



ROMEO AND JULIET – Content Warning

This sheet is for anyone who would like to have a greater understanding of any sensitive content prior to seeing the show, therefore **please be aware that if you read on, there will be significant spoilers.**

Can young passion break the cycle of division and hate?

Shakespeare's classic tale of rebellion explodes onto the streets of Salisbury. Drama, music and parkour collide in this gritty and immersive walkabout production. Romeo and Juliet defy ancient grudge and risk everything for love in a world simmering with rage. Delve into their story as a professional cast and community ensemble tour you into the Montague vs Capulet battleground. Join us for an eye-opening adventure through our building and its environs, as we celebrate 50 years of Salisbury Playhouse.

CONTENT WARNINGS:

- Re-enactment of an emergency evacuation, with loud noises and sirens
- Family divisions
- Fighting and rioting
- Depictions of death and suicide, through poisoning and stabbing

SCENE BY SCENE BREAKDOWN

ACT 1:

Prologue, the Capulet Mansion foyer: Audience and guests arrive at the Capulet mansion where Lord Capulet has invited us all to celebrate 50 years of the Mansion building, through a silent-disco type party, inviting us to put on our headphones to take part in the revelry. Just as the early moments of the party unfold, sirens start to blare, and it becomes apparent that an emergency evacuation must take place. Lord Capulet, instructing all to keep their headphones on and follow the staff for further instructions, bemoans the fact that the Montagues couldn't allow them one night of peace.

Location 1, car park: The audience moves with the action, and we arrive at the underground car park, where young Capulets and Montagues start to interact with each other, developing into a fight. Benvolio tries to stop it, but Tybalt refuses to help, and the fight turns into a riot that is eventually broken up by an armed police force, who arrive with the Prince, Paris, and Mercutio. The Prince threatens death to anyone who disturbs the peace again. As she leaves, Paris and Capulet talk, with Capulet encouraging Paris to marry Juliet.



Romeo enters as the Capulet party leaves, and tells his friend Benvolio that he wants nothing to do with violence. He also admits to being lovesick because the woman he loves (Rosaline) doesn't want to know him. The Capulet servant, not knowing that Romeo and Benvolio are Montagues, invites them to the Capulet ball, and they decide to go, with Benvolio and Mercutio telling Romeo there will be many more beautiful women there, so he can forget about Rosaline. Over the tannoy, we hear that the incursion has been resolved, and all assembled are able to return in safety to the Capulet party.

Location 2, within the Capulet Mansion (the Playhouse): Lady Capulet tells Juliet that Paris wants to marry her. Juliet's Nurse is very excited, but Juliet hasn't thought about marriage yet.

The ball scene is revealed, and the Capulets all dance. It is here that Romeo sees Juliet for the first time, from a distance, and is overwhelmed by her beauty. Despite his mask, Romeo (Montague) is spotted by Tybalt (Capulet), who wants to kill Romeo for sneaking in uninvited– but Capulet forcefully stops him. Tybalt is angered by this and vows revenge against Romeo. Romeo approaches Juliet. They talk and then kiss. Nurse interrupts and tells Romeo that Juliet is a Capulet, much to his dismay. Later, Juliet finds out that Romeo is a Montague, and she reacts in much the same way. We hear over the tannoy that the revels are now ended, and so we leave the ballroom.

Location 3, the Capulet Orchard: The Balcony Scene. Romeo manages to hide from his friends outside in Capulet's orchard and refuses to join them, despite Mercutio's teasing. Whilst in the Orchard, Romeo sees Juliet high on her balcony. Not knowing Romeo is there, Juliet speaks about him lovingly but laments the fact that he's a Montague. Romeo lets her know that he is there. Juliet is shocked, but the two of them engage in loving conversation. Interrupted by the Nurse, they hastily arrange to marry.

Following this, and as time shifts, Romeo goes to see his friend, Friar Laurence, who enters on a vehicle of his own making - part tuk-tuk, part tricycle, part ice-cream van. When Laurence last saw Romeo he was lovesick about Rosaline, and Laurence is pleased to see the change in him - until he realizes that Romeo wants to marry some new girl. Friar Laurence agrees to marry Romeo to Juliet in the hope that the union will bring peace to the warring families. We become aware of a noise behind us, and so turn around to face the roundabout.

Location 4, the roundabout: Benvolio and Mercutio are busy teasing Romeo when the Nurse arrives, and Mercutio teases her mercilessly, provoking her anger. Romeo tells the Nurse to inform Juliet that she should go to Friar Laurence's cell that afternoon to be married. Juliet anxiously waits to hear from the Nurse. When she does call, she takes a long time to reveal the message, much to the annoyance of Juliet.

Location 5, the Friar's cell: Romeo waits for Juliet with Friar Laurence. She arrives, and the couple kiss. Romeo and Juliet are married.



Location 6: Benvolio and Mercutio talk in Verona's streets. Benvolio is trying to persuade Mercutio to go indoors as it is very hot and he fears a brawl if they come across the Capulets. Typically, Mercutio rejects this idea and teases Benvolio. Tybalt enters; he and Mercutio have a heated discussion. Romeo enters. Tybalt hands out insults to Romeo, who does not take the bait. Instead, Mercutio fights Tybalt, and is killed; Tybalt strikes the fatal blow as Romeo moves between them. Grief-stricken, feeling guilty and seeking revenge, Romeo kills Tybalt. He runs away, and the Prince, in Romeo's absence, banishes him from Verona.

ACT 2:

Location 7, the Capulet Mansion foyer: Juliet has no idea what has gone on and sits at home looking forward to her wedding night with Romeo. The Nurse enters, crying, shouting Romeo's name and that someone has died. Juliet assumes it is Romeo but soon discovers it is Tybalt– and that Romeo killed him. At first she criticizes Romeo; then, she defends him to the Nurse. The Nurse agrees to find Romeo, telling him to come and bid farewell to Juliet before he is banished.

Location 8, the Friar's cell: We return to Friar Laurence's cell, where Romeo is distraught by how events have unfolded. Laurence tries to make him see sense, but Romeo won't hear it. The Nurse enters and tells Romeo that Juliet is constantly crying. Romeo takes a knife and offers to stab himself to remove his name. Friar Laurence stops him and becomes angry. Laurence tells Romeo to visit Juliet as previously arranged but warns him to make sure he leaves Verona before dawn and go to nearby Mantua. Meanwhile, we see through windows into the Mansion that Paris has visited Capulet to repeat his request to marry Juliet. Capulet changes his mind, setting Thursday as the wedding day.

We look up, to the balcony of Juliet's bedroom. Romeo and Juliet have spent the night together, and neither wants to part, although they realize Romeo must go or risk death if he is captured. Romeo climbs down from the balcony and leaves. Lady Capulet enters and tells Juliet that she will be married to Paris on Thursday, but Juliet refuses. Lord Capulet becomes very angry and threatens her. Juliet turns to the Nurse, but her advice is to marry Paris. Juliet, realizing she has nowhere else to turn, plans to visit Friar Laurence for help.

Looking back to the Friar's cell, we see that Paris is now there with the Friar, trying to arrange his marriage to Juliet, when she enters. Paris leaves, and Juliet threatens to kill herself if Laurence cannot help her. He comes up with a plan: she should go home and tell her father that she is sorry and will marry Paris. Laurence provides Juliet with a potion that will make her unconscious, mimicking the signs of death for 42 hours. She will then be taken to the Capulet tomb and laid to rest. In the meantime, the Friar will send a message to Romeo, telling him to return secretly from Mantua and take Juliet away once she wakes up. The audience moves back into the Mansion, as we hear that we must observe all security protocols, and that civil blood makes civil hands unclean.

Location 9, Juliet's bedroom: The Capulet household is preparing for the wedding. Juliet enters and apologizes to her father. Capulet decides to move the wedding forward by one day, meaning it is now



due to take place the very next day. The Capulets and Nurse leave. Juliet is very worried about the potential consequences of drinking the potion; but, finally, she does it.

Time passes, and, with a sense of it being the next day, the Nurse goes to Juliet's bedroom to wake her up but realizes she is "dead." The Nurse, Lord and Lady Capulet and Paris all grieve over the shocking event. Friar Laurence enters and tries to reassure everyone that she will be peaceful and happy now. Capulet says all the preparations for a wedding will now change to a funeral. The audience moves, and we reach our next location.

Location 10, Mantua: We see Romeo in exile in Mantua. His servant Balthasar has gone on horseback to see him and inform him that Juliet has died, her body placed in Capulet's family tomb. Romeo asks Balthasar if he is carrying any message from the Friar, but he has none. Romeo plans to return to Verona and see Juliet, planning to kill himself and lay with her in the vault. He stops on the way and buys some very strong poison from the Apothecary.

Friar Laurence comes into view as we return to Verona, and we learn that he has previously sent Friar John to deliver a letter to Romeo in Mantua. However, Friar John returns, explaining he was unable to do so. He wasn't even allowed to leave Verona by the city's health officers, as he was suspected of carrying an illness. Immediately realizing the potentially disastrous consequences of this, and that Juliet will awake shortly, the Friar plans to break into the tomb to rescue her, intending to keep her at his cell until he can inform Romeo about what has happened.

The audience, now in Verona too, forms part of the funeral procession for Juliet, surrounded by citizens who sing the funeral dirge as we process to the final location.

Location 11, the Civic Monument: Paris has gone to Juliet's tomb to pay his respects. Romeo also approaches the tomb. Not knowing anything about the relationship between Romeo and Juliet, Paris assumes that Romeo has come to do something vile against the Capulets, seeing as he is a Montague. Paris challenges Romeo, the pair fight, and Paris is killed.

Romeo, not realizing that Juliet will shortly awake, is overwhelmed by grief and so he drinks the poison. In his final moments, he gives Juliet a final kiss before he dies. Friar Laurence enters the tomb, and Juliet wakes. Some noise from outside signifies that they are about to be disturbed, most likely by the Watch. Fearing capture, Laurence runs away, but Juliet stays. Realizing Romeo has killed himself with poison, she tries to do the same, but there isn't any left. She kisses Romeo, then stabs herself with his dagger.

The Prince enters with Friar Laurence under arrest, as do Lord and Lady Capulet and Lord Montague. Friar Laurence later tells the whole story to the Prince, who believes him. Saddened and enraged, the Prince condemns the hatred between the two families. Capulet and Montague shake hands, with all promising to remind the people of Verona the power of true love and the need to live peacefully, as we hear the final voices of Romeo and Juliet telling how they have buried their parents' strife through their shared love.