William Shakespeare's

ROMEO AND JULIET

Adapted by Tim Wright

DEDICATION

This adaptation is dedicated to Fran Scoble and all the actresses, designers, artists and technicians at Westridge, where this version had its premiere. Thank you for your dreams, talent and magic. "...a thousand times goodnight."

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STORY

The immortal tale of the star-crossed lovers finally comes to the stage in a manageable adaptation, which runs ninety minutes. All of the romance, action, suspense, comedy, drama and beautiful imagery is here, condensed without affecting the enjoyment of the Bard's original masterpiece. An exciting and beautiful adaptation, this version is a wonderful resource for all high school and college drama departments, as well as community theatre productions. The condensed text is easy for even the novice actor or audience member to understand, features very simple settings and still thunders along with all the inevitability of the great Shakespearean tragedy that it is. As fresh today as when it was written, *Romeo and Juliet* is ripe for visual interpretation while its characters, language and themes remain eternal.

PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

"William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet," as adapted by Tim Wright, had its premiere performance at Westridge School for Girls in Pasadena, California on October 26, 2001 in Braun Center for the Performing Arts, under the direction of Tim Wright. Technical Direction and Fight Choreography by Chris Gebhart; Assistant Direction by Anna Koonin; Performing Arts Coordination by Paul Tzanetopoulos; Stage Management by Christine Wagner, Andi Striber, Christie Pang; Costume Design by Alexandra Cacciatore; Costume Assisting by Heather Gillooly; Properties by Julia Long and Michelle Rengarajan; Light Board Operation by Kristin Prasifka; and Choreography by Kashmir Blake, Prudence Heyert and Emily Fultz.

The cast included:

Gregory…Kate Swartz
Abraham…Jamie Rokus
Benvolio… Ariana Chulack
Mercutio… Amara Gyulai
Rosaline…Caroline Cha
Lady Capulet…Morgan Muir
Lady Montague…Lauren Otero
Romeo...Burke Butler
Nurse...Angela Markle
Female Servant...Heidi Denenholz
Another Capulet...Ruby Vassar
First Watchman...Janice Ko
Sampson...Caroline Sill
Balthasar...Jessey Seiler
Tybalt...Clare Payton
First Citizen...Tory Woolner
Capulet...Pryanka Narayan
Montague...Julia Rasmussen
Prince…Meredith Snider
Paris....Kimberly Simms
Juliet...Brianna Deutsch
Peter...Mary Jane Boltz
Friar Laurence...Jane Hoffman

CAST

23 parts; doubling possible;
women may be cast in many of the male roles

GREGORY
SAMPSON
ABRAHAM
BALTHASAR
BENVOLIO
TYBALT
MERCUTIO
FIRST CITIZEN
ROSALINE *(non-speaking)*
CAPULET
LADY CAPULET
MONTAGUE
LADY MONTAGUE
PRINCE
ROMEO
PARIS
NURSE
JULIET
FEMALE SERVANT
PETER
ANOTHER CAPULET *(non-speaking)*
FRIAR LAURENCE
FIRST WATCHMAN

ACT I

PROLOGUE

(The stage is dark. Slowly, a spotlight illuminates the PRINCE, who stands center stage. He speaks directly to the audience.)

PRINCE: Two households, both alike in dignity,
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;
Whole misadventured piteous overthrows
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.

(Stage LIGHTS fade out.)

END OF PROLOGUE

SCENE I

(Verona. A public place. A hot afternoon. Stage LIGHTS up. Enter SAMPSON and GREGORY, of the house of Capulet, armed with swords and bucklers. Various characters may be milling about the town square, if so desired.)

GREGORY: The quarrel is between our masters and us their men. Here comes the house of the Montagues.
SAMPSON: My naked weapon is out: quarrel, I will back thee.
GREGORY: How! turn thy back and run?
SAMPSON: Fear me not.
GREGORY: No, marry; I fear thee!
SAMPSON: Let us take the law of our sides; let them begin.

GREGORY: I will frown as I pass by, and let them take it as they list.
SAMPSON: Nay, as they dare. I will bite my thumb at them; which is a disgrace to them, if they bear it.

(Enter ABRAHAM and BALTHASAR.)

ABRAHAM: Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?
SAMPSON: I do bite my thumb, sir.
ABRAHAM: Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?
SAMPSON: *(Aside to Gregory.)* Is the law of our side, if I say ay?
GREGORY: No.
SAMPSON: No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, sir, but I bite my thumb, sir.
GREGORY: Do you quarrel, sir?
ABRAHAM: Quarrel sir! no, sir.
SAMPSON: If you do, sir, I am for you: I serve as good a man as you.
ABRAHAM: No better.
SAMPSON: Well, sir.
GREGORY: Say 'better:' here comes one of my master's kinsmen.
SAMPSON: Yes, better, sir.
ABRAHAM: You lie.
SAMPSON: Draw, if you be men. Gregory, remember thy swashing blow.

(THEY fight. Enter BENVOLIO, who immediately breaks up the brawl.)

BENVOLIO: Part, fools!
Put up your swords; you know not what you do.

(HE beats down their swords with his. Enter TYBALT.)

TYBALT: What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds? Turn thee, Benvolio, look upon thy death.

BENVOLIO: I do but keep the peace: put up thy sword,
Or manage it to part these men with me.
TYBALT: What, drawn, and talk of peace! I hate the word,
As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee:
Have at thee, coward!

(THEY fight. Enter, several CITIZENS of both houses, who join the fray; then enter citizens, with clubs.)

FIRST CITIZEN: Clubs, bills, and partisans! Strike! Beat them down! Down with the Capulets! Down with the Montagues!

(Enter CAPULET in his gown, and LADY CAPULET.)

CAPULET: What noise is this? Give me my long sword, ho!
LADY CAPULET: A crutch, a crutch!
Why call you for a sword?
CAPULET: My sword, I say! Old Montague is come,
And flourishes his blade in spite of me.

(Enter MONTAGUE and LADY MONTAGUE.)

MONTAGUE: Thou villain Capulet,-Hold me not, let me go.
LADY MONTAGUE: Thou shalt not stir a foot to seek a foe.

(Enter PRINCE, with ATTENDANTS.)

PRINCE: Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,
Profaners of this neighbor-stained steel,-
Throw your mistemper'd weapons to the ground.
And hear the sentence of your moved prince.
Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word,
By thee, old Capulet, and Montague,
Have thrice disturb'd the quiet of our streets.
If ever you disturb our streets again,
Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.
For this time, all the rest depart away:
You Capulet; shall go along with me:

End of Freeview

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