

Karen Flamenco and Troy McLaughlin's Dance Works PRESENTS

West Side Story

*Let the dance
battle begin!*



Dancers from Karen Flamenco and
Troy McLaughlin's Dance Works

photos: David Cooper

THERE'S A BATTLE coming, a dance battle and two star-crossed lovers are caught in between feuding cultures and gangs of 1950's New York. Get ready to see a production of *West Side Story* like you've never seen before!

Enter the Karen Flamenco studio and you'll discover an explosion of sound, colour and movement: snapping fingers, tapping shoes, twirling flamenco skirts, whistles, and shouts of "Jets!" and "Óle!" echo as the classic melodies of *West Side Story* are heard through the speakers. The room is filled with tap dancers and flamenco bailaores battling each other with their fancy footwork, bringing the romantic tragedy of Tony and Maria to life through dance. The air is humming with the energy of dancers.

Helming these lively rehearsals and upcoming production are **Karen Pitkethly** and **Troy McLaughlin**, who play Maria and Tony respectively. These are the leaders of our proverbial dancing gangs, working together to create incredible choreographies for the fast-paced and fantastic musical chaos of the Broadway orchestrations. The very different worlds of tap and flamenco are the perfect metaphor for the Jets and Sharks.

Under the artistic direction of Pitkethly and McLaughlin, Vancouver audiences can expect an evening of delight and excitement and an entirely new presentation of classic *West Side Story* numbers.

West Side Story – A Karen Flamenco Production, plays at The Vancouver Playhouse, November 28 and 29, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: 604.721.4869. For more information: karenflamenco.com.