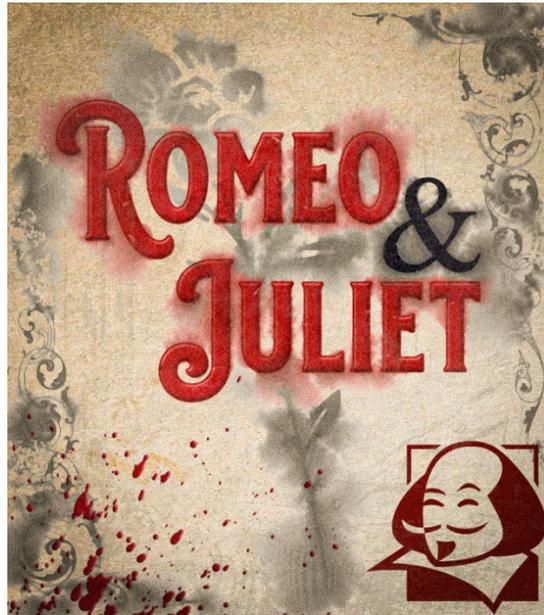


**St. Louis Shakespeare's Production of  
ROMEO AND JULIET:  
What to Expect**



## BUILDING BASICS

St. Louis Shakespeare's production of *Romeo and Juliet* will be held at the Robert Reim Theatre in Kirkwood Park.



There is ample parking in a lot behind the building. Accessible parking is available near the entrance to the theater.

The box office is to the right, just inside the front door of the theater. If you are purchasing tickets at the door or picking them up from will-call, you will need to check in at the box office. There is limited seating in the lobby, especially taking social distancing into account; if you cannot stand

for a long period of time, consider arriving either very early or closer to showtime.

The building itself is wheelchair accessible, but wheelchair-accessible seating inside the auditorium is limited. If you use a walker or cane, consider sitting near the back and near or on an aisle, since all but the back row of the auditorium must be accessed by stairs. There is no center aisle in the auditorium, so if you anticipate a need for more frequent or more urgent exits from your seat, consider sitting near the far left or far right of the house.

The box office opens one hour before showtime. If you're not comfortable waiting in a crowded lobby, consider arriving nearer to the house opening time, 30 minutes before the performance.

Restrooms are in the lobby. The men's restroom is near the box office, and the women's restroom is on the opposite side of the lobby from the box office. There is an accessible stall in each.

If you need a sensory break during the show, you're welcome to step out into the lobby or outside if the weather is favorable.

### **COVID Safety Considerations:**

- All audience members must be masked for the duration of the performance, regardless of vaccination status. If you do not feel well on the day of the performance or may have had a recent COVID exposure, please stay home.
- The cast will not be masked while performing, but will be masked offstage.

## WHAT'S ALLOWED?



You're welcome, and encouraged, to bring quiet fidget or comfort items if you need these to fully enjoy your time with us. These can include ear plugs, noise-cancelling headphones, small fidget items, or weighted vests or blankets. We ask that any items you bring be noiseless and not light up.

During the performance, phones, tablets and other electronic devices must be on silent and put away. Texting is not allowed during the performance.

Photography and recording of any kind during the performance is strictly prohibited.

There may be concessions available during intermission. You are free to enjoy these in the lobby, but are not allowed to bring them back into the auditorium.

# SHOW CONTENT

*Romeo and Juliet* is a story familiar to many, with star-crossed lovers (a phrase coined by Shakespeare in this very play!), conflict between and within their families, and its share of violence.

## The Story:

The Montague and Capulet families have been enemies for generations. Growing up in these feuding families are Juliet Capulet and Romeo Montague.

Juliet's parents and nurse hope that she will accept the courtship of Count Paris, who is invited by Juliet's father to attend a ball the Capulets are planning. Meanwhile, Romeo is infatuated with one of Lord Capulet's nieces and sneaks into the Capulet ball in hopes of meeting her. When he arrives at the ball, though, Romeo meets and falls in love with Juliet. Juliet's cousin, Tybalt, finds that Romeo – a hated Montague – has snuck into the ball, but Lord Capulet does not want bloodshed in his house and stops Tybalt from killing Romeo.



In the famous “balcony scene,” Romeo overhears Juliet at her balcony window professing her love for him. He reveals his presence, and the two agree to marry – which they secretly do the following day. They are helped by Friar Laurence, who hopes the Capulets and Montagues will reconcile for the sake of their children.

Tybalt, still enraged over Romeo's intrusion into the Capulet ball, challenges Romeo to a duel. But Romeo refuses to fight, considering Tybalt to be a kinsman through marriage now. Romeo's friend Mercutio steps in to duel Tybalt and is slain when Romeo tries to break up the fight. The guilt-stricken Romeo kills Tybalt and is exiled.

Lord Capulet agrees that Juliet will marry Count Paris, and when her parents refuse to delay the wedding, Juliet runs to Friar Laurence for help. The clergyman offers Juliet a potion that will put her in a deathlike sleep, while he sends a messenger to Romeo so he may rejoin her. Juliet takes the potion. When discovered apparently dead, she is laid in the Capulet family crypt.

Friar Laurence's messenger never reaches Romeo, who learns of Juliet's apparent death from a servant. Romeo, poison in hand, goes to the Capulet crypt and is confronted by Count Paris. Romeo kills Paris in the ensuing fight and – believing Juliet dead – drinks the poison. Juliet awakens to find Romeo dead and fatally stabs herself with his dagger. The two enemy families meet at the crypt to find the bodies of Paris, Juliet, and Romeo; the Montagues and Capulets end their feud, reconciled not by their children's marriage, but by their deaths.

**Approximate Run Time:** 2 hours, including intermission.

Intermission will take place shortly after the duel between Mercutio and Tybalt and will last 15 minutes.

## GLOSSARY

**Anon:** soon, shortly. *"I come, anon."*

**Aqua vitae:** alcoholic spirits. *"Some aqua vitae, ho! My lord! My lady!"*

**Apothecary:** druggist, pharmacist. *"O true apothecary! Thy drugs are quick."*

**Bite your thumb:** an insulting gesture. *"Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?"*

**Coz:** cousin. *"Content thee, gentle coz, let him alone."*

**Ere:** before. *"I'll tell thee, ere thou ask it me again."*

**Hie:** go quickly. *"Hie you to the cell."*

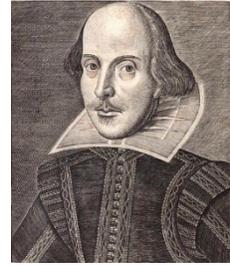
**I' faith:** in faith, truly, indeed. *"I' faith, I am sorry that thou art not well."*

**Marry:** a contraction of "by Mary," referring to Mary the mother of Jesus, used as an exclamation. *"Marry, and amen, how sound is she asleep!"*

**Rapier:** a type of sword.

**Wherefore:** not "where," but "why!" *"O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?"*

**Whither:** where. *"A fair assembly: whither should they come?"*



## SENSORY CONSIDERATIONS



There are few, if any, technical cues in this show that should present major issues for those with sensory needs.

Actors will be using the front of the stage, very close to the first few rows of the audience, at times. The first few rows of the audience are also below stage level. If you would prefer some distance between yourself and the actors, or if you would rather not have to look up to see the stage, consider sitting no closer to the stage than row D.

There will be multiple choreographed fights in the show, including the use of swords. If the sound of clashing swords will be an issue for you, feel free to bring ear protection, and consider sitting closer to the back of the theater.

