

# ROMEO & JULIUS

*"For ne'er was there a story of more woe  
Than this of Julius and his Romeo."*

# ROMEO & JULIUS

## The Expo

THE PLOT

ENTER JULIUS, EXEUNT JULIET:

THE ADAPTATION

THE CHARACTERS

WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

REHEARSAL STRUCTURE

PERFORMANCE DATES

QUESTIONS?





# THE PLOT

*An age-old vendetta between two powerful families erupts into bloodshed.*

*A group of masked Montagues risk further conflict by gatecrashing a Capulet party.*

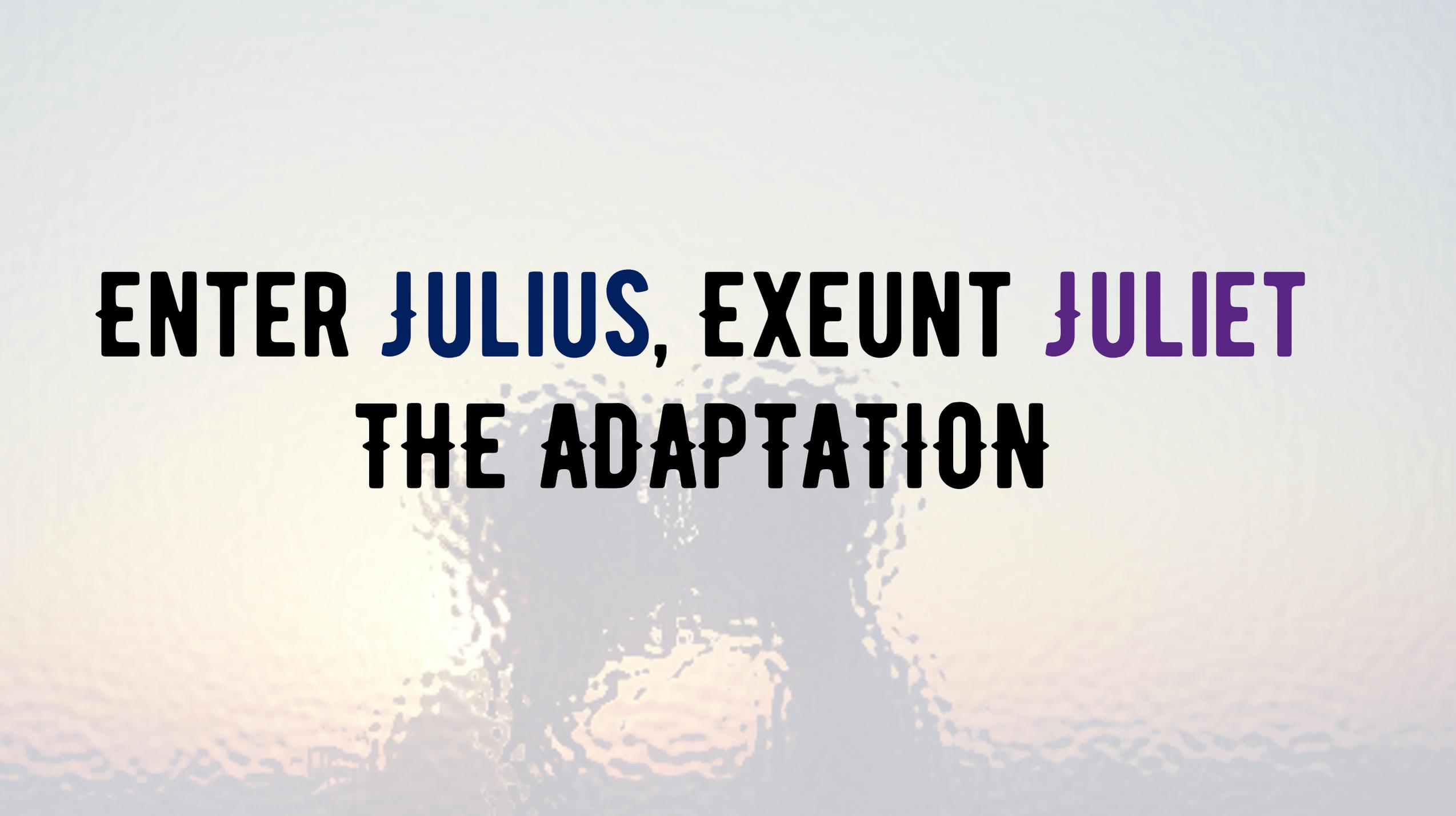
*A young lovesick Romeo Montague falls instantly in love with Juliet Capulet, who is due to marry her father's choice, the County Paris.*

*With the help of Juliet's nurse, the women arrange for the couple to marry the next day, but Romeo's attempt to halt a street fight leads to the death of Juliet's own cousin, Tybalt, for which Romeo is banished.*

*In a desperate attempt to be reunited with Romeo, Juliet follows the Friar's plot and fakes her own death.*

*The message fails to reach Romeo, and believing Juliet dead, he takes his life in her tomb. Juliet wakes to find Romeo's corpse beside her and kills herself.*

*The grieving family agree to end their feud.*



**ENTER JULIUS, EXEUNT JULIET**  
**THE ADAPTATION**

**WE WILL USE SHAKESPEARE'S  
SCRIPT, WHICH HAS BEEN  
EDITED ACCORDINGLY**

*THE SCRIPT HAS BEEN REINTERPRETED + EDITED, NOT REWRITTEN!*



**MODERN, CONTEMPORARY SETTING**

# **JULIUS WILL BE GAY, BUT NOT OPENLY WITH HIS FAMILY**

*THIS ALLOWS HIM TO CONFIDE IN THE NURSE BUT NOT THE WIDER FAMILY  
THE CAPULETS WANT HIM TO MARRY NOBILITY  
THIS ALSO WIDENS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN HIM AND THE WISHES, AND  
BEHAVIOUR, OF HIS FAMILY*

# PARIS WILL BE CAST FEMALE

*THIS IS THE CHARACTER JULIUS'S PARENTS WANT HIM TO MARRY.*

# ROMEO WILL NOT DISCOVER HE IS GAY/BISEXUAL UNTIL HE MEETS JULIUS

*IN THE BEGINNING, HE WILL BE IN LOVE WITH ROSALINE, WHO WILL  
REMAIN FEMALE.*

*THIS ADDS MUCH MORE WEIGHT TO THEIR 'LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT'  
MEETING, AND WE WILL MAKE LOTS OF THAT.*

# **BENVOLIO PROBABLY KNOWS THOUGH, BEING ROMEO'S CLOSE FRIEND**

*ADDING MORE WEIGHT TO THE FRIENDSHIP AND MANY OF THE LINES  
BENVOLIO SAYS TO ROMEO TO HELP HIM GET OVER ROSALINE IN THE  
BEGINNING OF THE PLAY.*



**THE FRIAR BECOMES EVEN  
MORE SYMPATHETIC WITH  
THIS INTERPRETATION**

**AND MERCUTIO'S SEXUAL  
INNUENDOS TAKE ON A  
WHOLE NEW LEVEL OF  
REACTION**

# OVERALL, ROMEO & JULIUS...

- Adds a new, interesting and ambitious angle to one of the most famous plays in the world
- Shines a light on issues in the modern world, despite being c.430 years old (knife crime, male suicide, LGBTQ+ issues), whilst still keeping most of the issues scholars still discuss about the play
- Creates impact and meaning in new places
- Will allow us to interpret Shakespeare's text in new and exciting ways in the rehearsal room
- Will deliver a show which is inclusive, diverse and interesting in the city, it has already had an incredible amount of interest, excitement and reaction since we announced it.

# CHARACTERS

A collection of colorful party accessories including a red wig, black glasses, a black mustache, and a pink nose, surrounded by confetti on a light blue wooden surface.

**ROMEO**  
**MALE, 18 YEARS**  
**OLD (APPROX.)**

The son and heir of Montague and Lady Montague. A young man of approximately eighteen in this production (16 in ShakeseyP's original), Romeo is intelligent and sensitive, although at times a bit erratic. He is a likeable character.

At the start of our play, he is in love with Rosaline, a girl, but upon meeting Julius everything clicks into place and he realises his true feelings and sexuality.

He is good friends with Benvolio, Mercutio and Friar Lawrence.

**JULIUS**  
**MALE, 18 YEARS**  
**OLD (APPROX.)**

The son of Capulet and Lady Capulet.

He has a different upbringing to Romeo, with a Nurse looking after him and pressures from the Capulet parents.

In our production, he is seventeen, and pressures from his family means they want him to marry noble Paris (F).

He is secretly and closeted gay and knows it throughout, but is in conflict because he does not want to disappoint his family traditions.

Meeting Romeo changes all this, and love changes the way he behaves, trusting Romeo implicitly.

**BENVOLIO**  
**FEMALE**  
**18 – 30**

Montague's nephew/niece, Romeo's cousin and thoughtful friend, s/he makes a genuine effort to defuse violent scenes in public places. Spends most of the play trying to help Romeo get his mind off Rosaline, even after Romeo has fallen in love with Juliet. There are hints here that Benvolio might realise Romeo is gay/bisexual before he does, which can be explored to add more depth.

**MERCUTIO**  
**MALE**  
**18 – 35**

Romeo's close friend and kinsman to the Prince. Mercutio is hot-headed and loves a sexual double-entendre. He finds Romeo's romanticised ideas about love tiresome and thinks he should look at it as a simple matter of sexual appetite. He is bold and extroverted.

**FRIAR LAWRENCE**  
**MALE**  
**40+**

Friend to both Romeo and Julius. Kind, civic-minded, a proponent of moderation and always ready with a plan, Friar Lawrence secretly marries the two lovers hoping it might reunite the conflicting families.

**PARIS  
FEMALE**

**30+**

A suitor for Julius arranged by Capulet due to the titles and nobility Paris has. She is presumptuous once Capulet informs her she can marry Julius.

This part is typically male so will be a really interesting and exciting role to take on.

**NURSE**  
**FEMALE**  
**40+**

Julius's nurse.  
Sentimental, long-winded and vulgar, but in the nicest possible way. She is a faithful confidante and loyal friend of Julius, supporting him through his love for Romeo.

**TYBALT**  
**MALE**  
**25+**

Capulet. Julius' cousin on his mother's side. Vain, fashionable, supremely aware of courtesy and the lack of it, he becomes aggressive, violent and quick to draw his sword.

He loathes Montagues.

# **CHARACTERS**

## **PRINCE (M/F):**

**Prince/ss of Verona. A kinsman of Mercutio and Paris. Concerned with maintaining public peace at all costs, and has great power.**

# **CHARACTERS**

## **CAPULET, MALE, 45+**

The head of the Capulet family, father of Julius, husband of Lady Capulet, and enemy of Montague. He truly loves his son, but wants him to marry the right status and thinks he knows best, and matches him with Paris.

## **LADY CAPULET, FEMALE, 45+**

Julius's mother, Capulet's wife. Also eager to see her son marry Paris. She is quite an ineffectual mother, relying on the Nurse for moral support.

# **CHARACTERS**

## **SAMPSON (M) & GREGORY (M/F):**

Two servants of the House of Capulet, who hate the Montagues. At the outset of the play, they successfully provoke some Montague men into a fight.

## **ABRAM (M/F):**

Montague's servant, who fights with Sampson and Gregory in the first scene of the play. Can double up as ensemble.

# CHARACTERS

**MONTAGUE (M):** Romeo's father, patriarch of the Montague clan and bitter enemy of Capulet.

**LADY MONTAGUE (F):** Romeo's mother. She dies of grief after Romeo is exiled from Verona.

**FRIAR JOHN (M/F):** A brief appearance in the second half, Friar John is responsible for taking news of Julius' fake death to Romeo, but doesn't get there. This character will double up as ensemble.

**BALTHASAR (M):** Romeo's dedicated servant, who has a brief appearance in the second half. The character will double up as ensemble.

**ENSEMBLE (M/F):** There are some ensemble roles up for grabs for those interested in taking part but not wanting to get too involved or have too many lines to learn.

# CHARACTERS

ROMEO

JULIUS

FRIAR  
LAWRENCE

MERCUTIO

BENVOLIO

NURSE

SAMPSON

GREGORY

ABRAM

CAPULET

PRINCE  
ESCALUS

LADY  
CAPULET

MONTAGUE

LADY  
MONTAGUE

PARIS

FRIAR JOHN

BALTHASAR

ENSEMBLE

# CHARACTERS

Romeo (Male, playing age c.18 years old)

Julius (Male, playing age c.18 years old)

Benvolio (Female/Male, 18 – 30 years old)

Mercutio (Male, 18 – 30 years old)

Nurse (Female, 40+ years old)

Friar Lawrence (Male/potentially female, 45+ years old)

Tybalt (Male, 25+ years old)

Paris (Female, c.30+ years old)

Capulet (Male, 50+ years old)

Lady Capulet (Female, 50+ years old)

Montague (Male, 50+ years old)

Lady Montague (Female, 40+ years old)

Prince Escalus (Female/Male, 30+ years old)

Friar John (Male/Female, any age)

Balthasar (Male, any age)

Sampson (Male, any age)

Gregory (Male/Female, any age)

Abram (Male, any age)

Ensemble (Male/Female, any age)

The background of the image features the dark silhouettes of two people, likely a man and a woman, looking towards the center. They appear to be in a dimly lit room, possibly a theater or a lecture hall, with their attention focused on a point of interest in the center of the frame.

# ROMEO & JULIUS

INTERESTED?  
*Get Involved!*

# ***WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?***

**MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 7:30PM**

**WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 7:30PM**

**SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 1PM**

**Workshops will be fun audition alternatives!**

**You should only attend **one** workshop**

**If you are interested in playing Romeo or Julius, you do not need to attend these workshops (just speak to me)**

**They are all to be held in the Omega Centre Annexe**



# SHOW DATES

- The show is being staged at Groundlings Theatre in Old Portsmouth from March 15th – 18th 2023
- You must be free on Sunday 12th of March 2023 and every evening in the week that follows (except Sunday)
- A script read-through will be scheduled for the first week of January
- Rehearsals will commence in the second week of January and run for nine weeks up until the show
- Rehearsals will take place on selected weeknights (7:30pm – 10pm) and Sunday mornings (10am – 1pm), and will be scheduled according to cast availability

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# THANK YOU!