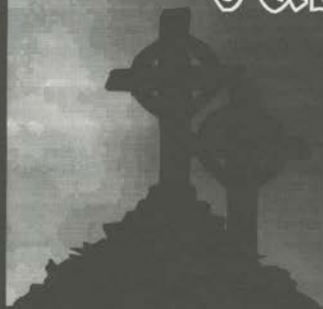


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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

Welcome! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Civic Playhouse for another season of outstanding classic favorite plays and musicals. All eight of our regular productions have at last found their way home to our own Playhouse this year, and we couldn't be more excited!

We're in the process of sprucing up the theatre with new seats (thanks to our Chair Campaign donors!), a new look for our exterior (keep your eyes open for exciting design changes!), and a few other surprises.

For the past two seasons, AACT has presented more award-winning productions than any other theatre in the Ann Arbor area, with audience and critical raves alike. This season promises no less. We're proud to present: the classic plays *On Golden Pond* and *Romeo and Juliet*; the locally written Off-Broadway produced musical *The Snow Queen*; the sublime drama of *The Trip to Bountiful* and *The Rainmaker*; the hilarious one-liners of Neil Simon's *Rumors*; the Pulitzer-Prize winning musical *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; and the time-honored heart-tugging *The Sound of Music*. This promises to be a season of favorites long to come.

Enjoy your evening at AACT. I thank you for joining us in celebrating productions that local critics have hailed as "eye-popping and perky", "magical", "magnificent", and "can't be topped." That was last season. There's more to come! It's no wonder that the single most common phrase heard around the box office this year has been "I'm coming back to Ann Arbor Civic Theatre." Welcome home. As usual, if you enjoy the show, please tell your friends.

Ronald P. Baumanis

Ronald P. Baumanis
President, AACT Board of Directors



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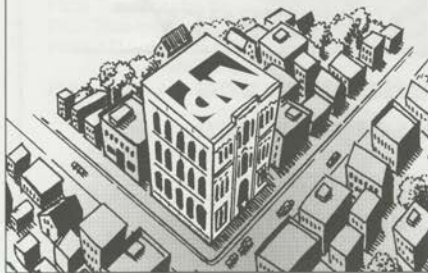


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*"Two households, both alike in dignity,
In fair Verona where we lay our scene..."*

Cast of Characters

Montague Household

Lord Montague - Steve Ryder
Lady Montague - Mary Locker
Romeo - Kip Pierson
Benvolio - Jeffrey Stringer
Abraham - Jason Layden
Balthazar - Jeremy Anderson



Prince's Household

Prince - Ralph Waine
Paris - Dennis Brunzell
Mercutio - David Blixt

The Franciscans

Friar Lawrence - Robin Barlow
Friar John - Ryan Shriver
Apothecary - Jason Layden



Capulet Household

Lord Capulet - Tim Henning
Lady Capulet - Shannyn Cook
Juliet - Victoria Walters
Juliet's Nurse - Pat Rector
Tybalt - Tod Barker
Sampson - Mik Zolikoff
Gregory - Troy Nash
Rosaline - Kaitlin Clark
Peter - Adam Miller Batteau
Potpan - Eric Skarpac
Sofia - Monique Redlin



Servants & Citizens

Jami Coogan, Kimberly Ryder,
Kimberly Ryder, Jenn Schaffer,
Hannah & Priscilla Johnson,
Lauren Opra, Lyndsay Michalik,
Melissa Mae Dunaway



There will be one 15 minute intermission

Notice: This show uses real blades and live flame
Children should remain in their seats

"...From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean..."

Director - David Alexander Blixt
Production Coordinator - Tina Albright Stringer
Stage Manager - Amanda Flies
Set & Lighting Designer - Jason Miller
Sound Design - Bob Purcell
Costume Designer - Eileen Donis-Foster
Dance Choreography - Libby Walen
Fight Choreography - David Alexander Blixt
Fight Captain - Nina Tapaninen
Historical Research - David Blixt and Libby Walen

Set Crew

Christopher Pruette
Rick Rector
Glen Massey
Sandy Walke
The Cast



Paint Crew

Libby Walen
Misty Dunaway
Leo Babcock
Jim Glenn
Barb Wells



Costume Crew

Elizabeth McCullum
Maggie Miller
Tod Barker
Barb Wells
Cheryl Berteol



*"...From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life..."*

Director's Notes

Romeo and Juliet is unique among Shakespeare's plays. Until the time he wrote it, just over 400 years ago, no one had ever seen anything like it. It broke all the rules. Hence my love for this, his most popular play.

Even the title lies - "The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet". Because this show is not a tragedy - it is a comedy gone wrong. Romeo has more of Orlando or Claudio in him than Hamlet. Juliet is more a Viola than a Desdemona or Ophelia. The play has every element of a classical comedy - a weak man, a strong woman, clowns, mistimings, disguises - the whole gamut. It starts off hysterically funny, then at the point where everyone should live happily-ever-after, the play takes a sharp turn, and becomes - something else. It's worse than a tragedy, because it first lifts you up.

The play is loosely set in late 14th century Verona. Dante had just died, dedicating the final third of his Divine Comedy to the Prince of Verona, our Prince's father. The plague had finally eased, and Verona was at the height of its commercial and political power. Not too far in the future the city will be conquered by a rival city/state, never to rise again. But now it is the center of the world to its citizens - a world about to be rocked by the love of two children, and all that follows.

More of the director's notes, with set designs and the working script, are available in the lobby.

"...The which, if you with patient ears attend,
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend."

I owe many thanks for all the help I've had in this production. The first goes all the way back to high school, where Jim Posante and Harlan Underhill gave me my first run of this show. Then 4 years ago Dave Doersch gave me my second, from whom I stole two bits for the opening scene. Joanna Hastings, too, swapped ideas with me over a couple cups of coffee and many phone calls. And Libby, for being both a pillar of strength at home and a patient sounding board to ideas and off-the-wall concepts.

Thanks to Chris Barbeau and the Ring Of Steel for the blades, and to John Lennox and the Michigan Shakespeare Festival for access to their costume supplies. Thanks to my parents, for who knows how much love and support.

Jason Miller has been around as friend, tech support, and his love for the show has bolstered me when my energy flagged.

And mainly, I must thank my cast. A more talented and spirited group I cannot imagine. This show has been what all community theatre should be. And now - enjoy the show!



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