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# Response

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The tale of Romeo and Juliet is endless, or so it seems after watching West Side Story. The film is about two lovers separated forever by the conflict between the rivaling gangs, and it shows that throughout the centuries, the problem between two people being with one another has not been resolved.

The musical presents a powerful acting of young Natalie Wood and Richard Beymer who portray two lovers torn between the gangs. Wood's character, Maria, is the sister of Puerto Rican gang leader Bernardo, and Beymer plays Tony, the founder of the all-whites gang. Although he quit it, he cannot get rid of its influence as his best friend leads it now. Therefore, the young people deal with the challenges and obstacles before their love which they convey in beautiful songs.

The film is interesting out of many reasons; firstly, it show the younger generation of the viewers the life of the United States five decades ago, with its ups and downs, and the challenges the youth had to endure at that time. It creates a powerful and iconic image of street life in the sixties and the way previous generation was growing up. For the viewers, it is like a mouthful of fresh air since instead of typical teenage movie we get, there is a chance to watch something with a taste of another epoch and beliefs that was not spoiled by social networks and cheap entertainment. The musical depicts the world of violence that is strangely connected to the music, and the songs the characters perform make the movie less harsh and more romantic.

West Side Story would be a classical love story if not the ending and the circumstances of the young lovers as well as the lack of actual comedy in their relationships. Natalie Wood is especially charming whenever she sings songs inspired by her love or when she grieves or tries to change the course of events. The actress was able to portray a heart-broken woman by the end of the movie perfectly; and she also managed to pull a young girl in love in the beginning of the film. Her performance of "I feel pretty" is extremely important because it feels like a song of young love and hopes and resonates to the style of the 60s' epoch in movie industry.

The beauty of West Side Story is that it does not get old since young people now can watch and relate to it. It reveals some of the many fundamental problems like youth violence, the issue of fitting in, peer pressure, and first love. Although closely based on Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, the movie adds novelty to the story and shows how young people fall victims to the modern society that had centuries to learn from Shakespeare's work.

For those, who do not like musicals, the movie can be a revelation of a new genre which combines comedy, romance, adventure, and action movie with music that connects all of these directions. It can challenge the stereotypes about movies and appeal even to the most convinced modern Hollywood lovers. It is especially true now, after the many High School musicals since West Side Story focuses on much deeper problems which are linked to life choices and survival and place young people in tough situations where they have to make decisions that affect the lives of others.

The musical is a great example of powerful cinematography of the past that

brings back the youth of some of the memorable actors and shows that the problems of the young lovers are eternal, but does it with taste and amazing sound of music.

