Rowland (*Street Scene* producer) and Zetta Alderman's (*Street Scene* Choreographer) Daza Studios. Nisa also spent many years as a prized student at the Colorado Springs Conservatory

A Tony Award and a Pulitzer Prize!

Street Scene is one of the few works of art that may be said to have garnered these two prestigious awards: The original play by Elmer Rice (who also wrote the book for the 1947 "Broadway Opera") won the 1929 Pulitzer Prize for Drama; on the Broadway musical side, Kurt Weill was awarded the inaugural Tony Award for Best Original Score in 1947.

Canterbury adds another operatic conquest to her portfolio

In her still burgeoning but extremely impressive career, soprano Stacey Canterbury adds the demanding and highly-dramatic role of Anna Maurant to her list of great operatic heroines she has already realized on stage: *Tosca* (Opera Theatre of the Rockies); *Aida* (Opera Fort Collins) and in May will perform the role of Leonora in *Il Trovatore* for OFC. Since she already has covered *La Bohème*'s Mimi and Manon Lescaut, more conquests are on the horizon!

Is DeDominici the most versatile mezzo-soprano in opera today?

Opera Theatre is delighted to welcome last year's incredible *Carmen* to its stage. Jennifer DeDominici will perform a smaller but very but very important role for *Street Scene*: the angry, cynical, and jaded Emma Jones, a bitter middle-aged woman – hardly the stuff of our *Gypsy Princess*! Her accomplishments gets all the more incredible when you look at her artistic résumé – for Opera Theatre she offered a comic coloratura for Rossini's *Cinderella* and the very boyish Hänsel in *Hänsel and Gretel*; for Opera Colorado she "journeyed" to China to portray one of the automotronic Secretaries in *Nixon in China*.

She even managed a “visit” to Japan to perform Pitti-Sing for Central City Opera’s the Mikado.

The Melting Pot keeps on cooking!

A quick look at the roles in *Street Scene* reveals a minimum of at least six different nationalities/ethnicities. Although the America’s melting pot has noticeably blended since the original play’s inception 80 years ago, the actual cast for Opera Theatre’s upcoming production has at least seven different nationalities/ethnicities!

Two Degrees of Separation...

Street Scene Conductor Christopher Wilkins has an intimate connection to the show: he became great friends with Maurice Abravanel who actually led the premiere of *Street Scene*. “By the time I arrived in Salt Lake in the fall of 1986 (where he served as Associate Conductor of the Utah Symphony), Abravanel had been retired for more than a decade. Suddenly, I had daily access to Kurt Weill’s favorite conductor, and to a musician who had conducted in many of the world’s great opera houses. Abravanel had plenty of time on his hands, had no trouble finding words on any subject, and loved taking long drives into the canyons outside of Salt Lake, stopping for long lunches along the way. To me, his counsel was like learning from history itself.”