





UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ARLINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

Edward Jones We are proud to support **Theatre and Dance at UTA** Go Mavs!



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Maverick Theatre Company

presents

ROMEO AND JULIET

By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Adapted By MEGAN HARATINE

Scenic and Properties Design
JORDAN KIRBY

Lighting Design

JARED LAND

Costume Design **LAURIE LAND**

Sound Design

JAMES ECKROTH

Director MEGAN HARATINE

Choreographer JOSIE CASS

Fight Choreographer
JOE CHAPA

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Each of you here in the audience today comes to us with varying degrees of familiarity with *Romeo & Juliet*. You may simply recall these names as a reference from one of Taylor Swift's most popular songs. Maybe you know the premise of the actual story, having once stumbled over some archaic language while reading aloud in your 9th grade English class. Perhaps you are able to intelligently compare Franco Zeffirelli's 1968 film version to that of Baz Luhrmann from 1996, throwing in a reference or two from *Shakespeare in Love* or *West Side Story*. You might just be a self-professed Shakespeare nerd who insists upon only seeing staged versions of the play because after all, you think, that *was* the original intent. Wherever you may find yourself on that spectrum, the hope is that you will find both the familiar and the fresh in this production.

While *R&J* does indeed contain a love story, I am particularly curious about the overarching theme of long-feuding households resulting, inevitably, in a direct negative impact upon younger generations. This tendency towards despising *the other* simply by default can be so strong that those who dare to question the validity of "what has always been done" often pay a high price. I have also been interested in exploring how the two opposing households might view the role of women and gender differently, giving more rise to conflict. This exploration also involves to the Juliet Chorus, who collectively serve as a probe into the confusing split that can happen within young girls who are told who they are supposed to be and what roles they are to fulfill before they are old enough to decide for themselves. Additionally, I have been curious about the isolation present in Juliet's life as it compares to Romeo with his support system of friends and confidants. What happens if Juliet doesn't go through it all alone? What if she is stronger than she thinks? Relationships between parents and children, friends, confidants, and, of course, first loves have all been fascinating investigations as we have sought to find the play anew together.

May you find your listening sharpened and your curiosities peaked today as you journey with us for the first time, or once again, to fair Verona.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UTA respectfully acknowledges the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes upon whose historical homelands this University is located. Their ancestors resided here for generations before being forcibly displaced by U.S. settlers and soldiers in the mid-1800s. We recognize the historical presence of the Caddo Nation and other Tribal Nations in the region; the ongoing presence and achievements of many people who moved to the area due to the Indian Relocation program of the 1950s and 1960s; and the vital presence and accomplishments of our Native students, faculty, and staff.

Prince Escalus	Kalumbu Tshibangu
Friar Laurence	De'Aveyon Murphy
Friar John	T'Niyah McLaughlin
Apothecary, Capulet Servant	Emily Dixon
Juliet	
Juliet Chorus 1	Janina Jaraczewski
Juliet Chorus 2	
Juliet Chorus 3	
Lady Capulet	
Capulet	
Nurse	
Tybalt	
Paris	
Peter	
Romeo	
Lady Montague	
Montague	
Benvolio	
Valentino	
Mercutio	
Gregory	
Sampson	
Rosaline	
Emilia	
Camilla	
Illium	

UNDERSTUDIES

Romeo - John Marshall, Juliet - Janina Jaraczewski, Juliet Chorus - Emily Halverson,
Capulet - Gavin Marsicano, Lady Capulet - Holly Vo, Friar - Javier Casablanca, Mercutio - Cameron Hilliard,
Tybalt - Benjamin Shelton, Nurse - Emily Dixon, Paris - Saul Ortiz, Montague - Malik Meneimneh,
Lady Montague - Noelle Molina, Apothecary - Jonathan Grisham

PRODUCTION

DirectorFight Choreographer	Megan Haratine Joe Chapa
Acting Coach	Andrew Gaupp
Stage Manager	Heather Schmitt
Scenic and Properties Designer	Jordan Kirby
Lighting Designer	Jared Land
Costume Designer	Laurie Land
Sound Designer	James Eckroth
Choreographer	Josie Cass
Associate Lighting Designer	
Associate Costume Designer	Tabitha Thompson
Assistant Stage Manager	Ryan Terry
Assistant Fight Choreographer	Madeline Estrada
Assistant Fight Choreographer	Samuel Griffith
Dramaturg	Claire Dunne
Backstage Crew	Olivia Gfrorer, Jacqueline Castillo,
	Andre Williams
Wardrobe Crew	Victoria Gonzalez, Alba Amador,
	Marcus Sydney, Savannah Fennel
Front of House	Chris Insall
Technical Director/Production Manager	DJ Badon

DAVID AKINMADE (HE/HIM) - Gregory

David is an S.E. Junior, minoring in Theatre. Making his Mainstage debut, David has been part of studentdirected scenes. David would like to give special thanks to his Mom for encouraging him to chase his dreams as a performer.

CARLOS MANUEL CADENA (HE/HIM) - Tybalt

Carlos Manuel Cadena is a BFA Acting student at UTA with a BBA degree in Marketing. He was last seen in *Night of the Living Dead* (News Anchor) at UTA. He dedicates his performance to his cousin Omar, a fighter unlike any other.

ISABELLA CANTANELLI (SHE/HER) - Juliet Chorus

Isabella is a BFA Acting Sophomore at UTA. She has most recently performed in *Night of the Living Dead* and *Antigone Now* (Ismene) and is currently excited to be part of such an iconic show!

JAVIER CASABLANCA (HE/HIM) - Benvolio

Javier is a BFA acting sophomore last seen assistant stage managing *Gypsy* at Theater Arlington and last seen performing as Cameraman in UTAs *Night of The Living Dead*. Javier is excited and would like to specifically thank his parents.

EMILY DIXON (SHE/HER) - Apothecary, Capulet Servant

Emily Dixon is a BFA Acting Freshman. This is her second show at UTA and first Black Box show. She was previously in *Night of the Living Dead* at UTA. She hopes you enjoy the show!

REGINALD DUNLAP (HE/HIM) - Romeo

Reggie is trudging through his 4th year here at UTA. He has been a part of 2 musicals, 4 plays, and several scenes on campus; yet this studio space has always eluded him. UNTIL NOW:) Reggie loves his family and friends, and he's very excited to share this story with you in this close, intimate environment.

EMILY HALVERSON (SHE/HER) - Emilia

Emily is a BFA acting junior. She is making her black box debut. Emily was last seen as Tom in *Night of the Living Dead*. She is excited for *Romeo and Juliet!*

CAMERON HILLIARD (SHE/HER) - Camilla

Cameron is a sophomore BFA Acting major. She was last seen in *Night of the Living Dead* as Dr. Grimes. Since this is her first blackbox show at UTA, she hopes you enjoy watching the show as much as she loves performing for you!

JANINA JARACZEWSKI (SHE/HER) - Juliet Chorus

Janina is a junior Musical Theatre Major with a Minor in Dance. This is her first Black Box show and couldn't be more excited to share it with you. Janina was last in 9 to 5 on the Main stage, and you can see her next in Dance in Flux at the end of April.

ALEXANDRA JOHNSON (SHE/HER) - Lady Capulet

Alexandra is a BFA Acting Senior playing her final role here at UTA. She is incredibly grateful for her friends, professors, and colleagues she has met here. She hopes you enjoy our show with all her heart!

EIAN JOHNSON (SHE/HER) - Lady Montague

Eian is a BFA Acting Freshman. She is making her UTA performance debut and is excited for the many opportunities the future may bring. She sends regards to her family and teachers who have believed in her over the years!

ALLISON MARSHALL (SHE/HER) - Peter

Allison is a BFA Acting Freshman, and this is her second show here at UTA. She is so proud of the entire cast and crew and is excited for everyone to see the show!

JOHN MARSHALL (HE/HIM) - Paris

John is a BFA Acting senior. Some of John's previous work on stage includes appearing as Arnold Epstein (*BILOXI BLUES*, Theatre Arlington) and Lysander (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Stolen Shakespeare Guild). He hopes you enjoy the show!

GAVIN MARSICANO (HE/HIM) - Sampson

Gavin is a second semester freshman studying for his BFA Acting Degree. He is so excited for his first Shakespeare play and wishes a good show to all his cast mates. Gavin also thanks his family for all their support.

T'NIYAH MCLAUGHLIN (SHE/HER) - Friar John

T'Niyah McLaughlin is a Sophomore BFA Acting Major here at UTA.T'Niyah was last seen in the production of *Night Of The Living Dead*. She would like to thank her family for always supporting and believing in her.

TANNER MOBLEY (HE/HIM) - Mercutio

Tanner Mobley is a BFA Acting Junior. This is Tanner's first Black Box show here at UTA. He was last seen in Theatre Arlington's *Gypsy* as the role of Yonkers. Tanner is thrilled to show his work!

GWEN MOWDY (SHE/HER) - Juliet

Gwen is beyond grateful for this opportunity. She's a sophomore who appeared in UTA's Night of the Living Dead and Love and Information. She thanks her cast, crew, directors, and family/friends for their love and support!

DE'AVEYON MURPHY (HE/HIM) - Friar Laurence

De'Aveyon is a BFA Acting Senior. This is De'Aveyon's first show at UTA. He was last seen in Plague Mask Theater's *Romeo and Juliet* as various ensemble roles. De'Aveyon is thrilled for you to see this production and is excited to be ending his journey with UTA in an amazing show!

NIAMH O'NEAL (SHE/HER) - Ensemble

Niamh is a BFA Acting junior. She has recently been seen as Judy in *Night of the Living Dead* at UTA. Special thanks to my family for their constant support!

ETHAN PIERCE (THEY/THEM) - Valentino

Ethan Pierce is a sophomore BFA acting major here at UTA, they were previously seen as a zombie in *Night* of the living dead this will be their second show at UTA and their first Blackbox show ever!

AUTUMN ROBINSON (SHE/HER) - Nurse

Autumn Robinson is a BFA Acting Sophomore Dance Minor. Autumn was last seen in *Cabaret* and *Dance in Flux* at UTA. She would like to thank her parents and sister for their support. Insta: hunnybunny_autumn.

ISAIH RODRIGUEZ (HE/HIM) - Illium

Isaih is a second year BA Theatre Arts major. He was last seen in UTA's Theatre for Change Project. Isaih is ecstatic to be making his Mainstage debut.

BENJAMIN SHELTON (HE/HIM) - Lord Montague

Benji Wright Shelton is a first-year BFA Acting major, with *Romeo and Juliet* being his first production at UTA. He wants to thank his family, for always being there and coming to every show no matter how big or small!

MAXIMILIAN SWENSON (HE/HIM) - Lord Capulet

Maximilian Swenson is a graduating senior attending UTA for his BFA in Performance. He is excited for his final MainStage production. He would like to thank his family, friends, and teachers for constantly pushing him and his desire to create.

KALUMBU TSHIBANGU (HE/HIM) - Prince Escalus

Kalumbu D. Tshibangu is a transfer student who recently joined UTA's BFA Acting program. This is his first show at UTA and first show ever since the pandemic and he is excited for the opportunity to perform and is grateful to work with the cast and crew.

KIMBERLY TURNER (SHE/HER) - Juliet Chorus

Kimberly is a BFA ACTING Freshman. She was last seen in *Night of the Living Dead* (UTA Mainstage) and *Almost Maine* (Onstage In Bedford). She continues to triumph in her acting career and is blessed to tell another beautiful story.

PRODUCTION TEAM

MEGAN HARATINE - Director

Megan Haratine has been a proud member of UTA's Theatre department faculty for the past 3 years. She hails from Arlington where she discovered a love of theatre at Martin High School (shoutout to all you Muledogs!). Having received her BA in Theatre with an Acting Emphasis from Arizona State University and her MFA in Acting from the University of Delaware's Professional Theatre Training Program, Megan enjoyed living away from Texas for 15 years, but ultimately, the draw of community and the vibrant DFW theatre community drew her back home. Over the past few years, she has narrowed in on a Voice & Speech specialization, recently certifying in Knight-Thompson Speechwork for Speech and Dialects and currently working towards Miller Voice Method certification which will culminate in an intensive training this summer. For the 10 years prior to her time at UTA, Megan was on faculty at Tarrant County College Southeast Campus where she directed such shows as Hamlet, Our Country's Good, A Raisin in the Sun, Alicia and Two Donuts, to name a few. The latter two productions were a part of a bilingual English/Spanish outreach program she designed specifically for AISD's new Fine Arts & Dual Language elementary school programs. She also worked for 10 seasons as a director of student written works in The New Play Festival at TCC, and in 2016, she was recognized nationally by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival as a Distinguished Director of a New or Devised Work for MetAMORfosis, a play by Carlos Romero, who is now a Design/Tech student at UTA! In addition, she has recently served as a director for Theatre Arlington and has worked professionally in DFW as an actor at such theatres as Stage West, Amphibian Stage Productions, WaterTower Theatre, Kitchen Dog & Echo Theatre. Megan served as Texas Vice-Chair and Texas Chair for Region VI of KCACTF for the last four years, during which time she served as a respondent for productions throughout our 5-state region. She extends special thanks to her four amazing children, Elliot, Oliver, Isaac & Asher, who inspire her daily as an artist and a human being.

HEATHER SCHMITT (SHE/HER) - Stage Manager

Heather is a sophomore in the BA Theatre Arts Program. She is thrilled to be stage managing her first show! Her last work was as assistant stage manager for *Cabaret*. Heather thanks her family and friends for their constant support.

JORDAN KIRBY (SHE/HER) - Scenic and Properties Designer

Jordan is an Assistant Professor of Practice with UTA's Department of Theatre Arts. She teaches stagecraft courses and acts as the department's scenic painting supervisor and properties designer.

Jordan holds a BA in Theatre from UT Austin, and received her MFA in Theatre (Scenic Design and Technical Direction) from California State University, Fullerton. Jordan also holds a Texas Educator Certificate as a classroom teacher of Theatre, Mathematics, Technology Applications, and English as a Second Language.

Jordan's recent scenic design credits include *The SpongeBob Musical* (CSUF), *Our Lady of 121st Street* (Cypress College), and *Songs for a New World* (CSUF).

JARED LAND (HE/HIM) - Lighting and Sound Designer

Jared is an Associate Professor of Practice with UTA's Department of Theatre Arts. He teaches courses related to lighting & sound design and acts as the theatre's resident lighting and sound designer. Jared's theatrical work in the DFW area has been featured with Stage West Theatre, Shakespeare Dallas, WaterTower Theatre, McKinney Repertory Theatre, Stage 2 Lighting, Theatre Three, and as a guest artist with the University of North Texas. He received his MFA in Theatrical Design from the University of Memphis.

PRODUCTION TEAM

LAURIE LAND (SHE/HER) - Costume Designer

Laurie is an Assistant Professor of Practice at UTA, teaching courses in costume design and makeup. She received her MFA in Theatrical Design with emphasis in Costume Design from the University of Memphis. Laurie also holds a certification in Professional Makeup Artistry from CMC Makeup School. In addition to her work at UTA, Laurie is a freelance costume designer and makeup artist in Dallas. Her work has been seen at various DFW theatres including: StageWest, The Dallas Children's Theater (Mainstage Series, Teen Series and National Tours), Shakespeare Dallas, WaterTower Theatre, and Pegasus Theatre, where she has designed the "Red Dress" for their Living Black and White Series (since 2012). Outside of Dallas, Laurie has designed with Voices of the South and Hangar Theatre's Mainstage, National Tour and Lab Company.

JOE CHAPA (HE/HIM) - Fight Choreographer

Joe Chapa M.F.A, D.A.I. is an Associate Professor of theatre specializing in Stage Combat, Improvisation, and Children's Theatre. He is a certified instructor of combat with Dueling Arts International, specializing in broadsword, single rapier, rapier and dagger, smallsword, quarterstaff, and unarmed combat. He has worked as a fight choreographer and director in over 50 productions throughout the Southwest. He would like to express his gratitude to Megan for the fantastic opportunity, the wonderful cast for their perseverance and dedication, and his family for their ongoing support and inspiration.

JAMES ECKROTH (HE/HIM) - Sound Designer

James is a senior design student. He is excited to have helped design Romeo and Juliet and hopes you enjoy the performance. His previous credits include sound designing for *Theatre for Change* last semester and assistant sound designing for *Lydia* last spring.

JOSIE CASS (SHE/HER) - Choreographer

Josie Cass is a senior BFA Musical Theatre major and Dance minor. She has assistant/associate choreographed for *Spring Awakening*, 9 to 5, and *Cabaret*, choreographs for the Maverick Dance Company, and is thrilled to choreograph for this production! @josiecass_

BREANNA NEAL (SHE/HER) - Associate Lighting Designer

Breanna is a BFA Design Technology Senior and was last seen as the assistant lighting designer for *Cabaret* as well as one of the lighting designers for two pieces in *Dance in Flux*.

TABITHA THOMPSON (SHE/HER) - Associate Costume Designer

Tabitha is the Associate Costume Designer for Romeo and Juliet. Her previous credits include 9 to 5 and The Importance of Being Earnest, at UTA. El Magnifico e l'Eccesionale with Fluidity Films, and West Side Story at Shine Children's Theatre. For the ones who lived it, have hope. Jeremiah 29:11

RYAN TERRY (HE/HIM) - Assistant Stage Manager

Ryan is currently a BA in musical theatre. This is his first semester in the UTA theatre program and his first-time stage managing! Ryan is excited to be part of this show and work with these amazing people!

MADELINE ESTRADA (SHE/HER) - Assistant Fight Choreographer

She is a BA major (Senior). During her time at UTA, she has co-written and co-directed *The Knight*, was the Language Consultant for Lydia, and the assistant fight choreographer and fight captain for *Night of the Living Dead*.

SAMUEL GRIFFITH (HE/HIM) - Assistant Fight Choreographer

Samuel Griffith is new this semester but nonetheless ready to jump into what he loves most. Sam is assistant Fight Captain for *Romeo and Juliet* and proud of his work on his first production directed at the University level.

CLAIRE DUNNE (SHE/HER) - Dramaturg

Claire Dunne is a BFA acting sophomore. She has worked on dramaturgy before, but she especially loves Shakespeare and is really happy to have been given this opportunity to do more research for *Romeo and Juliet*.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS AND DANCE

BA in Theatre Arts or BFA in Theatre Arts

with Performance, Design and Technology, or Musical Theatre Focus
Minors in Theatre Arts and Dance

The University of Texas at Arlington Department of Theatre Arts and Dance provides students with an extensive education in the theatrical profession. It is through broad practical experience (via the MAVERICK THEATRE COMPANY) and an equally extensive theoretical application of the art and craft of the stage that students learn the primary components that comprise the theatrical event. The application of these components, in a series of classroom and public performances, ensures a challenging educational environment for the theatre arts student. We also welcome the addition of the Dance curriculum to our Department along with the MAVERICK DANCE COMPANY.

If you would like more information about The University of Texas at Arlington's Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, please feel free to email our Academic Advisor, Miranda Marin at miranda.marin@uta.edu.

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Professor Andrew Christopher Gaupp, MFA, AEA	
Assoc. Professor Julienne Greer, Ph.D, AEA, SAG/AFTRA	
Assoc. Professor Dennis Maher, Ph.D, LMDA	
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Visiting Assistant Professor Laurie Taylor, MFA	Associate Artistic Director: MDC, Dance
Associate Professor of Practice Jared Land, MFA	Lighting and Sound Designer
Associate Professor of Instruction Laurie Land, MFA	
Assistant Professor of Practice Jordan Kirby, MFA	Paint & Props, Designer
Assistant Professor of Instruction Meredith Knight Treminio, MFA	Associate Artistic Director: MDC, Dance
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Distinguished Senior Lecturer Laurel Whitsett, MA, PhD Candidate	Actor, ASL Interpreter, Drama Text and Performance
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Adjunct Assistant Professor Travis Blackwell, MFA	Stage Management
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Adjunct Assistant Professor Elizabeth Hawkins, MFA	
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Adjunct Assistant Professor Claudia Orcasitas, MFA	
Adjunct Assistant Professor Danielle Willis, MFA	
. j	- Dance

PLEASE...

- Be sure to turn off all cellular phones or similar electronics prior to the show beginning.
- Avoid the temptation to send text messages during the performance!
- If your child becomes restless, please step into the lobby to avoid disrupting the performance.
- For your and the performers' safety, we ask that you remain in your seats and keep all personal items out of the aisles.
- No photography or recording of the performance is permitted.
- Please do not bring food or drinks into the theatre.

THANK YOU AND ENJOY THE SHOW!

BENEFACTORS

We would like to thank the following donors for their extremely generous donations to the UT Arlington Department of Theatre Arts:

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