



Press release

West Side Story in 8K to be Aired on NHK BS8K Channel

Tokyo, December 7, 2020 — A remastered 8K version of the iconic classic film *West Side Story* is premiering this month on NHK's 8K satellite channel. The film is based on a stage musical with music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and book by Arthur Laurents. The story was inspired by the Shakespeare play *Romeo and Juliet*. Set in downtown New York City, it depicts a forbidden romance between Tony and Maria, who are caught up in the rivalry between two street gangs, the Jets and the Sharks. The film was released in 1961. With dynamic dancing and many outstanding songs, it won 10 Academy Awards and became recognized as a landmark in the history of musical films. NHK had the film studio make an 8K scan of the original 65mm negative and remaster it for broadcast.

NHK's 8K channel controller Hakuno Takahiko said: "The remastered 8K version of *West Side Story* beautifully recaptures the clarity and vivid colors of this beloved masterpiece of musical film. People may have seen the movie many times and believe they know it well, but they'll now be delighted to make new discoveries in it. Especially given that the coronavirus pandemic is keeping people away from movie theaters, I hope people watching TV at home will enjoy rediscovering a movie that amazed the world 60 years ago.

Japan's major TV broadcasters began broadcasting in ultra-high definition on satellite channels on December 1, 2018. The country's only public broadcaster, NHK, launched 4K and 8K channels. NHK's 8K channel operates for 12 hours (from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.) every day. Its content encompasses drama, music, documentaries, culture, and travel. It has aired remastered 8K versions of *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *My Fair Lady*.

BROADCAST SCHEDULE:

December 12 at 7PM, December 20 at 4PM, December 27 at 10AM (JST) on NHK BS8K channel