

Romeo & Juliet

Media Kit

CHOREOGRAPHER Bengt Jörgen, C.M.
MUSIC Sergei Prokofiev
COSTUME DESIGN Gary Dahms
SET & LIGHTING DESIGN Glenn Davidson
DANCERS 15
LOCAL PARTICIPANTS 6-10
RUN TIME 2 hours with one intermission

Photo Credits

R&J #1: Akari Fujiwara & Adrián Ramírez Juárez. Photo Kristie Jones.
R&J #2: Saniya Abilmajineva & Hiroto Saito. Photo by Kathy Ward.
R&J #3: Hannah Mae Cruddas. Photo by Kristie Jones.
R&J #4: Sword Fight Scene. Photo by Tony Bennett.
R&J #5: Leandro Prado. Photo by Kristie Jones.
R&J #6: Hannah Mae Cruddas & Leandro Proado. Photo by Kristie Jones.

Shakespeare's tale of love, anguish and revenge is masterfully transformed into Bengt Jörgen's magical world of ballet. While remaining true to the original story, Jörgen focuses on creating a clear and emotionally driven journey into this timeless classic. Romeo & Juliet has sparked the imagination of many an artist, and inspired Bengt Jörgen to create works of intimacy and warmth.

Ballet Jorgen's Romeo & Juliet premiered in 1997 and has toured around the world to critical acclaim. **To ensure the ballet remains as beautiful and vibrant as it was over 20 years ago, it is receiving significant updates for the 2020-2021 North American Tour with new sets and costumes.**

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Synopsis

ACT I

Scene 1 A Street in Verona, Italy

Romeo of the house of Montague, lost in thought, dreamily contemplates the beauty of a rose. The city begins to awaken and the townspeople begin their new day. But all is not peaceful. The city's two most powerful families, the Capulets and the Montagues, are feuding bitterly. Playful teasing soon turns into a brawl as members of the opposing families draw swords and begin to fight. Romeo joins his friend Mercutio in fighting the Capulets. The riot is quelled by the arrival of the Count of Verona, who decrees the death penalty should either family disturb the peace again.

Scene 2 Juliet's bedroom in the Capulets' House

Juliet, the young daughter of Lady Capulet, is playful with her nurse as she attempts to dress Juliet for her first ball. Excited, Juliet dances about with her dress, but stops suddenly when she realizes that her carefree girlhood is coming to an end.

Scene 3 The Foyer of the Capulets' Palace

Elegant guests arrive at the ball. Uninvited, Romeo and Mercutio boldly make their way into the foyer, cloaked and masked as revellers.

Scene 4 The Capulets' Ballroom

Juliet shyly arrives at the ball and is introduced to Paris, a noble kinsman to whom she is to be betrothed. While Juliet is dancing, she and Romeo see one another for the first time and fall in love. They steal a few moments together away from the guests until Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, recognizes Romeo and challenges him to a duel. Lady Capulet puts an end to the confrontation.

Scene 5 Juliet's Balcony

Later that same night, Romeo hides in the Capulets' garden and overhears Juliet professing her love for him. Romeo reveals himself to Juliet and they declare their eternal love.

Intermission

ACT II

Scene 1 A Street in Verona

The next day in the midst of holiday celebrations, Romeo appears musing about his perfect love. Mercutio tries to no avail to shake him out of his thoughts. Juliet's nurse is looking for Romeo to give him a note from her mistress. Juliet will meet Romeo secretly at Friar Laurence's cell, where they can be married.

Scene 2 Friar Laurence's cell

Friar Laurence marries the young lovers.

Scene 3 A street in Verona

As the townspeople and Mercutio continue the holiday celebrations they are interrupted by Tybalt, who is intent upon resuming his quarrel with Romeo. Romeo, however, is aware that Juliet's relatives are now his own and so he avoids a duel with Tybalt. Mercutio, appalled at his friend's apparent lack of spirit, accepts Tybalt's challenge on Romeo's behalf. In attempting to stop the fight, Romeo inadvertently causes Mercutio's death. Shocked out of his peaceful resolution, Romeo kills Tybalt, avenging his friend. Hearing of the fighting, Lady Capulet has hastened to the scene only to find her nephew dead. Grief stricken, she curses Romeo.

Scene 4 Juliet's Bedroom

Romeo, given a reprieve from the death penalty, appeals for forgiveness from his beloved for killing Tybalt. Juliet leads Romeo to her bed for their wedding night. However, he must leave promptly at dawn, having been banished from Verona. Juliet's nurse and mother enter the bedroom, and Lady Capulet informs her that she is to marry Paris the next day. Juliet refuses and in desperation goes to seek advice from Friar Laurence.

Scene 5 Friar Laurence's Cell

Reluctantly, Friar Laurence gives Juliet a vial containing a sleeping potion that will induce a death-like coma. He promises to send a message to Romeo, telling him what has happened and urging him to rescue her from the family vault.

Scene 6 Juliet's Bedroom

Juliet pretends to change her mind and acquiesces to marry Paris. Filled with fear and doubt, Juliet forces herself to drink the potion and falls unconscious on the bed. In the morning Juliet's bridesmaids arrive to present her with flowers. Lady Capulet and the Nurse are unable to wake Juliet and conclude she is dead.

Scene 7 The Capulet Vault

In the Capulets' Vault, Juliet is laid to rest. Romeo has heard of Juliet's death, but has not received Friar Laurence's explanatory letter. Believing Juliet to be dead, Romeo's heart breaks and he takes his own life. Juliet recovering from the potion's effects is horrified to find Romeo dying at her side. Unable to live without him she joins him in death.

Testimonials

"A production that looks like a ballet but feels like a play."

– Michael Crabb, The National Post

"Bengt Jörgen crafts a jewel-box Romeo & Juliet."

– Paula Citron, The Globe & Mail

"Bengt Jörgen focuses his dramatic lens on the title characters' love and creates an abundance of inventive pas de deux choreography, enchantingly danced."

– Lisa Jo Sagolla, Backstage Weekly, New York