



ROMEO AND JULIET

SHAKESPEARE'S
GLOBE

Visual Story

Show Notes

These are notes of things that may happen during the show, or that you may want to think about for the play.

- The play is approximately an hour and forty minutes. There is no interval for this performance. A bell will ring in the Piazza five minutes before the play starts. A second bell will ring two minutes before the play starts to let you know it is time to sit down.
- At the beginning of the play there is loud music, with drumming and trumpets. When the band plays, the music can seem quite loud because the Globe is shaped like a giant drum.
- There is a siren sound when an actor descends from a trap door above the stage, it seems as if he is flying.
- Some of the actors will walk through the yard to get to the stage and off the stage. There is a lot of stage fighting, none of it is real fighting but it is only pretend, so nobody gets hurt. The knives and daggers the actors use are pretend ones.
- During the party scene some characters will be in fancy dress and some will be wearing masks to hide their faces.
- Fake blood is used twice during the show.
- At the end of the show, there is a lot of dancing, it's the jig.
- At the end of the show, two confetti cannons will go off from the middle gallery. They go off suddenly, but there is nothing to be frightened about.
- Shakespeare's Globe is an open air theatre, so it is best to wear suitable clothes.
- Because it is an open air theatre sometimes (but not always) you will be able to hear things from the outside (which may be cars, helicopters, or aeroplanes, or maybe nothing at all).
- Pigeons may, but not necessarily, enter the theatre.
- You are welcome to come and go from the auditorium as you please.
- If you need quiet, you may relax on the Piazza or in the foyer.

The characters of the play



This is **Juliet**



This is **Romeo**



This is **Mercutio**



This is **Tybalt**



This is **Nurse**

The characters of the play



This is **Paris**



This is **Friar**



This is **Benvolio, Lady and Lord Montague**

The Play

This is a detailed description of the events in the play.

Prologue (Act I)

Romeo and Juliet describe two families living in the city of Verona. They are enemies. They have a feud, which is an argument which lasts for a very long time. They talk about a long grudge between the families which has led to many violent conflicts. They also introduce two lovers, whose deaths end their parent's feud and bring peace between the families.

Act I, scene 1 – Rival families

Servants from the rival Capulet and Montague families are fighting on the streets of Verona. Benvolio, a Montague, tries to stop the fight but is attacked by Tybalt, a Capulet. The Prince of the city ends the brawl and threatens punishment for disturbing the peace again.

Lord and Lady Montague ask Benvolio whether their son, Romeo, was involved in the brawl. They are concerned about his behaviour and wish to know the cause of his sadness. Benvolio finds out that Romeo is in love with a girl, Rosaline, but she does not love him back. Benvolio advises Romeo to forget Rosaline and seek out other girls, but Romeo says he only has love for her.

Act I, scene 2 – A Party Invitation

Paris wants to marry Capulet's daughter, Juliet. Lord Capulet will throw a party to help Juliet fall in love with Paris.

A servant is sent on the errand to deliver his master's party invitations. He bumps into Romeo and Benvolio. The servant cannot read and so asks Romeo to read the invitation for him. Romeo finds out that Rosaline's name is on the list for the party. The servant invites them both to come along.

Act I, scene 3 – Juliet and Marriage

Lady Capulet asks Juliet what she thinks about marrying Paris. Juliet says that she does not yet think of marriage but agrees to take a look at Paris to see if she might love him.

Act I, scene 4 – Gate-Crashing the Party

Romeo, Benvolio and their friend, Mercutio, wait outside the Capulets' House. Romeo is beginning to have second thoughts about the party after a bad dream he had the night before.

Act I, scene 5 – Capulet's Party

At the party, Romeo spots a girl, Juliet, and falls in love with her. Meanwhile, Tybalt recognises Romeo as a Montague and plans to kill him. Lord Capulet hears Tybalt's rage and apprehends her, desiring peace at his party. Romeo meets Juliet and they talk and kiss. They are soon interrupted by Juliet's Nurse who calls Juliet to her mother. Romeo asks who Juliet's mother is and the Nurse tells him it is Lady Capulet. Meanwhile, Juliet asks her Nurse who Romeo is and discovers that he is the son of their enemy, Lord Montague.

Act II, scene 1 – Seeking Juliet

After the party, Romeo goes to find Juliet. Meanwhile, Benvolio and Mercutio are trying to find him. They call out but when he does not answer they assume he does not want to be found.

Act II, scene 2 – Juliet's Balcony

Romeo spots Juliet alone on her balcony. Juliet talks about Romeo unaware that he can hear her. Romeo, unable to keep silent, surprises Juliet and speaks. Juliet worries that he will get caught but Romeo refuses to leave. They are interrupted by Juliet's Nurse who is calling her back inside. Juliet tells Romeo that she will send someone to him tomorrow morning to confirm his love and his intentions to marry her.

Act II, scene 3 – A Request to Marry

Romeo comes to meet Friar Lawrence to ask if he will perform the marriage ceremony. Friar Lawrence agrees, as he believes it will bring peace between the two households.

Act II, scene 4 – Romeo's Marriage Plan

Mercutio and Benvolio discuss a letter, sent from Tybalt, challenging Romeo to a duel. Romeo joins them and is mocked by Mercutio for abandoning them in the pursuit of love. Juliet's Nurse comes to see Romeo on behalf of Juliet. Mercutio and Benvolio go to supper whilst Romeo tells the Nurse about the marriage plans. He says that Juliet should meet him that afternoon at Friar Lawrence's cell.

Act II, scene 5 – Juliet's Nurse Returns

Juliet waits for her Nurse to return. Eventually she tells Juliet to go to Friar Lawrence's cell where Romeo is waiting for her.

Act II, scene 6 – A Secret Ceremony

Friar Lawrence and Romeo wait for Juliet to arrive. She comes and Friar Lawrence takes the couple off to be married.

Act III, scene 1 – The Fight

Benvolio and Mercutio are talking in the street when they are interrupted by Tybalt and his followers. Tybalt sees Romeo coming and draws his sword ready for a fight. Mercutio steps in and he and Tybalt fight instead. Romeo tries to stop them but Tybalt stabs Mercutio under Romeo's arm and flees the scene. Benvolio leaves with the injured Mercutio. Romeo is angry at himself for not fighting his own battle with Tybalt. Benvolio comes back and tells Romeo that Mercutio is dead. Tybalt returns and Romeo seeks revenge for Mercutio and stabs her. Benvolio tells Romeo to run away to avoid the Prince's punishment. The Prince enters with the Capulets and the Montagues. Benvolio explains that Tybalt stabbed Mercutio and so Romeo stabbed Tybalt. Lady Capulet tells the Prince that Romeo must be put to death for killing Tybalt. The Prince decides that Romeo should instead be banished for his actions. This means he has to leave the city and must never return.

Act III, scene 2 – Juliet's Grief

Juliet is at home. She wants it to be night when Romeo will come to her. The Nurse tells her that Romeo killed Tybalt and is now banished. Juliet is devastated and worries that she won't get to have her wedding night with him. The Nurse tells Juliet that she will find Romeo for her at Friar Lawrence's cell.

Act III, scene 3 – Romeo's Banishment

Friar Lawrence tells Romeo that he has been banished for killing Tybalt. Romeo believes banishment is worse than a death sentence because he will never be able to see Juliet again.

Juliet's Nurse comes and wants to speak with Romeo. Romeo is worried what Juliet now thinks of him. Friar Lawrence tells Romeo to go to Juliet but to leave for a place called Mantua before the next morning. In time, once the news of their marriage has spread, the Friar believes Romeo may be able to return.

Act III, scene 4 – Setting a Date

Lord Capulet assures Paris that Juliet will do as he wishes and marry Lord Capulet. He asks his wife to go to Juliet and tell her the news.

Act III, scene 5 – Juliet's Refusal

Romeo and Juliet are together in her room. They are sad to soon be leaving one another and wonder when they will meet again. The Nurse tells Juliet that her mother is calling for her so Romeo and Juliet say their goodbyes.

Lady Capulet believes the cause of her daughter's sadness is her grief for Tybalt rather than Romeo's banishment. Lady Capulet tells Juliet she has good news about her intended marriage to Paris but Juliet refuses to accept him.

Capulet is enraged that Juliet is disobeying him and threatens to disown her if she will not marry. Juliet begs her mother to delay the marriage but Lady Capulet wishes to have no involvement. Juliet seeks advice from her Nurse, but she agrees that Juliet should marry Paris because Romeo is as good as dead. Angry and upset, Juliet goes to seek help from Friar Lawrence.

Act IV, scene 1 – Friar Laurence’s Potion

Paris is at Friar Lawrence’s cell telling him of his forthcoming marriage to Juliet. Juliet enters and lies that she has come for confession. Paris leaves them and Juliet weeps to the Friar and threatens to take her own life. Friar Lawrence proposes a solution to Juliet. He offers her a drug which will put her into a deep sleep and so make her appear dead. On the morning of the wedding they will believe that she is dead and she will be buried in the family tomb. Friar Lawrence will send a letter with a fellow friar to Romeo telling him of this plan. Romeo can return at night to Verona, collect Juliet’s sleeping body, and take her back to Mantua.

Act IV, scene 2 – Wedding Preparations

Juliet returns to the house and, playing along, she tells her father that she agrees to marry Paris. Juliet asks her Nurse to come to her bedroom and help her find an outfit for the wedding. Meanwhile, Lord Capulet goes to Paris to tell him the good news.

Act IV, scene 3 – Taking the Potion

When she is alone Juliet thinks about what she is about to do. She fears that the potion might really kill her or, if she does live, she worries what it will be like to wake up in the tomb. She finally drinks the potion and falls into a deep sleep.

Act IV, scene 4 – The Wedding Morning

Preparations take place for the wedding ceremony and Lord Capulet asks the Nurse to go and wake his daughter.

Act IV, scene 5 – Finding Juliet

The Nurse tries to wake Juliet but discovers she is dead. The Capulets, Friar Lawrence and Paris all mourn the death of Juliet. Friar Lawrence orders that they all assemble at church for the funeral in place of the wedding ceremony.

Act IV, scene 1 – Romeo’s Return

In Mantua, Romeo is visited by his servant, Benvolio, who tells him that Juliet is dead. Romeo is distraught and vows to travel to Verona to be with her again. Romeo visits an apothecary and buys a deadly poison. He intends to drink this poison once he is at Juliet’s side.

Act V, scene 2 – An Undelivered Message

Friar John comes to Friar Lawrence and informs him that he was unable to deliver his letter to Romeo in Mantua. Friar Lawrence is concerned that Romeo will not know to collect Juliet from the tomb. He therefore plans to get there himself and writes a second letter to Romeo telling him of this new plan.

Act V, scene 3 – The Deaths of Romeo and Juliet

At the Capulet tomb, Paris comes in secret to lay flowers on Juliet's grave. Romeo and Benvolio approach and so Paris hides. Romeo gives Benvolio a letter and asks her to deliver it to his father the next morning. Benvolio departs but secretly hides because he fears what Romeo's intentions are.

Paris recognises Romeo as a Montague and the killer of Tybalt. He believes Romeo is the cause of Juliet's death and so confronts him. They fight and Romeo kills Paris and goes to Juliet's grave where he takes his deadly poison. Friar Lawrence comes to the tomb. He notices weapons with blood on them and fears the worst. Juliet awakes in the tomb and sees the Friar. She asks where Romeo is and Friar Lawrence tells her he is dead by her side. They hear a noise and Friar Lawrence begs Juliet to come with him but she refuses to go without Romeo.

Juliet wants to kill herself in order to be with Romeo. She sees the poison he has drunk and tries to take some for herself, but it is all gone. Finally she stabs herself and falls next to Romeo.

The Prince of the city, the Capulets and the Montagues enter the tomb. Benvolio explains everything that has happened and the letter, given by Romeo to Benvolio, confirms his story. The Prince scolds the two families for the tragedy their behaviour has caused. Capulet and Montague shake hands and agree to put their feud to rest.