

Romeo and Juliet

Information Sheet

Auditions: Tuesday, November 12th Wednesday, November 13th 3:40PM Studio Theater

Callbacks: Monday, November 18th 3:40PM Auditorium

Performances: Friday and Saturday, February 14th & 15th

FAQs

- Cast of 25+ the best actors for each role will be cast regardless of gender
- Gender blind casting except for the characters of Romeo and Juliet
- The first rehearsal will be on Thursday, December 12th
- There will be sword fighting choreographed by Mr. Tim Frawley of Forte Stage Combat
- We will not be using accents, we will let Shakespeare's poetry do the work for the audience
- Other questions: please email me kevin.holly@d128.org or stop by Room 106
- It ends badly
- Please prepare a Shakespearean sonnet for the open audition. It **does not** need to be memorized.
- What Is a Shakespearean Sonnet?
 - Shakespearean sonnets feature the following elements:
 - They are fourteen lines long.
 - The fourteen lines are divided into four subgroups.
 - The first three subgroups have four lines each, which makes them "quatrains," with the second and fourth lines of each group containing rhyming words.
 - The sonnet then concludes with a two-line subgroup, and these two lines rhyme with each other.
 - There are typically ten syllables per line, which are phrased in iambic pentameter.

A sample sonnet

Sonnet 18

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

A tragedy written by William Shakespeare early in his career about two young star-crossed lovers whose deaths ultimately reconcile their feuding families. It was among Shakespeare's most popular plays during his lifetime and along with *Hamlet*, is one of his most frequently performed plays.

Today, the title characters are regarded as archetypal young lovers. *Romeo and Juliet* belongs to a tradition of tragic romances stretching back to antiquity. The plot is based on an Italian tale translated into verse as *The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet* by Arthur Brooke and retold in prose in *Palace of Pleasure* by William Painter. Shakespeare borrowed heavily from both but expanded the plot by developing a number of supporting characters, particularly Mercutio and Paris.

Shakespeare's use of his poetic dramatic structure (especially effects such as switching between comedy and tragedy to heighten tension, his expansion of minor characters, and his use of sub-plots to embellish the story) has been praised as an early sign of his dramatic skill. The play ascribes different poetic forms to different characters, sometimes changing the form as the character develops. Romeo, for example, grows more adept at the sonnet over the course of the play.

Dramatis Personae:

Escalus, prince of Verona

Paris, a young nobleman

Montague, one head of warring households

Lady Montague, wife to Montague

Romeo, son to Montague

Capulet, one head of warring households

Lady Capulet, wife to Capulet

Juliet, daughter to Capulet

Nurse to Juliet

Mercutio, kinsman to the prince, and friend to Romeo

Benvolio, nephew to Montague, and friend to Romeo

Tybalt, nephew to Lady Capulet

Old man, cousin to Capulet

Friar Laurence, Friar John; Franciscans

Balthasar, servant to Romeo

Sampson, Gregory; servants to Capulet

Peter, servant to Juliet's nurse

Abraham, servant to Montague

An Apothecary

Musicians

Page to Paris

Citizens of Verona; Guards, Watchmen, and Attendants