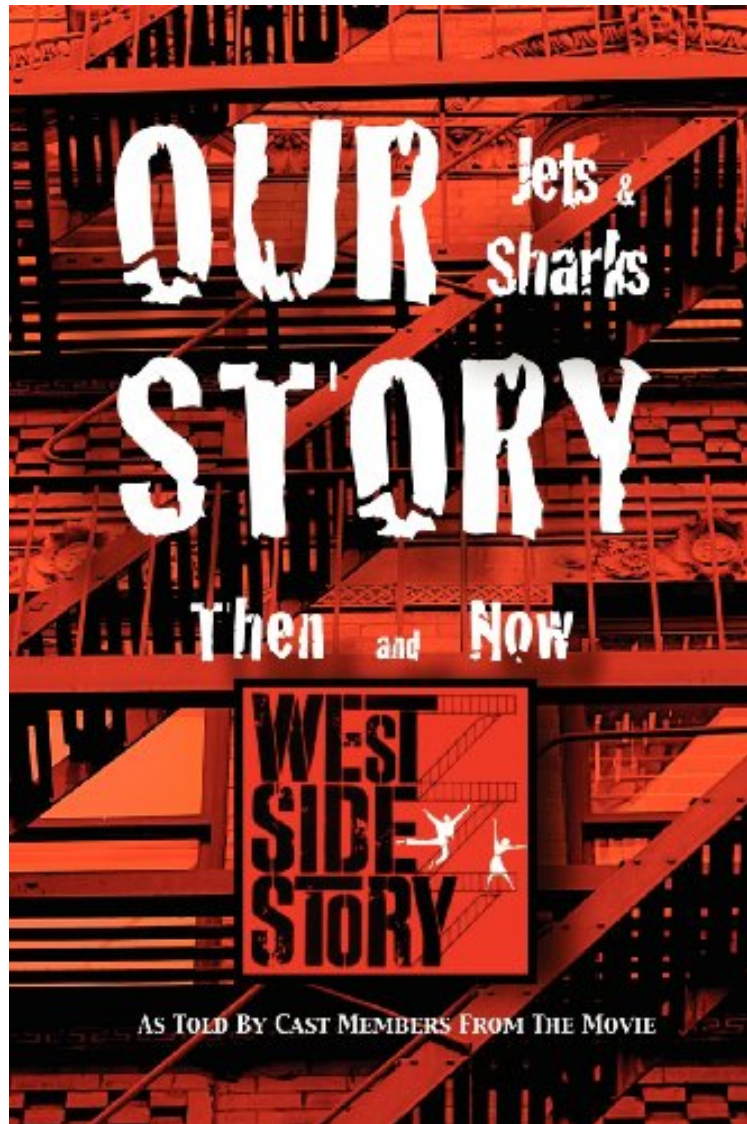


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## Our Story Jets and Sharks Then and Now: As Told by Cast Members from the Movie West Side Story

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**From Brand: Outskirts Press : Our Story Jets and Sharks Then and Now: As Told by Cast Members from the Movie West Side Story** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Our Story Jets and Sharks Then and Now: As Told by Cast Members from the Movie West Side Story:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. They did good buddy boyBy SusanThis is a must read not just for

West Side Story fans, but also for anyone who appreciates the creative process that goes into film making. The passion for the dance is expressed through the eyes of each author, making the pages come to life. I had no doubt that the writers would provide an up-close and personal view of the agony of auditions (multiples in many cases), the grueling hours of rehearsals, the sore muscles, and in the end, the deep satisfaction of contributing to one of the greatest film classic of all time. And the writers did not disappoint. If that was all there was, that would have been enough. The writers however, were young, gorgeous, talented and creative with a bit of a rebellious streak and a penchant for fun guaranteeing that the good memories created were not restricted to the screen. Before even reaching Los Angeles, Tony Mordente had to deal with his dogs and along with Tommy Abbott, endure an "easy rider" type of experience in Texas. Bob Banas had a suspicion that some friends were playing a prank on him when he first got a call for auditions; Maria Jimenez Henley literally almost went from hospital to first rehearsal. Tucker Smith not only participated in the infamous rain dances, but also impulsively led a parade (told by at least three witnesses). Jerome Robbins wanted the two gangs to stay away from each other in order to create a sense of rivalry, but in the beginning the real rivalry was between the west coast dancers and the east coast dancers. Surprisingly enough, the long hours under their difficult taskmaster fueled their verve to fill their down time with some intense poker games that sometimes included a monkey and Mickey Rooney, play cowboys with horses and guns, conduct chariot races, and drive their poor assistant director Robert Relyea almost insane and even incur the wrath of Billy Wilder. Bonus trivia: There is a Star Trek connection. The writers of course grew up and matured into seasoned professionals with amazing resumes, never losing their West Side Story siblings. The continuous crossing of paths both professionally and personally is one of the more touching element of the book. To read this book is to learn about backstage anecdotes on the filming of West Side Story, the trials and tribulations of a dancer and the joy and beauty of longtime friendships. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A window into history By Jim N.B. A fan of the movie and fortunate to know some of the dancers and to have worked with them in the entertainment industry, this book not only tells the story of the making of WSS but is a telling account of these 12 people who were a part of cinematic history. It's important to remember that most of these people were teenagers when they were working so hard for the year that it took to finish the film. The play and then the movie changed musical theater forever and also the lives of the actor/dancers, all so different but held together by the love of dance. In my years of working behind the camera, I remember thinking how hard the dancers worked and how little they were paid for their contribution to whatever project. After reading this book it all became clear.....they had to do what they did, it was a passion for them. For all who loved the movie and ever wondered what it might have been like to be a part of, this is a must read. A gift to anyone who is studying dance, is interested in film and Broadway. [ASIN:1432779451 Our Story Jets and Sharks Then and Now: As Told By Cast Members From the Movie West Side Story] is a honest account of 12 young people working so hard and changing their lives forever unbeknownst to them at the time. A "Thank You" to the 12 who shared their part of the making of WSS, their personalities and lives not only then but now. Great read! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Amazing Story By Betty This is an amazing composite of stories told by the cast members. Their stories start with the excitement and adrenaline rush as they tackle the lengthy audition process under the piercing eyes of Jerome Robbins. You get a true feeling of the ups and downs during filming, the antics that are played upon, the blood, sweat and tears of the strenuous rehearsal demands. You will see how Jerome Robbins uses his clever psychological techniques in keeping the Jets Sharks in a combative mood to get the raw emotion he wanted on film. This is a wonderful roller coaster ride of events from start to finish with the genius Jerome Robbins leading the way. He knows how to pull from each dancer the very best performance which has made West Side Story a "Brilliant Classic"! You will feel the inspiration and passion as each dancer expresses a once in a life time experience. I highly recommend this book. Betty

In this collective memoir, each gang member shares behind the scenes personal stories about the making of this classic film. Stories never before told. Stories that will make you laugh, stories that will inspire and surprise. Where are the now? What are they doing now? Let them tell their stories.