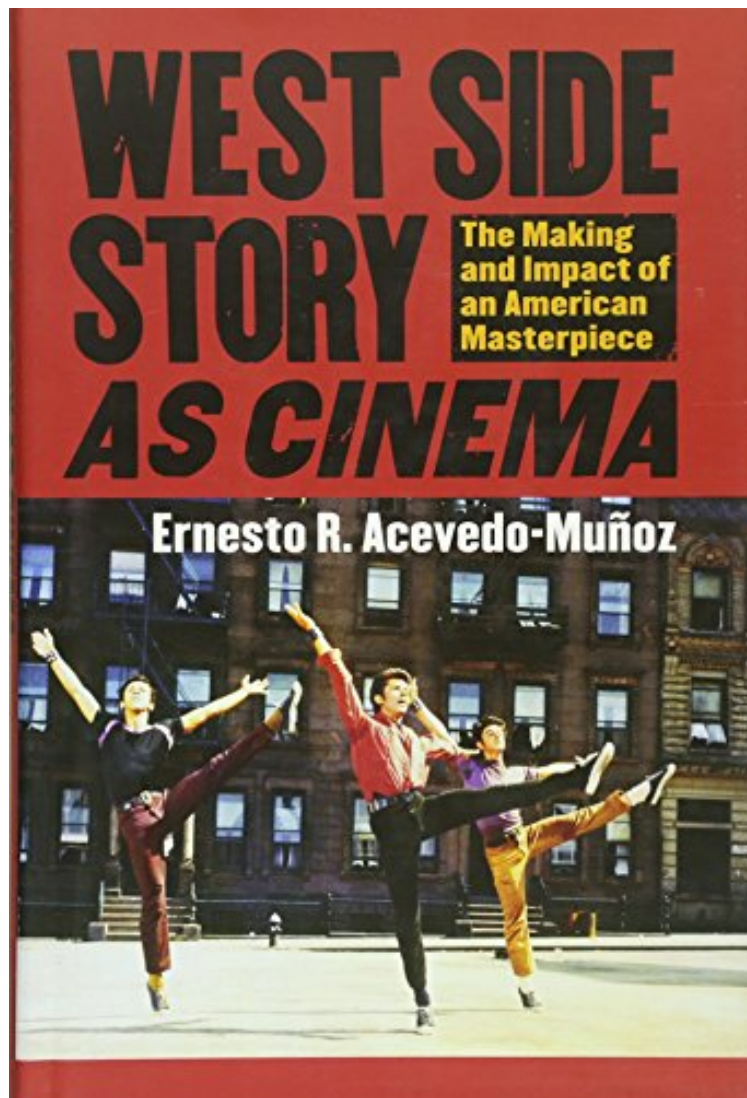


[Download free pdf] West Side Story as Cinema: The Making and Impact of an American Masterpiece (CultureAmerica)

West Side Story as Cinema: The Making and Impact of an American Masterpiece (CultureAmerica)

Ernesto R. Acevedo-Munoz
audiobook | *ebooks | Download PDF | ePub | DOC



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#558081 in Books University Press of Kansas 2013-10-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.10 x .90 x 6.40l, 1.05 #File Name: 0700619216232 pages | File size: 79.Mb

Ernesto R. Acevedo-Munoz : West Side Story as Cinema: The Making and Impact of an American Masterpiece (CultureAmerica) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised West Side Story as Cinema: The Making and Impact of an American Masterpiece (CultureAmerica):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Rich, entertaining, fascinating background of a rich, entertaining, and fascinating filmBy Mary SheeranThis is a wonderful book - rich with analysis and details that are fascinating,

especially if you love film. The author certainly researched the background of the film painstakingly, and I respect the scholarship that went into it. The analysis of color, music, and story wove more into the film than I'd been seeing - although I'd seen some of these aspects at different viewing times - this thorough grounding will make anyone view the film with heightened pleasure. The critical (meant in the full sense) essays at the end were thought provoking. At the same time, one is left with the freedom to examine the film again from one's own perspective - after having read this rich book - and find what more you think of it. I was researching something for a novel I'm writing, and I simply stumbled on this to my delight. It is also a nice example on how to watch a film attentively - once you've seen it once. I would love to see this film on a big screen again now.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. "Life can be bright in America!" By T. Fraser Exuding devotion for a film close to his heart, Ernesto Acevedo-Munoz eloquently constructs a vision of the riveting drama of *West Side Story* as Cinema. Determined to unwind the intricacies of *West Side Story*, he wades into cinematic territory seldom broached by academic experts. In developing extensive original research, the methodical production of *West Side Story* becomes its own adventurous tale, riddled with inevitable dramas. Extracting fascinating and undisclosed knowledge about *West Side Story*, the book delves into the process of crafting characters true to gang life in New York. Investigating the significance of police reports, intensive auditions, contextual landscapes, authentic costumes, ghost singers, a dwindling budget and controversy over America contributed to his comprehensive study of *West Side Story* as Cinema. Acevedo-Munoz's book eloquently broadens the spectrum of what *West Side Story* as Cinema has the potential to divulge historically, formally and artistically.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I haven't yet finished "*West Side Story* as Cinema", but By mploso far, "*West Side Story* as Cinema" has shaped up to be a wonderful book, with loads of information about how a wonderfully dynamic and beautiful classic film was created.

For millions of moviegoers unable to see the original stage version of *West Side Story*, director Robert Wise's adaptation was a cinematic gift that brought a Broadway hit to a mass audience. Ernesto Acevedo-Munoz argues that Wise's film was not only hugely popular, but that it was also an artistic triumph that marked an important departure in the history of American movie making. With a score by Leonard Bernstein and choreography by Jerome Robbins, this update of the Romeo and Juliet story remains one of the most revered and highly popular American movie musicals, with only *Singin' in the Rain* ranking higher in the AFI's list of the best of the genre. Acevedo-Munoz draws on previously unreleased production documents from interoffice memos to annotations on the director's script to go beyond publicity accounts and provide an inside look at this critically acclaimed film classic, offering details of its filming that have never before been published. From location scouting to scripting to casting to filming, Acevedo-Munoz focuses on little-known details of the actual production. He provides close analyses of dramatic sequences and musical numbers, emphasizing the film's technical innovations and its visual and aural coding as a means for defining character and theme. He carefully explains the differences between Broadway and film versions, exposing censorship and creative issues that the filmmakers were forced to confront. And taking readers behind the cameras, he highlights the creative differences and financial difficulties that led to the departure of Robbins who had conceived and directed the stage version long before filming was complete. Acevedo-Munoz makes a strong case for the film's daring vision in combining music, dance, dialogue, and visual elements especially color in highly creative ways, while also addressing the social, racial, and class tensions of American society. Drawing on his own Puerto Rican heritage, he provides a Hispanic perspective on the cultural aspects of the story and explores the ways in which the film's portrayal of Puerto Rican identity is neither as transparent nor as negative as some critics have charged. Bursting with facts, insights, and inside stories, this book boasts a wealth of material that has never been explored before in print. Both history and homage, it is a must for scholar and buff alike.

A savvy combination of production history and close analysis, this book will seem like candy to lovers of what many consider the high point of the American film musical. A great read and a powerful addition to our understanding of a particularly American film in a particularly American genre.

Rick Altman, author of *The American Film Musical* This is the definitive and most comprehensive book about the film *West Side Story*. It is filled with fascinating information and thought-provoking commentary, including an Hispanic sensibility that looks at the movie with a fresh point of view. An outstanding work of movie scholarship.

Thomas Hischak, author of *The Oxford Companion to the American Musical* Beautifully captures the dense weave of creative voices that were involved in the film's production. Acevedo-Munoz demonstrates not only why the film's complex mix of music, dance, gender, and race has been so ardently embraced by legions of fans for the past fifty years, but also why *West Side Story* will continue to influence media culture well into the future.

Jeff Smith, author of *The Sounds of Commerce: Marketing Popular Film Music* About the Author Ernesto R. Acevedo-Munoz is associate professor and director of Film Studies at the University of Colorado and author of the books *Pedro Almodovar* and *Buel* and *Mexico: The Crisis of National Cinema*.