



Social Story

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Romeo and Juliet

A remixed tale of star-crossed lovers.

How much would you risk for the person you love?

Forced apart by generations of hatred, young eyes meet across a South London dancefloor on a fateful night that will change their lives forever. Shakespeare's most famous story is re-told through rap, rhythms, and beautiful harmonies. It's 'Romeo and Juliet', but as you've never heard it before.

Put down your swords and pick up your mics, after all, the course of true love never did run smooth.

From the makers behind 'Frankenstein: How to make a Monster' and 'Pied Piper the Hip Hop Family Musical'.

Made with **Beats & Elements**

Creative Team

Beats & Elements are **Conrad Murray** and **Lakeisha Lynch-Stevens**

Cast

Lakeisha Lynch-Stevens	Freddy / Montague / Multi-rolling
Conrad Murray	Capulet / Multi-rolling
Khai Shaw	Romeo
Kate Donnachie	Juliet
Paul Cree	Montague Cover
Aminita Francis	Capulet Cover
Nadine Rose Johnson	Juliet Cover

Creatives

Set and Costume Designer	Erin C. Guan
Sound Designer	Simon Beyer
Lighting Designer	Jonathan Chan
Movement Directors	Jonzi D and Simeon Qsysea
Stage Manager	Simon Beyer
Dramaturg	Lisa Goldman

Romeo and Juliet

This show consists of 4 actors. Each actor will play more than one role, and will change their hats, glasses or small items of clothing to show that they are playing different characters. Members of the Capulet family wear purple, and members of the Montague family wear green.

At various points throughout the play, actors will be onstage, singing or beatboxing, even if they aren't actively involved in the scene.

This is what the characters look like:

Characters

The Montagues



Mercutio



Romeo Montague



**Montague Family
Member**



Benvolio Montague

The Capulets



Capulet



Juliet Capulet



Lady Capulet



Tybalt Capulet



Paris



Capulet Family
Member

Citizens of Merton



Freddy

This is the set as you first see it:



There are five large metal frames that, together, make the silhouette of a house. These are on wheels, and will be moved around during the performance. 3 of the frames have blue patterned fabric over them, to represent the Capulets, and 2 of the frames have green fabric, to represent the Montagues. One of the blue frames has a blue neon sign that reads 'Capulet', and one of the green frames has a red neon sign that reads 'Montague'. These will be turned on and off during the show, to signify whether the scene is set in the Capulet's or the Montague's area of Merton.

There are also a pair of silver boxes. These will be moved around the set to create different seating arrangements. On the right hand side, there is a sound rack. This will be used throughout the show by the actor playing Capulet.

Music

Romeo and Juliet is told through a series of songs and raps, underscored by beatboxing and a guitar. All of the music is played live onstage, and runs continually throughout the entire performance.



During the show, the actors might interact with you. You are welcome to respond to characters performance and laugh or smile at any time.



During the show, you might see something that makes you feel sad or scared. You are allowed to feel sad or scared, that is ok.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be a loud or unexpected noise and you can put your fingers in your ears.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be something visual happening onstage that will aid with the storytelling.



If you see this symbol, it means you will hear a sound effect or voiceover coming from the speakers.



If you see this symbol, it means the scene will contain themes and content that some may find distressing.

Prologue



At the beginning of the show, you will hear the sound of tongues clicking like a ticking clock. The cast will come out, beatboxing.



The cast will split the audience in two. If you're sat on the left, you'll be a Montague. If you're on the right, you're a Capulet! You will be introduced to some call and response words and actions. You can join in if you like, otherwise it's OK to just watch. Remember these, as they'll come up throughout the show!



The cast will begin singing. The actors will perform the 'prologue': an introduction to the show. A few lines in, one of the actors will make a sound like a record scratch. At this point, the music will become livelier.



Meet the Characters



In this song, you will be introduced to the characters in the play. At one point, when you meet Mercutio, he will mime shooting a gun.

The Fight



In this scene, two members of the warring houses of Montague and Capulet will get into a fight. This will be shown in slow motion, and includes one actor pretending to be hit in the crotch. When this happens, his voice will go very high pitched.



Paris Wants to be a Capulet

The Montague sign will turn off to show we are now inside the Capulet's house. In this scene, Capulet will tell his wife about his plans for Juliet to marry Paris.

The music will then change, and Juliet will enter. She and Capulet will sing a song together. At first, Juliet finds the idea of getting married very funny, but then tells her father she would do anything he asked.



Montague Manor

The Capulet's neon sign will turn off, and the Montague one will turn on. This is to show that we are now at the Montague's house.

Romeo and Mercutio will talk about Romeo's girlfriend, Rosalind, who he's gone off, before discussing attending a party at the Capulet's.



Toward the end of the scene, they will repeat some of the call and response actions from earlier. You can join in, or just watch.

The Capulet's Party

The neon signs will switch again. It's time for the Capulet's party! A beat will start and Juliet will enter the stage. She will welcome you to the party, and teach you some dance moves. You can join in from your seat if you like, but it's OK to just watch. During this section, there is a brief mention of alcohol. At the end, Juliet will make a high-pitched sound like an air horn.



The Capulet's Party (cont'd)

Throughout the rest of the scene, there will be opportunities to join in with both the dance and the call and response from earlier.



During the party, Romeo and Juliet will meet for the first time. When they first spot one another, music will suddenly change. They will flirt with one another, before Romeo and Mercutio spot Tybalt, and decide to leave. At this point, Tybalt will make some threats of violence.

The Balcony Scene



The Montague sign will turn on to join the Capulet one. Romeo and Mercutio, now outside, will discuss the party, and Romeo will call Juliet. At this point, you will hear a high-pitched sound like a ringing phone. Juliet will accidentally answer from her pocket, but not realise until part way through the scene. At this point, the music will stop suddenly, before restarting.

At the end of the scene, both the Capulet and Montague signs will turn off.



The Community Centre

In this scene, you will meet Freddy, who runs the Community Centre. During his song, Romeo will enter and the music will stop abruptly.



Freddy will almost verbally swear, but be cut off by Romeo.

During the next song, Freddy will convince Romeo to marry Juliet in a bid to make peace between the Capulets and Montagues.

Paris's Serenade

The Capulet sign will switch on to show we are back at the Capulet's. Paris and Juliet will sing about their arranged marriage. At the end of the scene, the Capulet light will turn back off.

The Wedding



In this scene, we are back at the Community Centre. Romeo and Juliet will get married. At one point, there is a finger-swear gag. Towards the end, the lights will slowly fade to a colder hue.

Mercutio and Tybalt's Deaths

Mercutio will enter, and sing a song about being tough and refusing to back down to the Capulets.



At the end of the song, Tybalt will enter, and he and Mercutio will engage in a stylized fight. While it is not explicitly shown, we are told that Mercutio has died from his injuries.



Romeo will then re-enter, and threats will be exchanged between himself and Tybalt. Another stylized fight will begin. In slow-motion, Tybalt will mime swinging a bat, and Romeo will mime shooting Tybalt multiple times. The actor playing Tybalt will mime dying onstage.



At the end of the scene, Romeo will panic, distraught that he has killed someone.



Visiting Freddy



In this scene, Freddy and Romeo will sing about the deaths of Tybalt and Mercutio, and the possible consequences for Romeo – including prison.

Juliet Finds Out



The Capulet sign will turn on, and Juliet will appear on her balcony. She will talk about hearing of how Romeo has killed her cousin, and how torn between family and Romeo she feels. This scene includes references to death threats. Part-way through, the Montague sign will turn on.

One Last Night

Romeo join Juliet, and they will embrace and sing about spending one last night together, before Romeo explains his plan to run away to High Barnet.



Wedding Preparations

The Montague sign will switch off. In this scene, Capulet is preparing for Juliet's wedding. At the end, the Capulet sign will turn off.

Making a Plan



Juliet will get to the Community Centre and ask Freddy for help. This includes references to forced marriage and running away, and Freddy will suggest that Juliet fakes her death.



When Freddy leaves, the Capulet sign will turn on, to show that Juliet is back at home, packing her things. Juliet will sing a song about putting herself first. During this scene, Juliet will slam a box shut, which makes a loud noise. The Capulet sign will turn off towards the end.

Romeo Finds Out



The set will be moved to surround Romeo and the Montague sign will turn on. In this scene, Romeo will see the news that Juliet has (apparently) died, and decide to 'take his own life' in order to 'be with [his] wife'. At points, he will raise his voice.



The Wedding is Back On



The set will move again. The Montague sign will turn off, and the Capulet one will turn on. In this scene, Paris will spot Juliet, and recommence the wedding plans, singing 'that girl is mine!'. After his song, the Capulet sign will turn off and a voiceover will announce the upcoming wedding of Paris and Juliet. She will see the news that her wedding is back on, and decide to head to the Northern Line, planning to be with Romeo.

The Northern Line



You will hear a high pitched beeping and a voiceover of tube announcements. Romeo is on the tube, returning to Merton to face the Capulets in the hopes that they will end his life.



When he arrives, multiple hands will appear from behind the set and mime shooting him. Romeo will die from multiple gunshot wounds, just as Juliet arrives.



Juliet will tell her family to shoot her too, but they do not. At points during this, her voice will become quite loud.



It will not be shown onstage, but Benvolio will enter to announce that Juliet has stepped in front of a train and died. Romeo and Juliet will both fall to the floor, as if dead.



The End

Freddy will enter. We hear a voice asking him to open the door, but he refuses, and gives a speech wrapping up the play.



This will be followed by a reprise of some of the songs. The actors playing Romeo and Juliet will get back up, and there will be chances to join in with the call and response actions, and the dance.



The actors will then bow, and everyone will clap their hands. You can join in, too.

To finish the show, the cast will sing 'Star-Crossed Lovers' one last time.



At the end, there will be a brief blackout, before the lights will come back up. The performance has now finished. Everyone will clap their hands, which is to show the actors and production team that they have enjoyed it.



Thank you for coming - we hope you enjoyed the show!

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