

Daisy Pinos

Dr. Robb/ Professor Meg Wise-Lawrence

FIQWS

September 28, 2018

Pre-Annotated Bibliography

B. A. (1957, Oct 06). 'WEST SIDE. *New York Times (1923-Current File)* Retrieved from <http://search-proquest-com.ccny-proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/docview/114334150?accountid=9967>

In Brooks Atkinsons' article, the themes of love and gang warfare are discussed. Atkinsons describes how "West Side Story is a modern day "Romeo and Juliet", despite the fact that Shakespeare portrayed a more lyrically romantic and "mythical" environment to the fairly similar "West Side Story". In addition Atkinsons describes how unlike in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet", the love between Tony and Maria is seen through dance and dance was the approach used to portray most of the emotions throughout the musical.

Bernstein, Leonard, director. *West Side Story*. *West Side Story*, 26 Sept. 1957.

In Bernstein's musical West Side Story, a variety of different songs portray the many conflicts of the 1950s. The song that stood out the most was, "America". "America", performed by the Puerto Rican women and men of the musical, is a song where both genders go back and forth in a musical battle to make their points about the wonders of America and the opposing views of America. The women discuss the American dream. This included freedom of expression, freedom from typical gender roles, freedom from their old lives in Puerto Rico, and a new start.

The men in this song were very quick to contradict all of the points that the women made and discussed the hardships of living in America, especially because they are immigrants. The scene not only depicts racism that Puerto Ricans faced in America in the 50s, but it strongly emphasizes the racism, sexism, and domestic stereotyping.

DOROTHY B. "Trousered Mothers and Dishwashing Dads." *New York Times (1923-Current*

file), Apr 28, 1957, pp. 1. *ProQuest*,

<https://search-proquest-com.ccny-proxy1.libr.ccny.cuny.edu/docview/113989048?accountid=9967>.

Dorothy Barclay explains the ways in which gender roles have started to change in the 1950's.

She describes the daily tasks men began to take part in at home such as washing the dishes or cleaning the house. In addition, she explains how many people grew concerns over this new life style as it was something that society was not accustomed to.

Frances Negrón-Muntaner; Feeling Pretty: WEST SIDE STORY AND PUERTO RICAN

IDENTITY DISCOURSES. *Social Text* 1 June 2000; 18 (2(63)): 83-106. Doi:

https://doi.org/10.1215/0642472-18-2_63-83

In Negrón-Muntaner's "Feeling Pretty", the portrayal of Puerto Ricans throughout the play "West Side Story" is discussed. Negrón-Muntaner explains how Puerto Ricans are portrayed through typical stereotypical beliefs and that "West Side Story" does not significantly show who

they truly are. They are negatively portrayed and the themes of race and class are discussed throughout the article as she explains the depiction of poverty and a lower social class in the Puerto Ricans of the musical.

"GIRL, 17, SLAIN IN HALL." *New York Times (1923-Current file)*, Apr 09, 1954, pp. 14.

ProQuest,

<https://search-proquest-com.cny-proxy1.libr.cny.cuny.edu/docview/112915163?accountid=9967>.

The *New York Times* article, "GIRL, 17, SLAIN IN HALL: Waitress Is Stabbed in Sex Attack in Tenement", explains the tragic case of a seventeen-year-old girl who was stabbed in the back in an attempted sexual assault. This *New York Times* article was not given a big headline in the newspaper like several other articles. In addition, it is not stated anywhere in the article if the person who attempted sexual assault and killed seventeen-year-old Marion E. Brown was caught or punished for their crimes, indicating that her and her family never received justice.

Hoffman, Warren. *The Great White Way: Race and the Broadway Musical*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2014. *Project MUSE*,

In Warren Hoffman's [The Great White Way](#), he reveals how Leonard Bernstein, the creator of *West Side Story*, had never met a Puerto Rican prior to the creation of the musical. Hoffman explains the hardships faced by the Jets (the Polish-American gang in *West Side Story*) and explains his perspective about how both gangs faced equal struggles.

Mitchell, Charles P. "West Side Story (1961)." *Filmography of Social Issues: A Reference Guide*, Greenwood Press, 2004, pp. 271-273. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*,

http://link.galegroup.com.ccny-proxy1.lib.ccny.cuny.edu/apps/doc/CX2882900102/GVRL?u=cuny_ccny&sid=GVRL&xid=c7b66c64. Accessed 27 Sept. 2018.

Charles P. Mitchell discusses in his article the themes of violence, gangs, and immigration, which are common themes in "West Side Story". He discusses in his article that juvenile delinquency was a huge problem and discusses the issues regarding conflicts with the police. As seen in West Side Story, Maria and Tony sing a song titled, "Somewhere". In this song, they sing about running away from the horrors of the neighborhood they live in, seeing that previous to this performance, Maria's brother Bernardo, and Riff from the Jets had just been stabbed to death. Singing this song was an insinuation that authoritative control was needed. Although both the Jets and the Sharks were equally viewed by authoritative figures such as the police, the Jets have a song titled "Gee, Officer Krupke" where they sing about their own personal problems at home which they use as an excuse for being a part of a gang and being delinquents. In singing this song, they are hinting at their white privilege, meaning they can cause trouble and do unjust things, but get away with it for reasons that shouldn't justify their actions. As discussed in Mitchell's article throughout the 1950s, police brutality was a lot worse than it is today, despite the fact that it is still an issue. In the 1950s, segregation was still present in many parts of the nation as well as racism. People's mindsets were a lot different than they are today and the conflicts from 1957 were incorporated in the creation of West Side Story. Altogether, themes of racism, gangs, violence, and immigration are clearly present throughout the musical.

Special to The New York Times. (1957, Aug 31). Text of civil rights bill as passed by congress and sent to president. *New York Times (1923-Current File)* Retrieved from <https://search-proquest-com.ccnny-proxy1.lib.ccnny.cuny.edu/docview/113904666?accountid=9967>

This “New York Times” article discusses the Civil Rights Act of 1957. During 1957, one of the most talked about headlines in the news was this act being approved by Congress. During Eisenhower’s presidency, he proposed Congress to pass the Civil Rights Act. What it did was it protected people’s civil rights. It demonstrated the support for racial equality. Its goal was also to ensure that Americans can practice their right to vote. Some elements of the social issues of this year such as segregation and racism could have been translated into “West Side Story”, which is why we see the negative portrayal of Puerto Ricans in the musical.

Trager, James. “1957.” *The People’s Chronology*, by James Trager, 3rd ed., Gale, 2005. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, http://link.galegroup.com.ccnny-proxy1.lib.ccnny.cuny.edu/apps/docs/CX3460601957/GVRL?u=ccny_ccny&sid=GVRL&xid=652a04ff. Accessed 27 Sept. 2018.

This article by James Trager also discusses the events that took place in 1957, the year in which “West Side Story” premiered. The type of music that was popular during this year was “Rock ‘n’ Roll” Music. The very well-known song by Elvis Presley- “Jailhouse Rock” was released in this year and ultimately, changed “Rock ‘n’ Roll” forever. Although the main styles of music in West Side Story are pop, jazz, and classical, roots of jazz are found in “Rock ‘n’ Roll”.

WILLIAM J JORDAN Special to The New, York Times, (1957, Oct 05). 560 MILES HIGH.

New

York Times (1923-Current File) Retrieved from

<https://search-proquest-com.cny-proxy1.libr.cny.cuny.edu/docview/114328956?accountid=9967>

William J. Jordan's article discusses one of the biggest headlines in the news in 1947. This was the launch of "Sputnik". Sputnik was the first artificial satellite launched into space by the Soviet Union on October 4, 1957. This put the Soviet Union in the lead in the Space Race against the United States, which was an element to the Cold War.