

**THE LYCEUM**

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh



**ROMEO *and* JULIET**

**Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh**

**Autumn 2010**

**Schools Resources**

**Cast List *and* Synopsis**

## CAST

**ROMEO**, Son to Montague  
**JULIET**, Daughter to Capulet  
**FRIAR LAWRENCE**, a Franciscan  
**NURSE** to Juliet  
**MERCUTIO**, Kinsman to the Prince  
**BENVOLIO**, Nephew to Montague  
**TYBALT**, Nephew to Lady Capulet

**Will Featherstone**  
**Kirsty Mackay**  
**Sean Murray**  
**Alexandra Mathie**  
**Grant O'Rourke**  
**Ben Deery**  
**Cathal Finnerty**

**CAPULET**  
**LADY CAPULET**  
**MONTAGUE** (and Friar John)  
**PARIS**, Kinsman to the Prince  
**PRINCE ESCALUS** (and Apothecary)  
**PETER**, Head Servant to Capulet

**Liam Brennan**  
**Cara Kelly**  
**Nick Farr**  
**Tom Berish**  
**Mark McDonnell**  
**Steve McNicoll**

### **Senior Lytheum Youth Theatre**

**ABRAM**, Servant to Montague  
**GREGORY**, Servant to Capulet  
**SAMPSON**, Servant to Capulet  
**MAIDS** of the house of Capulet  
**Understudy**

**Dean Gribble/Alistair Clarke**  
**Harry Smart/Ian Pollington**  
**Freddie Thomson/Dan Kelsey**  
**Emma McKenna/Sophie Egan**  
**Harrison MacNeill**

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Director**  
**Set and Costume Designer**  
**Lighting Designer**  
**Composer**  
**Fight Director**  
**Dance Choreographer**  
**Deputy Stage Manager**

**Tony Cownie**  
**Neil Murray**  
**Johanna Town**  
**Philip Pinsky**  
**Raymond Short**  
**Rhiana Laws**  
**Sarah Ratcliffe**

## Plot Synopsis

*“Two households, both alike in dignity  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene”*

### **Prologue**

The Prince sets the scene, introducing the rivalry between two Verona families; Montague and Capulet, and summarising the action of the play.

### **Act 1 Scene 1 A Street in Verona**



Capulets Sampson, Gregory and Tybalt meet Benvolio, of the house of Montague in the street. They fight, and are almost joined by Capulet and Montague, before the fray is broken up by the Prince who threatens death to the next of them to disturb the peace of the city

After the crowd has dispersed, we hear from Benvolio and Montague of Romeo’s recent dark moods. Romeo approaches and Benvolio undertakes to find out the reason for his bad humour. Romeo confesses that he is madly in love with a woman named Rosaline, who is unobtainable as she has sworn to live chastely.

### **Act 1 Scene 2 The House of Capulet**

Paris, a nobleman, is trying to convince Capulet to let him marry his daughter, Juliet. Capulet states that she is too young, but invites Paris to a ball he is holding that night so they may meet. He dispatches his servant Peter to invite the rest of his guests.

*“Younger than she are happy mothers made.”*

Romeo and Benvolio enter, continuing their conversation from Scene 1. Peter approaches them and, being illiterate, asks them to read his guest list. On finding out that Rosaline is invited Romeo engineers an invite for himself and his friends.

**Act 1 Scene 3**

**The house of Capulet**

Lady Capulet, Juliet and her Nurse, preparing for the ball, discuss Paris and Juliet's potential match. Obedient Juliet agrees to consider Paris during the evening.

*"I'll look to like,  
if looking liking move."*



**Act 1 Scene 4 A Street in Verona**

On their way to Capulet's ball, Mercutio and Benvolio tease Romeo about his love for Rosaline, saying that Queen Mab, the fairies' midwife, has been making him dream of love.

*"Is love a tender thing...  
It pricks like a thorn."*

**Act 1 Scene 5  
The Ball**

At the ball Romeo sees Juliet and immediately falls in love with her, and, approaching her, the two kiss.



*“O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!”*

Juliet is called away by her mother and the couple realise that they are sworn enemies. Tybalt, seeing the Montagues, goes to fetch his sword.

*“My only love, sprung from my only hate!”*

**Act 2 Scene 1**

Leaving the ball, Romeo runs away from Benvolio and Mercutio to go back and find Juliet.



## **Act 2 Scene 2 The Balcony Scene**

Romeo finds Juliet on her balcony and they declare their love for each other, despite the opposition to their relationship.

*“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose  
By any other word would smell as sweet.”*

They part with Romeo promising to contact her tomorrow, to let her know when they can be married.

## **Act 2 Scene 3 Friar Lawrence’s cell**

Romeo goes to Friar Lawrence to ask him to marry himself and Juliet. The Friar, seeing the benefits of a marriage joining the two families, agrees.

## **Act 2 Scene 4 A Street in Verona**

Tybalt has sent a challenge to Romeo. Benvolio and Mercutio meet Romeo and find him in good spirits, having forgotten Rosaline in favour of Juliet, who returns his love. The nurse enters and Romeo asks her to tell Juliet to meet him at Friar Lawrence’s cell that afternoon, where they will be married.

## **Act 2 Scene 5 The House of Capulet**

The nurse returns to Juliet and gives her the good news.

## **Act 2 Scene 6 Friar Lawrence’s Cell**

Romeo and Juliet are married by Friar Lawrence.

### **Act 3 Scene 1 A Street in Verona**

Tybalt, looking for Romeo, comes upon Mercutio and Benvolio in the street. Entering, Romeo tries to dissuade them from fighting. Mercutio fights Tybalt in Romeo's place but is injured and killed under Romeo's arm, as he tries to stop the fight.

*"I am hurt.  
A plague a' both your houses!"*

Tybalt returns and Romeo fights him to avenge Mercutio's death. Romeo kills Tybalt and flees.

*"O, I am fortune's fool!"*

### **INTERVAL**

Prince, being told the story of the fight, banishes Romeo from Verona.

### **Act 3 Scene 2 Juliet's Bedchamber**

Juliet waits for Romeo to come to her in her chamber on their wedding night. The nurse enters and tells Juliet that her cousin, Tybalt, has been killed by Romeo who is therefore banished. Juliet is distraught and the nurse leaves to find Romeo to comfort her

### **Act 3 Scene 3 Friar Lawrence's Cell**

Romeo, at Friar Lawrence's cell, is also inconsolable at the prospect of being parted from his love, though Friar Lawrence tries to convince him that he is lucky that he has not been sentenced to death. The nurse enters and is sent to let Juliet know that Romeo will come to her.

*"Ha, banishment?  
Be merciful, say 'death'."*



### **Act 3 Scene 4 The House of Capulet**

Despite the recent tragedy, Capulet agrees to have Juliet marry Paris in three days time.

### **Act 3 Scene 5 Juliet's Bedchamber**

The following morning Romeo leaves Juliet's chamber to go to Mantua. Juliet tries to persuade him that it is still night but is convinced to let him go as he would face death if he does not.

Lady Capulet comes to her daughter's room to tell her that she will be married to Paris. Juliet defies her. On hearing this her father is disgusted by her disobedience and tells her that if she does not agree to marry Paris she will be disowned.



*“Out you green-sickness carrion! Out, you baggage! You tallow-face!”*

Her nurse also agrees that it would be better if she forgot Romeo and obeyed her father. Juliet goes alone to Friar Lawrence's cell, apparently to make confession after displeasing her father.

### **Act 4 Scene 1 Friar Lawrence's Cell**

Juliet meets Paris at Friar Lawrence's cell but cleverly avoids discussing love or marriage with him. Seeing Juliet's desperation the Friar tells her of a dangerous plan: he gives her a poison which, on drinking will make her seem dead, no pulse, heat of breath in the body. Juliet will then be taken to the Capulet tomb where Romeo, having been told of the plan, will meet her, leaving them free to go together to Mantua. Juliet agrees and leaves with the poison, Friar Lawrence leaves to send word of their plan to Romeo.

#### **Act 4 Scene 2 The House of Capulet**

At the Capulet household preparations for the wedding are underway. Capulet and his wife are delighted when Juliet obediently tells them that she has repented and will marry Paris.

#### **Act 4 Scene 3 The House of Capulet**

Having prepared for the wedding, Juliet asks her nurse and mother to leave her alone the night before her wedding. Terrified, she imagines the terrible things that could happen when she takes the poison, or if she awoke in the tomb before Romeo comes to find her. Thinking of Romeo, she takes the poison.

*"I have a faint cold fear thrills through my veins  
That almost freezes up the heat of life."*

#### **Act 4**

#### **Scene 4 – Scene 5**

#### **The House of Capulet**

In the midst of the excitement before the wedding the nurse goes to wake up Juliet. Finding her seemingly dead the mood of the household changes from one of celebration to tragedy.



*"Death lies upon her like an untimely frost  
Upon the sweetest flower of all the field."*

#### **Act 5 Scene 1 Mantua**

In Mantua, Benvolio meets Romeo and tells him the news of Juliet's death, before Friar Lawrence has been able to inform him of their plan. Beside himself, Romeo goes to an apothecary and purchases a strong poison, bribing the chemist to sell him the illegal substance.

### **Act 5 Scene 2 Friar Lawrence's Cell**

Friar John, who Friar Lawrence had sent to Mantua to inform Romeo of their plan, returns to tell him that he was unable to deliver the letter due to a plague between the cities. Friar John hurries to the tomb before Juliet wakes.

### **Act 5 Scene 3 The Capulet Tomb**

Paris arrives at the tomb to put flowers at Juliet's grave. Romeo finds him there and the two fight, Romeo killing Paris, without even realising who he is. Romeo then lies down with Juliet, takes his poison, and dies.



*“O true Apothecary!  
Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die.”*

Friar Lawrence arrives at the tomb and finds Romeo and Paris dead. Juliet wakes and sees Romeo.



**Friar Lawrence, fearing they will be found, leaves her alone in the tomb. Juliet kisses Romeo, hoping some poison may remain for her. But, finding there is none, she uses Romeo's dagger to stab herself.**

*“O happy dagger!  
This is thy sheath; there rest, and let me die.”*

**Benvolio and the Watch discover the three dead in the tomb. Friar Lawrence is brought back and confesses Romeo and Juliet's marriage and subsequent tragic deaths to Capulet, Lady Capulet Montague and the Prince. Capulet and Montague, united in their grief, agree to stop fighting.**



*“Some shall be pardoned, and some punished.  
For never was there a story of more woe  
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.”*