ROMEO AND JULIET
...AND HAMLET, TOO

By Jack L. Nuzum

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STORY OF THE PLAY

The characters are as familiar as not,
Though the balcony scene's in a burger joint parking lot!
Juliet is the junk food queen of school
Who's dating T-Bull, a jealous, vicious fool.
They are Capulets, who wear distinctive caps,
While Romeo's group promotes a dress code rift
As Monteboots, wearing...well, you get the drift.

Here's Romeo and Juliet, along with Hamlet and Ophelia, updated as today's high school campus personalities! Written in couplets, the ferocious rhymes create much of the humor. With its nice mix of characters, the high school faculty will even want to join in the performances. The script also includes many opportunities to insert local information and take jabs at rival schools making your performance unique to your school and magnifying the fun. Split stage and pantomime scenes help keep the play moving, and there's room for creative staging and slapstick. With a lot of high school heartaches and bad rhymes, we guarantee you'll enjoy this version of Shakespeare as never before!

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(7 M, 4 W, 10 Flexible)

PRINCIPAL: School principal.
T-BULL: Juliet's bully boyfriend, a Capulet.
MERCURY: Romeo's buddy, a Monteboot.
BENJI: Romeo's best friend, a Monteboot.
ROMEO: Male lead, a Monteboot.
JULIET: Female lead, a Capulet.
OPHELIA: Juliet's best friend, a Capulet.
PARIS: Student with crush on Juliet, a Capulet.
NURSE: School nurse and Juliet's confidant.
HAMLET: Ophelia's boyfriend, a Capulet.
MR. LAWRENCE: Counselor and Romeo's confidant.
ENGLISH TEACHER: Teacher at the school.
ROSALINE: Romeo's former girlfriend.
NEW PRINCIPAL: Puts an end to the fighting.
EXTRAS: 2-3 adults (asst. principal/security aides).
3-4 students for group scenes.

(Phrases in brackets [ ] should be replaced with names and places appropriate to local audience.)

Performance time: About 90 minutes.

SETTINGS

ACT I:

Scene 1:	School hall.
Scene 2:	School hall.
Scene 3:	Nurse's office.
Scene 4:	School gym.
Scene 5:	Gym that evening at school dance.
Scene 6:	Parking lot of burger joint.
Scene 7:	Nurse's office.
Scene 8:	Lawrence's office.
Scene 9:	Classroom.

ACT II:

Scene 1:	Nurse's/Lawrence's office.
Scene 2:	Burger joint.
Scene 3:	Nurse's office.
Scene 4:	Rival high school.
Scene 5:	Both high schools.
Scene 6:	Teachers' lounge.
Scene 7:	School hall.
Scene 8:	Nurse's/Lawrence's offices.
Scene 9:	School hall.

Scenery and props notes located at back of the script.

PROLOGUE

(In BLACKOUT, characteristic beep on speaker and morning announcements begin.)

PRINCIPAL: Also today that spunky speech team bunch
Will be selling spam again at lunch.
Let's help the school and buy the spam up fast
As it has caused some problems after lunch with gas.
Now, students, please, I have some important words:
Our high school halls have lately been disturbed
By feuding of a most unsettling sort
That some of you take as lightly as a sport.
But I, your principal, am here to say
That those who further break the peace will pay.
If any more disturbances appear,
The consequences all will be severe.
Can't we start to care for more than dress?
These caps and boots have caused so much distress.
Channel your energies to something right
And cheer to vict'ry, our basketball team tonight.
That's all the announcements, I don't want to nag.
Now stand up and turn to face our flag.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: School hallway with lockers and a bench. A small group of MONTEBOOTS enter, admiring a new pair of distinctive boots. A group of CAPULETS enter noticing the boots and start to make fun. The two groups are distinctively dressed, one in bright baseball caps and the other in big boots. They taunt each other chanting their slogans.)

CAPULETS: C-A-P-P-P, U-L-E-T-T! CAPULET! CAPULET! CAPULET!
MONTEBOOTS: MONTE-BOOT! MONTE-BOOT! DON'T GIVE A HOOT, GIVE 'EM THE BOOT!

(On this last "BOOT" one of the Monteboots, MERCURY, actually kicks T-BULL. EVERYONE gets quiet. T-Bull takes his cap and puts it on backwards. Everyone reacts.)

T-BULL: Let me tickle your baby booties, punk.
MERCURY: Ah, turn your hat around, T-Bull.
T-BULL: Why? Scared of a fight, Merc the Jerk?
MERCURY: No, the other way covers more of your ugly face!

(Laughs from the MONTEBOOTS; anger from the CAPULET side. T-BULL moves threateningly towards MERCURY who stands his ground, ready to fight. BENJI moves from the crowd to try and stop the fight.)

BENJI: Part, fools, you know not what you do!
T-BULL: Oh, Benji the peacemaker here again, I see.
I hate peace as I hate boots and thee!

(T-BULL pushes BENJI down, MERCURY defends his friend, and a free-for-all begins with appropriate music, perhaps "Kung-Fu Fighting.")

End of Freeview

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