Rivera, Chita (1933-) Encyclopedia Article

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Rivera, Chita (1933—)

One of the musical theater's most durable personalities, Chita Rivera is revered as an actress, singer, and dancer. Her first major role was as Anita in *West Side Story* (1957). Other Broadway credits include *Bye Bye Birdie* (1960), *Chicago* (1975), *The Rink* (1983), and *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1993). She has received numerous accolades for her work, including Tony Awards for *The Rink* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman;* the Drama Desk Award for *The Rink;* and top honors at the 1996 Helen Hayes Awards for contributions to theater. Her film credits include *Sweet Charity* (1969) and *Pippin* (1981). Possessing a voice with a wide dynamic and timbral range, Rivera's talent and charisma both as a singer and a dancer have allowed her to enjoy a successful and diverse stage career for over 40 years.

Further Reading:

Sandla, Robert. "Chita Rivera: Now Is the Gleam in the Eye." *Dance Magazine.* Vol. 68, No. 2, 1994, 76-81.

Telgen, Diane, and Jim Kamp, eds. *Latinas!: Women of Achievement.* Detroit, Visible Ink Press, 1996.