



---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Orange County Children's Theatre  
Megan Jacobs, President  
(490) 227-3912  
[www.OCCT.org](http://www.OCCT.org)

### **OCCT's Cast of *West Side Story* meets Carol Lawrence, original "Maria" on Broadway**

What: Production of *West Side Story*

Where: Huntington Beach High School Historic Theatre

When: August 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

Details: For tickets, visit [www.OCCT.org](http://www.OCCT.org)

What a surprise and honor it was for this young cast (ages 8 to 19) of Orange County Children's Theatre's ("OCCT") Production of *West Side Story* to have a personal visit from Ms. Carol Lawrence, the original "Maria" on Broadway. It was Day One of Tech Week – the week prior to the opening night of a production in which all of the technical elements are present during rehearsal for the first time – when Ms. Lawrence (in red suit) stopped by the theatre to observe rehearsal and meet the cast.

Ms. Lawrence stayed for two hours visiting with the cast, offering critiques and encouragement. It was such an honor for her to visit rehearsal and provide this boost of enthusiasm. Ms. Lawrence is planning to attend Opening Night on Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, and the cast couldn't be more thrilled.

Savannah Burke, one of the leads playing "Maria," commented, "Getting the opportunity to meet the original Maria from Broadway was so surreal. Our rehearsals that followed



felt invigorated and more alive than they had been before. This is a show that need to be seen!” Jolynn Hallum, the other lead to play “Maria”, also commented, “Carol Lawrence is a stunning performer, and I am incredibly blessed to have had the opportunity to meet her. Throughout the years, I have viewed countless performances of Ms. Lawrence’s performances on The Ed Sullivan Show. Now, I am honored to dedicate one of my own performances to such an exemplar of the arts.”

Do not miss this opportunity to see this amazing young cast perform this iconic show at the historic theatre of Huntington Beach High School, 1905 Main Street, in downtown Huntington Beach. Tickets can be purchased for all eight performances via [www.OCCT.org](http://www.OCCT.org).

