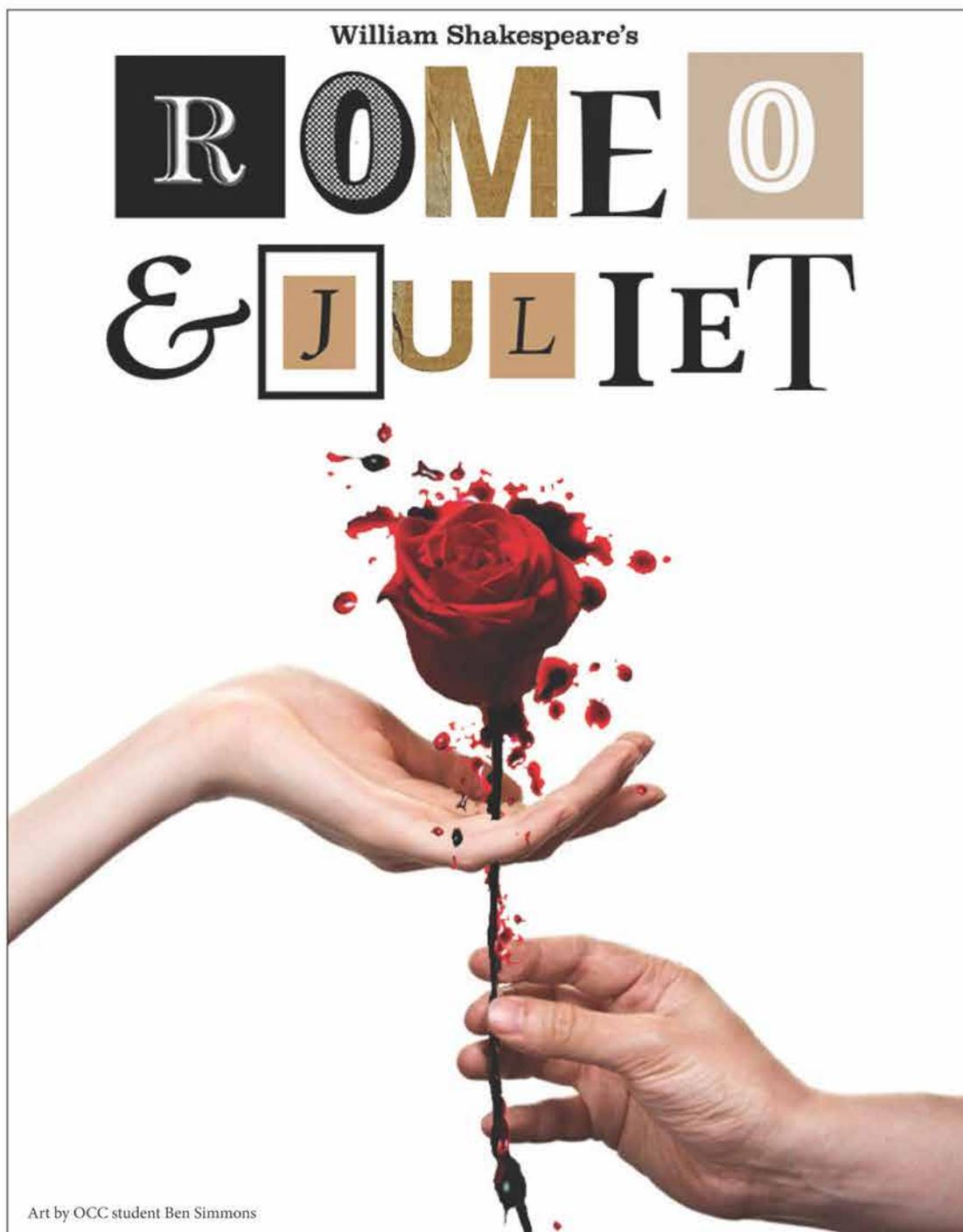


Syracuse Shakespeare Festival



Directed by Ronnie Bell Produced by the SSF Production Board



Special appearances: Syracuse City Ballet
and Open Hand Theater
Musical guests at pre-show and intermission

Fri. June 2 @ 10:00AM
Sat. June 3 & 10 and
Fri. June 9 @ 5:30PM
Sun. June 4 & 11 @ 2:00 PM

For more info: 315-476-1835 or syrsf.org
Thornden Park Amphitheatre
Syracuse, NY

Pay-What-You-Can
Suggested donation- \$5

- FREE Parking
- Food for sale at the Thornden Park Bulldogs' Concession Stand
- Ice Cream for sale from Gannon's Isle



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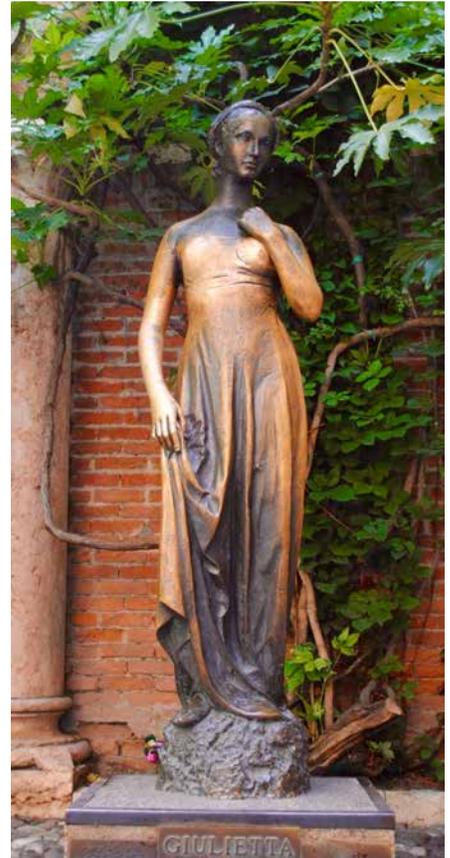
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The Boards of the Syracuse Shakespeare Festival acknowledge and appreciate the financial support of our corporate and foundation sponsors, our government contributors, individual donors, Syracuse University and all who have become Friends of SSF since April 2011.

CAST

in alphabetical order

Romeo	.....	Aaron Alexander
Juliet	.....	Bella Calabria
Nurse	.....	Marisa Chism
Sampson, Tybalt's Page	.....	Jennifer Cutter
Benvolio	.....	Jacqueline DeJohn
Gregory, Balthasar	.....	Herbert "Tone" Merrick
Friar Laurence	.....	Simon Moody
Tybalt	.....	Jesse Navagh
Lady Montague, Apothecary	.....	Anna Post
Lord Capulet	.....	Bob Reid
Abram, Mercutio, Friar John	.....	Stephen Shepherd
Lady Capulet	.....	Liz Stanistreet
Prince Escalus	.....	Samuel Tamburo
Paris	.....	Ethan Washburn
Lord Montague, Peter	.....	Derrick Whitt

Special Appearance Credits

Syracuse City Ballet Dancers

<i>June 2, 3 & 4</i>	.....	Dominic Fortunato, Kathryn Galimi
<i>June 9, 10 & 11</i>	.....	Makayla Kanerviko, Jose Carlo Pino
SCB Ballet Mistress and Choreographer	.....	Rachael Cierniakoski
SCB Artistic Director and Choreographer	.....	Kathleen Rathbun

Open Hand Theater

Puppet Design & Construction	.....	Vladimir Vasyagin
Associate Puppeteer	.....	Caitlin Friedberg
Artistic Director	.....	Peter Fekete

Syracuse Country Dancers: *Upon A Summer's Day* by Samuel Pepys

Choreographer	.....	Bob Nicholson
Musicians		
Fiddle	.....	Eileen Nicholson
Guitar	.....	David Smukler
Recorder	.....	Laurel Smukler

PRODUCTION TEAM

Tech Director Rand Hurrle

Sound Technician/Associate Puppeteer, ASMCaitlin Friedberg

Costume Designers..... Barbara Toman & Simon Moody

Crew Gerard Gridley
Jessica Bland

Cover Design OCC Art Student Ben Simmons
Prof. Bruce Osborne

Fight Choreography Ben Sheedy

Publicity Photography Francois James

Arts Administration Intern, House Manager Rachel Polman

Stage Manager Anne Childress

Producer SSF Production Board

Director Ronnie Bell



Juliet's Statue

DIRECTOR'S VISION

SSF's *Shakespeare-On-The-Grass series* is a very challenging environment for producing Shakespeare, but in the Elizabethan tradition of the Bard, the show must go on through the "mystery of theater." (see ***Shakespeare in Love***)

Romeo and Juliet (R&J) hereafter) has a number of scenes that are difficult to stage but the unique environment of our beautiful **Thornden Park Amphitheater** also provides a perfect venue to address some of those issues- especially the balcony scene.

The addition of the exquisite pas de deux from **Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*** as danced by the charming, fluid and alluring featured dancers from the **Syracuse City Ballet** brings a romantic and dramatic beginning to our prologue that matches the tragedy and beauty of the epilogue.

Mix in the puppetry of **Open Hand Theater** and the period dance *Upon a Summer's Day* taught by Bob Nicholson of the **Syracuse Country Dancers** and the mystery, miracle and magic are almost guaranteed.

If you suspend your disbelief along with me you'll be able to see and feel the same atmosphere **Shakespeare** tried to create in the **Globe Theater** 400 years ago as **Barbara Toman's** brilliantly coordinated and conceived Elizabethan costumes (with a big boost from **Simon Moody's** vast collection) and the acting of a creative cauldron of a contemporary generation bring you to Mantua and Verona where the statue of Juliet is a testament to the power of love to overcome the forces of hate.

Special Thanks

Thornden Park Association, Jyvonna Chambers,
Rhonda Zajac and Thornden Park Bulldogs



Dedication

Dedication

SSF lost one of our best friends, Kevin Walker, to an untimely death at age 55. He was a stalwart friend during every SSF event but his loss is especially felt during our summer season when he dedicated himself to helping us with his considerable engineering skills and a very strong and willing back. Our hearts go out to his entire family but especially to his widow, our beloved Board member, Loreen Walker, and their two beautiful children, Brianne, who appeared in our first ten SITP shows from 2003 through 2012, and Griffin who looks like his dad and walks in his father's footsteps.

*The Producer, Director, and Boards of the Syracuse Shakespeare Festival
regret any errors or omissions in this program.*

ACTORS' BIOS



Aaron Alexander (*Romeo*) is reprising his role from *Abridged Romeo and Juliet* in April's **SSF-SCSD** high school tour. His next role will be *Orlando* in **SSF's** flagship series show, *As You Like It*, August 11-20, 2017 right here in Thornden Park's Amphitheatre.

Bella Calabria (*Juliet*) last directed *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. She graduated from **Manhattanville College** with a **BA** in **Theatre** and plans to pursue a career in directing.



Marisa Chism (*Nurse*) last played the *Mouse King* in *The Nutcracker* she wrote and directed for the Town of Clay. Her next project is *The Polar Express*.

Jennifer Cutter (*Sampson, Tybalt's Page*) has enjoyed acting in *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night* and *Measure for Measure*. Presently, she is exploring the world of improvisation with the **Syracuse Improv Collective**.

Jacqueline DeJohn (*Benvolio*) was last seen in the independent film *Shooting Stars* and is currently editing her second novel, *The Gift*, to be published by **HarperCollins**.

Herbert "Tone" Merrick (*Gregory, Balthasar*) last appeared in *It's a Wonderful Life* at **CNY Playhouse**. He will be in **SSF's** next show *As You Like It* in August.

Simon Moody (*Friar Laurence*) LOVES Shakespeare! See him do bloody murder for **SSF** as *Macbeth* in February 2018. Ever your humble servant! Enjoy!



... here as *Sigmund Freud* in *Freud's Last Session* last December for **SSF**

... here, *R*, as *Friar Laurence* in June's *R&J*



ACTORS' BIOS

Jesse Navagh (Tybalt) is also reprising his role from the **SSF-SCSD** high school tour of ***Abridged Romeo and Juliet***. He is a ***Ghostwalk*** actor for the **Onondaga Historical Association** throughout the year.

Anna Post (*Lady Montague/Apothecary*) last played *Punch and Judy/Mary* in the **Auburn Players** production of ***Scrooge***. Next, she performs as *Maria Clinton* in ***Clinton's Ditch*** opening June 26th at **Devaney's River Restaurant**, Weedsport.

Bob Reid (*Capulet*) just finished playing *Capulet* in the ***Abridged R&J SSF/SCSD School Tour*** and is pleased to continue his expanded role in the full production with **SSF**. Life is good!

Stephen Shepherd (*Abram/Mercutio/Friar John*) is making his **SSF** debut and will be playing *Charles* in **SSF's As You Like It** this August. He last appeared as *Jacques* in the **Univ. of New Haven's As You Like It**.

Liz Stanistreet (*Lady Capulet*) last played *Sandrine* in **Auburn Player's Almost Maine**. She will be transferring to **SUNY Oswego** in the fall to pursue a **BA in Public Relations**.

Samuel Tamburo (*Prince Escalus*) played the *Lord* in **SSF's All's Well** last summer and will next appear as *Duke Frederick* in ***As You Like It*** for **SSF** in August. He played the *Prince* for **SSF** in January 2009 at **SU's Cantor Warehouse Theater**.

Ethan Washburn (*Paris*) is making his debut on the **SSF** stage at **Thornden Park's** beautiful **Amphitheatre**. Making rehearsals on time is easy for him because he lives right down the block from **Thornden Park**.

Derrick Whitt (*Montague, Peter*) will appear in ***Salt City*** from **East Erie Blvd Pictures**. He is currently working on a new album, playing bass guitar with **Lumination**, an instrumental rock band he co-founded.





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please print your name for our friends list

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4. Name listed in annual Friends of SSF (FOSSF) playbill/program
5. Opinions sought for selection of future productions
6. Receipt of semi-annual e-mail newsletter

YOUR COST PER YEAR: \$10-Bard Club; \$25-Angels Club; \$50-Globe Club; \$100-Folio Club

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER?

General Volunteer _____

Production Volunteer _____ (please specify acting, directing, designing, etc.)

Board member _____ (please specify your area of interest or expertise)

Send your completed form and a check payable to SSF to:

Nancy Cantor Warehouse
350 W. Fayette St., VPA, Room 001
Syracuse, NY 13202
Attn: SSF Friends

SYNOPSIS

Act 1:

* The Montagues and Capulets find many different ways to fight with each other for a reason or no reason at all. The Prince admonishes both families for public fighting and threatens to execute future offenders. Lady and Lord Montague ask about Romeo's state of mind and Romeo shares his latest amorous feelings with his friend Benvolio.* Lord Capulet asks County Paris to woo Juliet at his feast that night and Romeo discovers who the invited guests are and agrees with Benvolio's suggestion to look at other women.* Lady Capulet and The Nurse try to convince Juliet of Paris' marriage worthiness.* On the way to the feast Benvolio and Romeo are mesmerized by Mercutio's Queen Mab dream but Romeo expresses his foreboding.* Lord Capulet welcomes all the maskers to the feast and a favorite English dance unfolds while Juliet looks for Paris and Romeo is lovestruck by Juliet. Tybalt resents Romeo's presence at the feast but Lord Capulet forcefully persuades him to demure. Juliet falls in love with Romeo but is shocked to find out he is a Montague.

Act 2:

* Benvolio and Mercutio have fun looking for the hiding Romeo in vain.* Romeo sees Juliet on her balcony and waxes poetic about her beauty. He climbs her orchard walls to see her. Juliet confesses her love for Romeo without knowing he is listening and is a bit embarrassed. Their newfound love deepens as they talk and kiss. Juliet asks Romeo to prove he is serious about loving her by marrying her. They part with the promise of marriage the next day.* Friar Laurence assumes Romeo is still love sick for Rosaline. He sees Romeo's love for Juliet as a means to bring the two feuding households together.* Benvolio and Mercutio are looking for Romeo again when he appears and banter with them. The Nurse finds out that Romeo really wants to marry Juliet that afternoon.* Juliet is frustrated by The Nurse's long delay in telling her the good news about Romeo but is ecstatic when she finds out they are to be married at Friar Laurence's cell.* Friar Laurence realizes that Romeo and Juliet's marriage must take place right away and marries them.*

Act 3, S 1:

* Benvolio tries his best to convince Mercutio to avoid a public fight with Tybalt who only wants to fight with Romeo. After insulting Romeo repeatedly with no belligerent reaction from Romeo, Mercutio is disgusted by Romeo's timidity and challenges Tybalt to a fight. Tybalt readily engages him while Romeo tries to stop them from fighting by coming between them during the duel. Tybalt mortally wounds Mercutio under Romeo's arm. Tybalt flees. Benvolio carries Mercutio into a house to die. Romeo promises to exact revenge on Tybalt for Mercutio's death and kills him Tybalt after a fierce fight. Romeo runs away at Benvolio's urging. The Prince considers the appropriate punishment after listening to Benvolio, Lady Capulet and Lord Montague about how Romeo should be punished. He decides to exile Romeo from Verona. If he is found in Verona he will be put to death within an hour.*

Intermission: 15 minutes



SYNOPSIS

Act 3, S2-5:

* Juliet is eager to consummate her marriage to Romeo and awaits news from The Nurse again about Romeo. The Nurse leads Juliet to believe that Romeo is dead but then reveals Tybalt has been slain by Romeo and is banished from Verona. Juliet is sick with grief and is relieved to hear that The Nurse will go to Romeo at Friar Laurence's cell and arrange to sneak Romeo into Juliet's bedroom that night. Juliet gives The Nurse a ring to give to Romeo.* Friar Laurence works hard to convince Romeo not to take his own life and asks The Nurse to tell Juliet that Romeo is coming to her. The Nurse remembers to give Romeo the Juliet's love token.* Lord Capulet decides to arrange Juliet's marriage to Paris in three days and Lady and Lord Capulet prepare for the wedding day.* Juliet and Romeo share their love in Juliet's bed before Romeo has to slip away just before dawn to avoid detection and certain death. Lady Capulet brings Juliet the happy news that she is to be married to County Paris on Thursday. Juliet rejects that idea. Lord Capulet is very angry that Juliet refuses to abide by his will. After Lord Capulet leaves Lady Capulet rejects Juliet, too. Juliet turns to The Nurse for solace but The Nurse tries to convince her that Paris is as good as or better than Romeo. Juliet tricks The Nurse into thinking she will comply with her father's wishes but considers suicide.*

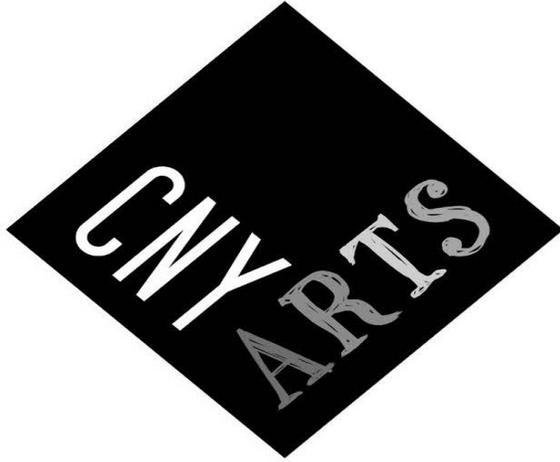
Act 4:

* Friar Laurence asks Paris about Juliet, then she comes to the Friar's cell and encounters Paris very coldly. Juliet asks for help but threatens suicide if Friar Laurence can't offer a solution. Friar Laurence asks her if she is willing to take a potion that will make it look as if she is dead in order to avoid the marriage to Paris and wind up running away with Romeo. The Friar promises to write Romeo about the plan if she agrees. Juliet agrees to take the potion.* Juliet tricks her father to believe she is willing to marry Paris.* Juliet selects her wedding clothes with The Nurse and says good night to The Nurse and Lady Capulet. Juliet has second thoughts about taking the potion but ultimately decides to do so for the love of Romeo.* Lord and Lady Capulet make plans for the wedding day and send The Nurse to wake Juliet.* The Nurse discovers Juliet is dead and wails the horrific news to everyone. Friar Laurence plays his part in convincing the family and Paris to bear her to church and lay her in the family tomb.*

Act 5:

Romeo gets the bad news from his servant Balthasar that Juliet is dead. Romeo swears to defy the stars and seeks out an Apothecary to buy poison. Romeo convinces The Apothecary to sell him a dram of deadly poison by offering him a great deal of gold. Romeo promises himself to use the poison at Juliet's tomb.* Friar John reveals to Friar Laurence that he was unable to deliver the letter telling Romeo about the plan for Juliet to fake her death. Friar Laurence orders Friar John to bring him the tools to break into the tomb. Friar Laurence thinks he can resolve the problem by getting to Juliet before Romeo.* Romeo gets to the tomb first and makes Balthasar swear he will not enter no matter what he hears within. Romeo admires Juliet's beauty even in death and says his last goodbyes before drinking the poison and dying. Friar Laurence gets into the tomb and discovers Romeo is dead just prior to Juliet waking up. Friar Laurence tries to get her out of the tomb but she adamantly refuses. Friar Laurence leaves when he hears the watchman coming to the tomb. Juliet tries to poison herself but Romeo has drunk all the poison. She takes his dagger from his belt and fatally stabs herself in the belly. The Prince enters and demands to know what has happened. Friar Laurence explains the deceit and the mistakes. The Prince calls Lord Capulet and Lord Montague together and shames them. Lord Montague vows to build a monument to Juliet in the town square for everyone to see.* The families declare their sorrow in the epilogue.

The End



This project is made possible, in part, by a Project Support Grant through the County of Onondaga and administered by CNY Arts.



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PHOTOS



The Capulets and Friar Laurence



The Montagues and The Prince



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PHOTOS



Tybalt is disdainful at Capulet's Ball



Lady Capulet, Juliet (above) & The Nurse



Three best friends in the happiest times

PHOTOS



The Prince tries to end the feuding to no avail



The Nurse is devoted to Juliet



Our actors gather backstage at the costume parade



SU's Nancy Cantor Warehouse,
350 W. Fayette St., Room 001,
Syracuse, NY 13202, 315-476-1835

Audience Survey

Which show
did you attend?
June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 or 11

Romeo & Juliet

1. *Where did you hear about the show?* (circle all that apply)

Newspaper FB Lawn Sign Internet Post Standard New Times
E-Mail Poster Friend/Family syr.com TV Radio

Other: (please specify) _____

2. *Please rate the following components of the show by checking the box:*

<i>Aspect of Show</i>	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Don't Know
Actors						
Story						
Costumes						
Music						
Direction						

3. *What's your Zip Code?* _ _ _ _ _

4. *Your comments are always read and appreciated:*

Would you like to be on our contact list for info on future shows and programs?

First Name _____ Last Name _____

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Your response is appreciated. Please hand in your survey to any volunteer.