

ROMEO LOVES JULIET - OK?

A Play

by

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SchoolPlay Productions Ltd

15 Inglis Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3HU

ROMEO LOVES JULIET - OK?

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CAST

- Rosalind** *Romeo's girlfriend. They fall out and he goes off with Juliet. Rosalind is a forceful girl and wants revenge on Juliet and to get Romeo back.*
- Mercutio** *Part of Romeo's gang. A "Jack the lad". Carries a knife. Always ready for a fight. Always at the front of any trouble.*
- Paris** *Leader of the Capulet gang. Juliet's boyfriend and gets engaged to her during the play. He is a good looking boy, admired by the girls. Rather big-headed he cannot take rejection by Juliet and plots his revenge on Romeo and to get Juliet back.*
- Romeo** *Leader of the Montague gang. A typical teenager. He gets involved in trouble but is never in the forefront of it. He would rather avoid actual fights but won't run away from them. He finds Rosalind's criticism of him hard to understand.*
- Benvolio** *Romeo's best friend. A well meaning boy treated as rather "wet" by everyone else. He does not want to get involved in any trouble.*
- John Friar** *The little brother of Laurence. Would love to be part of the Capulet gang so always tags along despite the fact the others don't want him.*
- Laurence Friar** *Part of the Capulet gang. Fed up with always having to look after his little brother. In love with Susanna Nurse. A "Mr. Fixit" character.*
- Tybalt** *A member of the Capulet gang. Argumentative and hot headed.*
- Judith** *A friend of Juliet. She is a typical teenager, loves parties, gossip and boys, particularly Paris.*
- Susanna Nurse** *A friend of Juliet. The one she turns to in times of trouble. Also loves parties and fancies Paris although she is going out with Laurence Friar.*
- Mrs. Capulet** *Juliet's mother. A forceful woman. Dominates her husband and*

daughter. Not immune to Paris's charms.

Mr. Capulet *Juliet's father. Although henpecked by his wife he is under no illusions about Paris, Tybalt or anyone else.*

Juliet *The girlfriend of Paris but finds herself "railroaded" into getting engaged to him. Fed up with the way he behaves she falls for the far less egotistical Romeo.*

Priest *Small non speaking part. Can be doubled up with Benvolio.*

PRODUCTION NOTES

This play for teenagers takes Shakespeare's well-known story, puts it into the present day and looks at Rosalind and Paris's reactions to what's going on. The play is basically a comedy but involves the themes of Love, Jealousy, Hate, Revenge and ultimate Tragedy.

SETTING

Modern day. It can be played on a bare stage with the addition of props or with a set if the director requires one.

SONGS

There is a song for the wedding scene and at the very end. Directors may wish talented members of the cast to compose their own or use appropriate music as a soundtrack.

A. B.

ROMEO LOVES JULIET - OK?

by Andra Bishop

(There is a blackout. Opening music "Romeo & Juliet". Fade music. Flash of lightning. Crash of thunder. Curtains open. Flash of lightning. Crash of thunder. Spotlight up to reveal the 'three witches', PARIS, ROSALIND, and MERCUTIO, posed).

Rosalind: Fair is foul.

Mercutio: And foul is fair.

Paris: By the pricking of my thumbs something evil this way comes.

All: US!

Ros: Love.

Mer: Jealousy.

Paris: Hate.

All: Revenge.

Ros: Love.

Mer: Jealousy.

Paris: Hate.

All: Revenge.

Ros: A glooming peace this morning with it brings,
The sun for sorrow will not show his head.

Mer: Our tale will tell of many things,
But leads to two lovers lying dead.

Paris: Two gangs, both alike in dignity
In fair Verona where we lay our scene

Mer: From ancient grudge, break to new mutiny
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.

Ros: From forth the very heart of these two foes
A pair of star crossed lovers take their life.

Paris: For never was a story of more woe
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

Ros: But everything would have been fine
If Romeo had stayed with Rosaline.

(Flash of lightning. Crash of thunder. PARIS and ROSALINE exit left).

Mer: For our story to begin we must take you back in time.
To when Juliet loved Paris and Romeo still loved Rosaline.

(Lights up. Enter left ROMEO with arm round ROSALINE, BENVOLIO, enters also. The lights up reveal 4 chairs downstage right to represent a car).

Romeo: Hey, Mercutio. How's it going?

Mer: I'm bored Romeo. We need to liven things up a bit.

Benvolio: He's right Romeo. We just wander around in an aimless fashion.

Romeo: Hey, Benvolio, we're hanging out man.

Ros: Yeah. We hang about round the bus shelter.

Benvolio: Then we hang about outside the shops.

Romeo: Then we HUNG OUT at the park.

Ben: But NOTHING HAPPENED.

Mer: So, let's DO something.

Romeo: Well, what do you suggest?

Mer: See that car over there? Let's nick it!

Ben: Oh no. It's illegal!

Mer & Ros: So?

Ros: You are such a DRAG Benvolio. I don't know why you stay in the gang.

Romeo: Can you break it in Mercutio?

Mer: No problem.

(MERCUTIO "smashes" window. Gets in car. ROMEO and ROSALINE enter same way. BENVOLIO tries to break a window but the glass won't break).

Romeo: How do we start it?

Mer: Here.

(He fiddles with "wires". The engine starts).

Mer: Can you drive a car Romeo?

Romeo: I don't know. I've never tried.

(THEY all laugh. ROMEO starts car. BENVOLIO runs alongside).

Ben: Hey, wait for me.

(They stop the car and let BENVOLIO in the back. ROMEO starts car again).

Ben: We shouldn't really be doing this.

Ros: Oh, lighten up Ben.

Mer: Yeah. Be cool. This is a laugh.

Ben: Hey, we're really BAD DUDES aren't we?

Mer: Shut up Ben.

Romeo: What shall we do now?

Ben: Hey, let's look in the glove compartment.

(He leans over front seats and opens glove compartment. He has obscured ROMEO'S view).

Romeo: Get out of the way Ben. I can't see where we are going.

Ben: Oh look. A packet of polo mints and a pair of gloves!

Romeo: BEN!

(The CAR crashes. Pause).

Romeo: Is everyone O.K.?

Ros: You idiot Ben.

Ben: I did warn you all this wasn't a good idea.

(Enter left PARIS, TYBALT, LAURENCE and JOHN FRIAR, SUSANNA NURSE and JUDITH. ROMEO and gang keep arguing in mime).

Paris: Laurence, why did you have to bring your little brother?

John: I'm NOT little.

Paris: Oh yes you are.

Laurence: My mum said I had to babysit him.

Tybalt: It is NOT cool to bring your baby brother along with the gang.

John: Hey, I'm NOT a baby!

Laurence: Shut up John. I didn't WANT to bring him.

John: But I want to be part of the gang.

Tybalt: Then age at least four years.

Paris: And grow about another metre.

Laurence: Sorry Paris. It won't happen again.

Paris: Yeah. Well just see it doesn't. It spoils the image. Know what I mean?

(Sees crashed car). Well, well, look who's here.

Mer: Romeo. It's Paris and his gang.

Romeo: Quick! Everyone out the car.

(They get out of car).

Tybalt: Look Paris, they're turning their backs on us.

Judith: The cowards are going to run away.

Mer: Did you hear that Romeo?

Ben: Let's just leave quietly.

Ros: Don't be so wet Benvolio.

Tybalt: This is OUR territory Paris. Those Montagues are well out of order coming here.

Nurse: They need teaching a lesson.

Judith: Go on Paris. Sort them out.

(PARIS and ROMEO square up to each other, glaring).

Mer: Are we just going to stand here?

Ben: No. Let's just walk away.

Mer: Shut up Ben.

Paris: Hey, Romeo, neat driving. 'Course I don't need to go round nicking old bangers. My father bought me a Porsche.

All Montagues: OOOOH! Daddy bought him a Porsche!

Mer: Yeah. It's a corgi car.

Laurence: Got a bit lost didn't you Romeo? This is OUR part of the city.

Paris: Yeah. Get back to the slums where you belong.

Ros: Don't you speak to my Romeo like that.

Laurence: Oh look. A little spitting alley cat.

Nurse: More like look what the cat dragged in!

Judith: You ought to get yourself a REAL man.

Nurse: One with a bit of style - and a lot of cash.

Romeo: Hey, my family's got money. My Dad BOUGHT the lottery.

Paris: Yeah. Off MY Dad.

Ben: This is getting really childish. Can we just go?

Mer: Hey, watch this Romeo.

Ben: Mercutio, come back.

(MERCUTIO swaggers up to PARIS's gang and bites his thumb at them. ROMEO's gang cheer, except for BENVOLIO. PARIS's gang are furious).

John: He bit his thumb at us! Did you see that Laurence? Mummy says that's rude.

Judith: We can't let him get away with that.

Tybalt: Do you bite your thumb at us?

Mer: I DO bite my thumb.

Paris: Yes. But do you bite your thumb at US?

Mer: No. I don't bite my thumb at YOU but I DO bite my thumb.

(ROMEO's gang laugh).

Tybalt: You want a fight, do you?

Mer: A fight? Certainly not. What makes you think that?

Tybalt: You're trying to wind us up.

Mer: Doesn't take much to wind YOU up Tybalt.

Ros: Yeah. Small brain. Small everything else.

Mer: Come on Tybalt, you're all talk. *(Reveals knife).* Let's see what you're made of.

(Everyone else is shocked, except TYBALT. BENVOLIO is panic stricken).

Tybalt: Is this a dagger I see before me? *(Draws his own knife).* Snap! Come on then if you think you're hard enough. I'm waiting.

(BENVOLIO runs between TYBALT and MERCUTIO).

Ben: Don't be fools. Give me the knife Mercutio.

(MERCUTIO does so).

Tybalt: So YOU'RE armed now. Turn Benvolio. Look upon your death

Ben: I'm only trying to keep the peace. Put away your knife Tybalt.

Tybalt: You're waving a knife around and talking of peace? Peace! I hate the word. Like I hate all you Montagues.

Paris: Come on Tybalt. Let's sort out these cowards.

(They fight to "Saturday Night's All Right for Fighting". Sound of police siren. They all stop fighting).

Mer: It's the old Bill.

Laurence: Come on Paris, let's get out of here. Mum'll kill me if I get arrested with John.

John: I want to stay. This is fun. Wait till I tell them at school I was in a real gang fight.

Paris: You haven't heard the last of this Romeo. If we ever see you or your gang on our side of the city again you're dead meat.

Romeo: Yeah, yeah. You're all mouth Paris.

Ben: Oh don't start again.

(BEN pushes ROMEO out right followed by MERCUTIO and ROSALINE. They take two chairs out as they go. PARIS, TYBALT, LAURENCE and JOHN exit left).

Judith: That was a bit of a laugh.

Nurse: Not the knives though. They'll end up killing someone.

Judith: You coming down the shops?

Nurse: No. I said I'd help Juliet get ready for the party tonight.

Judith: Oh yeah. I'm coming to that.

Nurse: ALL the Capulets are invited. They've got a great Disco booked and everything. *(Waves ticket)*. And it's invitation only so we won't see any of those wretched Montagues there.

Judith: It should be brilliant. See you later then.

(JUDITH exits left. Enter ROMEO and BENVOLIO right).

Ben: Why the long face Romeo?

Romeo: Rosalind.

Ben: Oh, Women eh?

Romeo: Everything was fine. We'd only walked a couple of steps and suddenly I've done something wrong.

Ben: Forgotten her birthday?

Romeo: No.

Ben: Forgotten the anniversary of the first time you ate a hamburger together or something?

Romeo: No.

Ben: Well that's just women for you. In my experience you just can't win with them.

Romeo: And what experience have you had with women Benvolio?

Ben: Well, no actual HANDS ON experience, if you know what I mean. But I read a lot of books.

Nurse: You are so SAD.

Romeo: Well, well, Susanna Nurse.

Nurse: What are you still doing here Romeo? Paris told you to leave.

Ben: He got involved in women trouble.

Romeo: Shut up Ben. She doesn't need to know about my private life. Anyway. Paris doesn't own this city. Verona is free to anyone who cares to walk in it. I can go where I like.

Nurse: Well don't let Paris or Tybalt catch you or you'll have far more than WOMEN trouble.

(NURSE exits, dropping ticket).

Romeo: Who do those Capulets think they are?

Ben: *(Picks up ticket).* Hey, look what she dropped.

Romeo: A ticket to a party at the Capulet's house tonight. We'll go.

Ben: Um. Do you think that's really such a good idea Romeo?

Romeo: It's invitation by ticket only. And we've got a ticket.

Ben: We've got Susanna Nurse's ticket.

Romeo: And a party will get me back into Rosalind's good books. She LOVES parties. Come on Benvolio.

Ben: I just KNOW we're going to regret this.

(ROMEO and BENVOLIO exit right. Enter MR. and MRS. CAPULET left. They sit on the two remaining chairs).

Mrs. Capulet: Now remember, William, to be on your best behaviour.

Mr. Capulet: I'm ALWAYS on my best behaviour Anne.

Mrs. Cap: Paris has announced he wants to call on us before the party.

Mr. Cap: Paris? What does HE want?

Mrs. Cap: Can't you guess?

Mr. Cap: Er can't be for a loan. His father's the richest man around.

Mrs. Cap: OF COURSE he's not asking for a loan. THINK.

Mr. Cap: Um no. No. I can't say I have the faintest idea.

Mrs. Cap: I think he's going to ask for permission to marry our daughter.

Mr. Cap: What? Juliet?

Mrs. Cap: She IS our daughter. Yes. Well remembered.

Mr. Cap: She's a bit young to get married yet.

Mrs. Cap: She's the same age I was when I married you.

Mr. Cap: Yes. But you were very FORWARD for your age. And you've not been backward in coming forward ever since.

Mrs. Cap: William!

Mr. Cap: Sorry dear.

Mrs. Cap: You fathers. You'd keep your daughters as little girls all their lives if you could. Here he comes now. Be welcoming.

(Enter PARIS left. MR. CAPULET gets up. They shake hands).

Mr. Cap: Paris my boy. How are you?

Paris: Very well thank you Mr. Capulet. (*Kisses MRS. CAPULET'S hand*). And Mrs. Capulet. You look as beautiful as ever.

(*MRS. CAPULET giggles*).

Paris: Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.

(*MRS. CAPULET simpers at him*).

Mr. Cap: (*Aside to MRS. CAPULET*). You did say it was JULIET he was after, didn't you?

Mrs. Cap: Yes.

Mr. Cap: Only, I did wonder.

Mrs. Cap: Be quiet William. Do sit down Paris. Next to me.

(*PARIS sits. MR. CAPULET has to stand*).

Mr. Cap: What can we do for you Paris?

Paris: I'll come straight to the point Mr. Capulet. I'd like your permission to ask Juliet to marry me.

Mrs. Cap: Such LOVELY manners. Most young people these days wouldn't bother letting the parents know.

Mr. Cap: Juliet is very young still Paris.

Paris: And so am I.

Mr. Cap: (*Doubtfully*). Yes. I'm not sure that's a good thing.

Paris: And you know I come from a good family.

Mrs. Cap: An EXCELLENT family.

Paris: I am comfortably off, financially. I can keep Juliet in a style to which she is not accustomed

Mr. Cap: (*Insulted*). I earn a pretty good wage.

Paris: Ah. But I don't HAVE to work. My wealth is inherited. Juliet and I can devote all our time to pleasure. She'll never get a better offer Mr. Capulet.

Mrs. Cap: She certainly won't.

Mr. Cap: And what does Juliet think of all this?

Paris: I haven't spoken to her yet but I don't doubt her answer.

Mrs. Cap: Neither do I.

Mr. Cap: Well, if Juliet is happy about it then I will be too. I'll go and get her.

(MR. CAPULET exits right).

Mrs. Cap: Let me speak to her first Paris. Just to remind her how lucky she is. You go into the next room. *(Hands him a photo album).* Why don't you have a look at this?

Paris: What is it?

Mrs. Cap: Our photo album of Juliet. Look, there she is at one year old lying naked on a fur rug.

Paris: Thanks. I'll have a close look and let my imagination run riot.

(PARIS exits left. Enter JULIET and SUSANNA NURSE right).

Juliet: Dad said you wanted to see me Mum. Susanna was just helping me with my make up.

Nurse: Oh I'm SO excited about the party tonight Mrs. Capulet. Everyone is. It's going to be the event of the year.

Mrs. Cap: I'm sure it will be. I've always prided myself on putting on a better party than anyone else in Verona.

Juliet: What's so important Mum?

Mrs. Cap: Tell me Juliet. How do you feel about marriage?

Juliet: Um. I'm FOR it, I suppose.

Nurse: You can't beat a good white wedding.

Juliet: It might be a good idea to live together first. Just to make sure you're suited.

Mrs. Cap: How do you feel about YOU getting married?

Juliet: I hadn't really thought about it. I'm a bit young yet. I've got things I want to do before I settle down.

Mrs. Cap: Too young! What nonsense! Why, I was married by your age.

Juliet: Yeah. But only because you HAD to.

Nurse: Really?

Juliet: I was born six months after the wedding.

Mrs. Cap: JULIET! Paris has asked your father if he can marry you.

Juliet: He might have asked me first.

Nurse: I think that's quite sweet. Very old fashioned.

Mrs. Cap: You'll never find a better boy in all Verona Juliet. And, of course, it's a very good match, socially.

Nurse: He is really fit Juliet. All the girls fancy him.

Mrs. Cap: He's in the next room. I'll just get him. *(She moves left to get him).*

Nurse: You're so lucky Juliet.

Juliet: Am I?

Nurse: You've been going out for several months. You do love him, don't you?

Juliet: I don't know.

Mrs. Cap: Come along Susanna. Let's leave the two lovebirds together.

(MRS. CAPULET and NURSE exit right. Enter PARIS left).

Paris: *(Sings). I love Paris in the springtime
I love Paris all the year
I love Paris
Why oh why do I love Paris?
Because my love is here.*

Juliet: Hello Paris.

Paris: Hi babe.

(Goes to kiss her. She moves away). Anything wrong?

Juliet: I don't know.

Paris: I've been speaking to your parents.

Juliet: I know.

Paris: We're pretty good together, don't you think?

Juliet: I suppose so.

Paris: I do love you you know.

Juliet: Do you?

Paris: Truly, madly, deeply.

Juliet: Honestly?

Paris: Yeah. And you love me - don't you?

Juliet: I don't know.

Paris: *(Incredulous).* You don't know?

Juliet: It's all a bit sudden. We've only been going out a few months. I hadn't really given it a lot of thought.

Paris: *(Irritated).* Well start thinking now. Hey, I could have any girl I want and I've chosen you. You like me, don't you?

Juliet: Yes - most of the time.

Paris: So, we'll announce our engagement at the party tonight, O.K.?

Juliet: I'm not sure

Paris: Good. That's settled then. *(He puts his arm around her).*

(Enter MR. & MRS. CAPULET right. MRS. CAPULET rushes to hug JULIET).

Mrs. Cap: Oh Juliet, I'm SO happy.

Mr. Cap: Well son I never thought you'd settle down so soon.

Mrs. Cap: I must start choosing my outfit for the wedding.

Mr. Cap: Come and have a drink son to welcome you into the family.

(MR. & MRS. CAPULET and PARIS exit left leaving JULIET alone. Enter NURSE right).

Nurse: Well? What happened?

Juliet: I'm engaged to Paris.

Nurse: OOOH! How exciting! Congratulations!

Juliet: Yeah. I suppose so.

Nurse: He really loves you, you know.

Juliet: I expect he does. But I think he loves himself more.

Nurse: Come on or we won't be ready for this party.

(JULIET and NURSE remove chairs and exit right. Sound of Disco music. Lights flashing to left of stage. Enter ROMEO and ROSALIND left. ROSALIND is in a mood).

Romeo: It's a good Disco, isn't it?

Ros: It's all right.

Romeo: What's the matter with you? You LIKE parties. I thought you'd enjoy yourself.

Ros: Just taking me to a party doesn't make everything all right.

Romeo: So what's wrong?

Ros: Well, for a start, we haven't been invited, have we? We're gate crashers.

Romeo: I've got a ticket.

Ros: There's bound to be trouble, sooner or later. And then where will you be Romeo?

Romeo: What do you mean?

Ros: Earlier today when we met Paris's gang and they insulted me you did nothing.

Romeo: I was psyching them out.

Ros: Oh yeah.

Romeo: I was building myself up.

Ros: How do you think that makes me feel? My own boyfriend wouldn't stand up for me.

Romeo: I was going to.

Ros: Yeah. Sure.

Romeo: We had a fight.

Ros: But that was Mercutio and Tybalt who really started it off. *(She starts to exit left).*

Romeo: Where are you going?

Ros: Back into the Disco. I'll see if I can find myself a REAL man.

(ROSALIND exits left. Enter MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO right).

Mer: Hey Romeo, this is a great laugh. No one's tried to stop us coming in at all.

Ben: Where's Rosalind?

Romeo: She's mad at me.

Ben: Again?

Romeo: No. STILL. Same reason. But at least I know what the reason is now.

Ben: Hey, there are loads of gorgeous girls here.

Mer: Yeah. We can take our pick. Come on.

Ben: Perhaps when you take a look around you'll see Rosalind isn't worth all the grief.

(ROMEO, BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO exit left. Enter JULIET, NURSE and JULIET right).

Judith: I'm just SO excited Juliet. This is a great party - and now you're engaged too.

Juliet: Yeah.

Nurse: I don't what you're so miserable about. Paris is GORGEOUS.

Judith: Yeah. He can marry me anytime.

(Enter PARIS, TYBALT, LAURENCE and JOHN left, all are drunk except for JOHN).

Tybalt: Laurence, how come you brought your little brother to the Disco?

Paris: I thought I told you to ditch the kid.

John: I'm NOT a kid.

Laurence: Sorry Paris. He just follows me around. Clear off John.

John: I'll tell Mummy you've been drinking. I'll tell her you're DRUNK.

Laurence: You wouldn't.

John: Want to bet?

Paris: O.K. You can stay.

John: Great!

Tybalt: But you go into the Disco and STAY there.

John: It's a deal.

(JOHN exits left).

Paris: Hey, there she is - my betrothed.

Tybalt: You're well in there mate.

Paris: Come on darling. Give us a kiss.

Juliet: You're drunk.

Paris: I'm drunk with love for you doll.

Laurence: She doesn't seem too happy Paris.

Paris: Nonsense. I have her eating out of my hand - just like her mother - and her mates. That's right girls, isn't it?

(NURSE and JUDITH giggle).

Tybalt: Paris, they're putting the karaoke on.

("Twist and Shout" comes on the karaoke. PARIS leads it with the others backing him. MERCUTIO, BENVOLIO and ROSALIND enter and join in. PARIS tries to get JULIET to join in but she refuses. She watches in disgust as PARIS drunkenly makes up to NURSE, JUDITH and then ROSALIND. ROMEO enters left, depressed as everyone hokey cokeys off left, leaving JULIET. As he's leaving TYBALT sees ROMEO and stays behind. Music fades away).

Romeo: *(Sees JULIET).* Wow! That is one good looker.

Did my heart love till now?

Forswear it sight

For I never saw beauty till this night.

Tybalt: What have we here? A Montague! Who do you think you are gatecrashing our party.

(JULIET, knowing there's going to be trouble runs out right).

Tybalt: What trick have you got planned to spoil everything?

Romeo: No tricks. We just thought it'd be a laugh to turn up.

Tybalt: A laugh eh? *(Draws knife and grabs ROMEO).* Let's see you laugh now, Romeo.

(Enter JULIET with MR. CAPULET right).

Mr. Cap: Tybalt! Put that away at once.

Tybalt: But this is a MONTAGUE.

Mr. Cap: So it is. Young Romeo isn't it?

Romeo: Good evening Mr. Capulet.

Tybalt: He's come to ruin the party.

Mr. Cap: The only thing ruining the party is you Tybalt. I'll have no fighting in my house. Leave him alone.

Tybalt: (*Lets go of ROMEO and puts away knife*). It sticks in my throat when you accept a MONTAGUE as a guest. I'll not forget it.

Mr. Cap: Go back to the Disco Tybalt. Enjoy yourself

Tybalt: If that's what you want Mr. Capulet. (*To ROMEO*). But next time I see you Romeo - you're dead.

(*MR. CAPULET and TYBALT exit left*).

Romeo: Hi.

Juliet: Hi.

Romeo: Great party.

Juliet: Is it?

Romeo: Aren't you having a good time?

Juliet: Not really.

Romeo: To tell you the truth neither am I. My girlfriend's mad at me because I don't fight more.

Juliet: My boyfriend is a womanising prat.

(*Enter NURSE and JUDITH left*).

Nurse: Juliet, your mother wants a word with you.

Romeo: Who is her mother?

Judith: Mrs. Capulet of course.

Romeo: Are you a Capulet?

Juliet: Yes. This is my house.

(*Enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO left*).

Ben: I think it's time to go. Tybalt's getting really wound up in there.

Mer: We could take him on. We could take them all on.

Ben: But we won't. Come on.

(*BENVOLIO pushes MERCUTIO out right*).

Romeo: Looks like I'm off.
Juliet: Will I see you around?
Romeo: That's not very likely.
Juliet: Bye.

(ROMEO exits right).

Juliet: Do you know that boy I was talking to?
Nurse: Oh yes. We know him all right. Paris would be furious if he knew he'd been here.
Juliet: Well? Who is he?
Judith: His name is Romeo. He's a Montague.
Juliet: *(Aside).* My only love sprung from my only hate.
Nurse: You what?
Juliet: Nothing..
Judith: Come on. Your mother wants you.

(Exit JULIET, NURSE and JUDITH left. Pause. Enter ROSALIND left).

Ros: Romeo? Romeo? How dare he disappear when I'm ready to make up with him?

(ROSALIND exits right. JULIET, NURSE and JUDITH enter left and set up balcony at front of stage).

Nurse: Juliet, you can't go out with Romeo. He's a Montague.
Juliet: But he's much better than all the Capulet boys.
Judith: He is quite sweet I suppose.
Nurse: But what about Paris?
Juliet: What about him?
Judith: You're engaged to him.
Nurse: And he's really GORGEOUS.
Judith: Here he comes now.

(Enter PARIS and TYBALT left, very drunk, singing "Show Me the Way to Go Home". They collapse in a drunken heap).

Judith: Well, perhaps he's not quite at his best right now.
Juliet: What are you doing in my bedroom?
Paris: Give us a kiss darling.

Juliet: You're drunk and disgusting.

Paris: I love you Juliet. I love her Tybalt.

Tybalt: I know mate.

Paris: She's the best thing that's ever happened to me.

Tybalt: 'Course she is.

Paris: Mind you, I love you too, Tybalt. You're my best mate. *(Puts arm round him).*

Tybalt: Let's just stick with discussing Juliet, shall we?

Paris: Juliet! I want to open my heart to you.

Tybalt: He wants to only he can't. It's after midnight so it's closed!

(TYBALT and PARIS laugh).

Paris: OOOH! I feel sick!

Juliet: Don't you be sick in my bedroom!

Nurse: Quick! Get him to the bathroom!

(JULIET, NURSE, JUDITH and TYRALT hurry PARIS out right. Enter ROMEO left from floor level. He gazes up at balcony).

Romeo: Can I go forward when my heart is here?

(Enter MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO from back of auditorium).

Ben: Romeo! Romeo!

Mer: Wherefore art thou Romeo?

Rom: Oh no. Why can't they leave me alone? *(He hides).*

Mer: I reckon he's gone off with Rosalind.

Ben: I reckon he's hiding round here somewhere.

Mer: Hey, look!

Ben: What?

Mer: The balcony door up there is open.

Ben: So?

Mer: So we could break in. This is the Capulet house so there's bound to be stuff worth nicking.

Ben: We can't do that! It's illegal.

Mer: Don't be so soft Benvolio. Here, give us a leg up.

Romeo: Hey!

Mer: Hiya Romeo. Give us a hand. There's an open door up there. It's an open invitation to break in.

Romeo: That's Juliet's bedroom. Clear off Mercutio.

Ben: I told him it wasn't a good idea.

Mer: Shut up Ben. Juliet's bedroom eh? What about Rosalind? She's going to be pretty mad if she finds out you've been hanging around here.

(Sound of breaking glass and a lamp is thrown across stage from right to left).

Romeo: But soft, what light from yonder window breaks?

(Sound of vomiting offstage right).

Juliet: Oh for goodness sake Paris. Why couldn't you wait till you got to the bathroom?

Romeo: She speaks. Oh speak again bright Angel.

(JULIET enters right pushing PARIS and TYBALT before her).

Juliet: You really are the most disgusting animal I've ever met. Clear off and take your drunken friend with you.

Paris: Be reasonable Juliet. I thought I could stay the night. After all, we ARE engaged.

Tybalt: Paris mate, I think I'm about to chuck.

Juliet: *(Screams).* GET OUT!

(PARIS and TYBALT stagger out left).

Romeo: It is my lady, oh it is my love.
Oh that she knew she were.

Mer: You what?

Ben: This isn't a good idea Romeo.

Romeo: I need to speak to her.

Ben: Throw a stone, that'll catch her attention. Here I'll do it.

(He mimes picking up a stone. He throws it. Mimes it hitting a bird. He picks up bird and throws it at balcony).

Mer: I reckon she's deaf. Hey there's a rusty old bike in those bushes. I'll chuck that.

Romeo: NO! Thank you for your help but I'd rather you all just cleared off.

Mer: OOOH!

Ben: Come on then. But this is going to cause nothing but trouble.

(MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO exit left on floor level. JULIET goes on to balcony).

Juliet: *(Sighs to herself).* Oh Romeo.

Romeo: Juliet! It's me.

Juliet: Romeo? How did you get into the grounds? Paris will kill you if he sees you.

Romeo: He doesn't look as though he's in any fit state to do anyone any harm.

Juliet: That's true.

Romeo: Climb down the drainpipe to me.

Juliet: What? In THIS outfit? You climb up here.

(ROMEO tries. Fails).

Romeo: It's no good. I was never any good at breaking and entering.

Juliet: What are we going to do Romeo? I'm engaged to Paris but I love you.

Romeo: You can't marry Paris if you're already married.

Juliet: What do you mean?

Romeo: I don't usually do this sort of thing so early in a relationship but *(Down on one knee)* will you marry me?

Juliet: Yes.

Romeo: What?

Juliet: I said yes.

Romeo: Oh. Don't you want time to make up your mind?

Juliet: The moment I saw you I knew this was true love.

Nurse: *(From off right).* JULIET!

Juliet: Oh no. It's my mate Susanna Nurse.

(Enter NURSE right).

Nurse: What's going on?

Juliet: Romeo and I are to be married.

Nurse: What!

(Enter JUDITH right).

Nurse: Juliet's going to marry Romeo!

Judith: What about Paris?

Juliet: I don't love Paris. I love Romeo.

(The three GIRLS argue for a moment).

Nurse: Well, there's no point forcing her to marry Paris if she doesn't want to.

Judith: When will you marry Romeo?

Romeo: The sooner the better.

Nurse: I've got an idea. Laurence Friar's got an uncle who's a vicar. I might be able to persuade him to get a wedding organised with a special license.

Judith: Why would Laurence want to do that?

Nurse: Oh. I can persuade him.

Judith: I didn't know about you and Laurence. You kept that quiet.

Romeo: I'll meet you at nine tomorrow Juliet. And then we'll be married.

Juliet: I'll not be able to sleep tonight.

Romeo: Parting is such sweet sorrow
That I shall say goodnight, till it be morrow.

*(ROMEO exits from floor left. JULIET, NURSE and JUDITH take balcony off left.
Enter ROSALIND in state of shock right. Enter PARIS in state of shock left).*

Ros: How could he do this to me?

Paris: How could she do this to me?

Ros: O.K. So I got ratty with him. He hadn't stood up for me when I was insulted.
But I'd forgiven him.

Paris: O.K. So I got a bit drunk. EVERYONE does that now and again.

Ros: We'd only fallen out for a couple of hours and now he's marrying someone else!

Paris: This was the day of our engagement. And now tomorrow she's marrying someone else!

Ros: He used to write me poetry.

Paris: He did? Should I have written Juliet poetry?

Ros: Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs,
Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes.

Paris: Maybe not.

Ros: } He obviously didn't care for me at all.

Paris: } She obviously didn't care for me at all.

Ros: It hurts.

Paris: It makes me angry. No one treats me like that.

Ros: Don't get mad. Get even.

Paris: What do you mean?

Ros: The course of true love never shall run smooth.

Paris: What shall we do?

Ros: We will watch and wait and as soon as we can we will separate Romeo and Juliet for ever.

(Song from PARIS and ROSALIND while mime sequence ensues:

NURSE meets LAURENCE FRIAR right. Chats him up. Persuades him to get priest. They exit left.

Enter ROMEO left and JULIET right. Embrace.

Enter LAURENCE left with PRIEST, who keeps his back to audience at all times.

Enter NURSE and JUDITH left as bridesmaids with bouquets.

ROMEO and JULIET kneel before PRIEST.

LAURENCE acts as Best Man with ring.

ROMEO and JULIET rise. PRIEST pronounces them man and wife. They embrace.

NURSE and JUDITH throw confetti over them.

LAURENCE shakes ROMEO'S hand.

All shake PRIEST'S hand.

JUDITH escorts PRIEST out right.

LAURENCE and NURSE with arms round each other exit right.

ROMEO and JUDITH with arms round each other exit right).

Paris: Now they're married and off to bed what can we do?

Ros: Don't worry. I have a plan. Here comes Mercutio. Romeo has forgotten he was due to meet him here. Juliet has pushed all other thoughts from his head.

Paris: Mercutio won't be too happy about that

Ros: And close behind Mercutio is Tybalt. Let's hide and see what happens.

(ROSALIND and PARIS exit right. Enter MERCUTIO left. He looks around).

Mer: I'm sure Romeo said to meet him here at nine thirty.

(Enter TYBALT left).

Tybalt: Mercutio!

Mer: Tybalt!

Tybalt: Weren't you warned yesterday about wandering into Capulet territory?

Mer: I'll go where I want.

Tybalt: *(Draws dagger).* I'll give you ten seconds to clear off.

Mer: I warn you. Romeo will be here any minute and then you'll be outnumbered.

(Draws dagger). I give YOU ten seconds to clear off.

Tybalt: *(Looks all round).* Romeo? There's no sign of him. He's stood you up.

Looks like it's just you and me.

(TYBALT stabs MERCUTIO in arm).

Mer: AAAAH! You've stabbed me!

(Enter PARIS and ROSALIND right).

Paris: Run Tybalt. We'll sort this out. Quick! Before the old Bill get here.

(TYBALT runs off left).

Ros: It's only a little scratch. You'll live. But Romeo needn't know that.

Mer: What are you talking about?

Paris: Romeo forgot all about you Mercutio.

Ros: He married Juliet this morning and they're off to bed.

Paris: You're supposed to be his best mate but he left you to face the Capulet gang alone.

Ros: He put a Capulet girl before your safety.

Paris: He didn't think of you at all. A quick phone call would have warned you not to come.

Mer: That's true. I've got my mobile. It wouldn't take a minute to let me know.

Ros: You could be dead now for all he cares.

Mer: You're right.

Paris: What sort of mate is he?

Mer: We've known each other since we were babies. We've been best mates all our lives.

Paris: He only met this girl yesterday and he dumps you completely.

Ros: You should get your own back on him.

Mer: I will.

Ros: And we'll help you.

Paris: You join forces with us and we'll teach Romeo a lesson he'll never forget.

Mer: What do I have to do?

Ros: Give me your knife and then go with Paris. That wound needs washing. I'll deal with Romeo.

(MERCUTIO gives ROSALIND his knife. MERCUTIO and PARIS exit right. Enter ROMEO left).

Romeo: Oh er hello Rosalind.

Ros: Oh Romeo! Something terrible's happened. Mercutio was waiting here for you and Tybalt came. They had a fight. Tybalt stabbed Mercutio and now Mercutio's dead.

Romeo: Dead!

Ros: I held him in my arms as the blood flowed from him. Who would have thought he'd have so much blood in him. His dying words were to you.

Romeo: What did he say?

Ros: He said, "A plague on both your houses."

Romeo: This is awful! I'd forgotten I'd told him to meet me here until a few minutes ago. This is all my fault.

Ros: He was your best friend. You must avenge him. Here's Mercutio's knife. Kill Tybalt with it. It'll be poetic justice.

Romeo: Me? Kill Tybalt!

Ros: Mercutio would never have been here if it weren't for you. He would still be alive if it weren't for you. You owe it to him. He was your best friend.

Romeo: You're right. Tybalt must die.

Ros: Here he comes now. Good luck.

(ROSALIND exits right. TYBALT enters left).

Romeo: Tybalt! Why did you do it?

Tybalt: He was in our territory. He needed to be taught respect.

Romeo: You killed him!

Tybalt: Killed? I never killed him!

Romeo: He's dead.

Tybalt: He can't be.

(TYBALT is confused. ROMEO lunges forward and stabs TYBALT in stomach.. TYBALT is doubled up. BENVOLIO runs in left. ROSALIND runs in right).

Ros: Well done Romeo.

Ben: Romeo! What have you done? *(He examines TYBALT)*. That's an awful wound Romeo. We must get him to hospital.

Ros: I'll do that. You must get Romeo away from here.

Ben: He can't run away from this. He must give himself up.

(TYBALT collapses to knees).

Ros: I don't think Tybalt's going to survive that knifing. Romeo's going to get done for murder. Benvolio, he'll get sent to prison - for life.

Romeo: I can't go to prison. What about Juliet?

Ros: He's your friend Benvolio. Help him.

Ben: What can I do?

Ros: Take him to Mantua. You've got family there.

Ben: Come on then. Let's get going.

(BENVOLIO hustles ROMEO out left. Enter PARIS and MERCUTIO right. TYBALT is now on the floor. MERCUTIO checks him).

Mer: He's dead.

Paris: Romeo is a murderer. He can never return to Verona again.

Ros: And Juliet can be yours.

Mer: What are we going to do with Tybalt's body?

Ros: We must take it to the police and make a statement.

Paris: Telling all we know about Romeo's crime.

Mer: It's our duty.

(PARIS, ROSALIND and MERCUTIO exit left taking TYBALT with them. Screams offstage. Enter JULIET, NURSE and JUDITH right, crying).

Nurse: Romeo has killed your cousin Tybalt.

Judith: And now Romeo's done a runner.

Juliet: I must go to him.

Nurse: We don't know where he is.

Juliet: What am I going to do?

(The three GIRLS cry. Enter MR. & MRS. CAPULET right).

Mrs. Cap: Such terrible news. That awful Romeo Montague.

Mr. Cap: Tybalt was always a very argumentative boy.

Mrs. Cap: Don't make excuses for Romeo. He's a murderer.

(The three GIRLS yell louder).

Mr. Cap: That's going right through my head.

Mrs. Cap: These are dangerous times. No one's safe anymore with all this gang warfare.

Mr. Cap: With Tybalt dead and Romeo gone I should hope that's an end to all these troubles.

Mrs. Cap: I worry about Paris. I think we need you and Paris safely married. A

respectable couple. Then Paris won't feel the need to roam the streets in a gang any more.

Juliet: But I CAN'T marry Paris.

Mr. Cap: You're grieving for your cousin Tybalt of course.

Mrs. Cap: But life must go on. We've arranged for a special license. You and Paris will be married tomorrow.

(MR. & MRS. CAPULET exit right).

Juliet: What am I going to do?

Nurse: This is terrible. You can't marry Paris. You're already married to Romeo.

Judith: But Romeo is a murderer and we don't know where he is.

(Enter ROSALIND left).

Ros: He's gone to Mantua. I have his address right here. *(She passes note to NURSE).*

Juliet: Who are you?

Ros: A friend.

Nurse: I know you. You're Rosalind. Romeo's girlfriend.

Ros: EX girlfriend. It was all over between us some time ago.

Juliet: How can I stop this wedding with Paris tomorrow?

Ros: I have a plan. You need to get hold of some very powerful sleeping pills. If you take them they put you into such a deep sleep that everyone will think you're dead. They will lay you in the Capulet tomb.

Judith: What! She can't be put in a tomb with all those dead people. Yeuk! Creepy or what?

Ros: You send word to Romeo. He will arrive that night when the pills have worn off. Everyone thinks you're dead so they won't check on you. You can go and live happily ever after with Romeo.

Juliet: A brilliant idea.

Nurse: But where will she get the pills?

Judith: And who will send a message to Romeo?

Ros: Oh, I'll leave that to you to sort out. But can I suggest you ask Laurence Friar. He's good at fixing things.

Juliet: Thanks for your help.

Ros: Think nothing of it. Good luck.

(ROSALIND exits left).

Judith: *(To NURSE).* You speak with Laurence.

(JUDITH and JULIET exit left. Enter LAURENCE and JOHN left).

John: I want to go home and play on my play station.

Laurence: Shut up John.

Nurse: Hello Laurence.

Laurence: Hello Susanna.

John: *(Taking the mick).* Oooh. Hello Susanna.

Laurence: What awful news about Tybalt and Romeo.

Nurse: Yeah. Juliet's in a right state. She needs your help.

Laurence: What can I do?

Nurse: Can you get hold of some really strong sleeping pills?

Laurence: I suppose so. She's not trying to top herself is she?

Nurse: No. No. It's just a trick she's playing.

John: Laurence I'm bored. Can we go home? Will you buy me an ice cream?

Nurse: John. Would you do me a favour?

John: What?

Nurse: Would you go to this address in Mantua?

Laurence: Mantua? That's too far for John to go on his own.

John: I'm not a baby you know. I can go to Mantua.

Nurse: 'Course he can. I'll give him the bus fare.

John: When I get there what do I have to do?

Nurse: Romeo is at this address.

John: Romeo? Romeo the murderer?

Laurence: You can't send John to visit a murderer. He's just a kid. My Mum'd kill me if she found out.

John: I'm NOT just a kid. I'll go Susanna. I'm fed up with Laurence telling me what I can and can't do just 'cos he's older than me.

Nurse: Tell Romeo that Juliet is going to PRETEND she's dead because her parents want her to marry Paris tomorrow.

Laurence: But she's married to Romeo!

Nurse: That's the POINT Laurence. Tell Romeo she'll be in the Capulet tomb. He's to meet her there tomorrow night. She'll have woken up by then. Can you remember all that?

John: 'Course I can.

Laurence: I'm really not happy about this.

John: Shut up Laurence. I'm going to do it and that's that. And then maybe they'll let me join the gang.

(JOHN runs out left).

Nurse: Are you going to get the pills then?

Laurence: Oh. All right.

Nurse: *(Hugs him).* Thanks.

(NURSE exits right. Enter MERCUTIO and ROSALIND left).

Ros: There's Laurence Friar. You know what to do.

Mer: Sell him these pills.

Ros: Yes. Tell him they're extra strong sleeping pills, but really they're poison. I want Juliet dead so Romeo will be mine again.

Mer: What's the ingredients then?

(They look at bottle).

Mer & Ros: Eye of newt, toe of frog
Wool of bat and tongue of dog.

(They laugh). ROSALIND exits left).

Mer: *(Goes up to Laurence).* Psst! Mate. Wanna buy some gear?

Laurence: Got any sleeping tablets?

Mer: You are in luck mate. Fell off the back of a lorry outside Boots the Chemist. Extra strong sleeping pills. Make you sleep so deep people think you're dead.

Laurence: That's exactly what I'm looking for.

Mer: Have we got a deal then?

(LAURENCE hands over money. MERCUTIO hands over bottle. LAURENCE exits right. Enter PARIS and ROSALIND left).

Paris: Juliet despises me so much she'd pretend to be dead rather than marry me!

Ros: Romeo kills Tybalt and all he can think about is Juliet.

Mer: We're going to get our own back on both of them.

Paris: What if Romeo finds out Juliet's only taken a sleeping pill? They've sent John Friar to tell him

Ros: But we can stop the little boy ever reaching Romeo. Catch him up Mercutio.

Mer: Where shall we three meet again?

Paris: We'll meet you in Shake's Bar.

(PARIS and ROSALIND exit left. Enter JOHN right. He runs to front of stage. MERCUTIO watches from downstage left).

John: Oh no. I've missed the bus!

Mer: Why don't you just nick a car mate?

John: I don't know how. Now I suppose I'll just have to run all the way to Mantua.

(JOHN starts running on the spot at front of stage. MERCUTIO joins him. PARIS and ROSALIND set up bar, table and stools behind them. PARIS has disguised himself with shades and taken off jacket to reveal white shirt. He stands behind bar and puts out bottles of Shake's beer. ROSALIND takes one and sits at table).

Mer: You're going to run all the way to Mantua? What are you - a marathon runner?

John: No. But I'm on a mission. I've got to get a message to Romeo.

Mer: Well, that's easy, isn't it? Why don't you just phone him?

John: *(Stops running).* I never thought of that. Only, I haven't got a mobile. Can I borrow yours?

Mer: Sorry mate, the battery's dead. Tell you what, why don't we pop into this bar. They're bound to have a phone.

John: A bar? I'm not allowed *(Draws himself up. Swaggers).* Yeah. Right. Cool.

(MERCUTIO and JOHN enter bar).

Mer: There's my mate Rosalind. Sit yourself down with her and I'll get us a drink.

(He gets two bottles from PARIS).

Ros: Hi there. I'm Rosalind.

John: I'm John.

Ros: How you doing John.

John: Oh, you know. I'm hanging loose.

Ros: Great. You got a girlfriend John?

John: *(Embarrassed).* Oh, well, you know.

Ros: I expect you've got several girls fighting over you, haven't you John? A handsome boy like you.

John: You know how it is.

Ros: No chance for me then?

John: You? What! Really?

Mer: Here you are then mate. Get that down you.

John: Thanks. *(Takes a swig. Coughs violently)*. Oh, I'd better make my phone call first. *(To PARIS)*. Have you got a phone here mate?

(PARIS points to pay-phone on counter).

John: Oh yeah.

Mer: Hey, John. Romeo's my best friend. He's always good for a laugh. Why don't you play a little joke on him?

John: What sort of joke?

Ros: Why don't you tell him first that Juliet's dead?

John: Will he find that funny?

Paris: He'll laugh his head off.

John: I'll tell him the truth straight after of course.

Mer/Paris/Ros: Of course.

(JOHN dials and puts money in phone).

John: Hey, Romeo, Juliet's dead *(PARIS cuts wire)*. Ha ha, only joking oh no the money's run out. *(To ROSALIND and MERCUTIO)* Have you got any change?

Ros & Mer: No. Sorry.

John: *(To PARIS)*. Have you got any change?

Paris: You've got to buy something first. We don't just give out change. We're not a charity you know.

John: *(Panicking)*. What can I buy?

Paris: *(Waving bottle)*. What about a drink?

John: Yeah. Yeah. I'll have a drink please.

Paris: Hang on a minute sonny. How old are you?

John: Er

Paris: You look under age to me. Sorry son. I can't serve you.

John: But what am I going to do?

(PARIS, MERCUTIO and ROSALIND start moving the bar, table and stools out left).

Mer: Sorry mate. Can't help you.

John: But Romeo thinks Juliet is dead.

Ros: That's your problem.

(PARIS exits right. ROSALIND and MERCUTIO exit left).

John: Oh no. What have I done?

(JOHN runs off right. Sound of Gregorian chants. LAURENCE, MR. CAPULET, PARIS and JOHN enter right carrying JULIET'S body. JUDITH and NURSE bring in tomb from left. JULIET'S body is laid on tomb. All exit right except PARIS who stands by her).

Paris: My plot works. Romeo will believe Juliet is dead and go away for ever. Once Juliet wakes up and realises Romeo is never coming back to her she'll turn back to me.

(Enter ROSALIND downstage left).

Ros: *(To audience).* My plot works. The pills Mercutio gave Laurence Friar were poison. With Juliet dead Romeo will return to me.

(Enter MERCUTIO downstage left).

Mer: *(To audience).* My plot works. The pills I sold Laurence Friar were poison. With Juliet dead we'll sort out Tybalt's death. I'll tell the police Romeo was defending me. Then Romeo and I can be mates again - hanging out in the Montague gang. Everything will be back to normal.

(PARIS moves to join MERCUTIO and ROSALIND. Enter ROMEO downstage right with BENVOLIO).

Romeo: It's true. She's dead!

Ben: You're not safe here Romeo.

Romeo: Who cares about safe? Juliet's dead!

Ben: I don't understand what's happened.

Romeo: What's happened is my wife is dead! Leave me alone with her.

Ben: You're not going to do anything stupid are you?

Romeo: She's my wife Benvolio. Leave me alone with her to say goodbye.

(BENVOLIO exits left. He is very reluctant and keeps looking back. ROMEO goes up to JULIET).

Romeo: She looks as though she's only sleeping but her hand is cold to the touch. I

couldn't believe the message. I thought someone was playing a sick joke. But now I see it's true. *(Takes out a bottle)*. Before we came I called on a dealer who assures me this drug is pure poison. *(He drinks)*.

Here's to my love. Oh true apothecary
Thy drugs are quick. *(Kisses JULIET)*.
Thus with a kiss I die.

(ROMEO collapses).

Ros & Mer: *(Scream)*. NO!

Paris: Leave him. He's dead.

Ros: This isn't what's supposed to happen.

Mer: Romeo shouldn't die.

Ros: He should live and come back to me.

(JULIET stirs).

Paris: Look! Juliet is waking up.

Mer: What?

Ros: *(To MERCUTIO)*. I thought you said those pills were poison.

Mer: I thought they were. You swallow eye of newt, toe of frog, wool of bat and tongue of dog you don't expect to live, do you?

Paris: Someone's coming.

(PARIS, ROSALIND and MERCUTIO go back downstage left. Enter LAURENCE left).

Laurence: It's time for Juliet to wake up. But where's Romeo? *(Sees him)*.
Romeo? What's going on here?

Juliet: Laurence? I've remembered where I should wake up. But where's Romeo?

Laurence: I don't know what's going on but he's here - dead.

Juliet: DEAD!

Laurence: Come with me Juliet. Let's get out of this place of death.

Juliet: You go Laurence. I'm not leaving.

Laurence: I must fetch help.

(LAURENCE runs out left).

Juliet: *(Gets up and examines ROMEO)*. What's this? A bottle of poison. *(Tries to sip)*. All gone. *(Finds knife on Romeo)*. Then I'll have to use this. With

Romeo dead there is no reason for me to live.
Oh happy dagger.
This is thy sheath.
There rust and let me die.

(JULIET stabs herself and falls beside ROMEO).

Paris: NO!

Ros: It's only right that she should die.

Paris: But this isn't what I'd planned. She was to wake up, realise Romeo wasn't coming and return to me.

Mer: It looks like none of us got what we planned.

Ros: This is what happens when you let the green eyed monster Jealousy take over.

(MERCUTIO, PARIS and ROSALIND circle ROMEO and JULIET).

Ros: Love.

Mer: Jealousy.

Paris: Hate.

All: Revenge.

Ros: Love.

Mer: Jealousy.

Paris: Hate.

All: Revenge.

Ros: A gloomy peace this morning with it brings
The sun for sorrow will not show its head.

Mer: Our tale has told of many things
That led to two lovers lying dead.

Paris: For never was a story of more woe
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

(MERCUTIO, PARIS and ROSALIND sing as MR. & MRS. CAPULET, NURSE, JUDITH, LAURENCE and JOHN enter slowly and gather round to mourn JULIET on their knees. BENVOLIO enters slowly to mourn ROMEO on his knees. At end of song MERCUTIO and ROSALIND join BENVOLIO. PARIS joins JULIET'S mourners). Lights fade.

CURTAIN

CAST

- Rosalind** *Romeo's girlfriend. They fall out and he goes off with Juliet. Rosalind is a forceful girl and wants revenge on Juliet and to get Romeo back.*
- Mercutio** *Part of Romeo's gang. A "Jack the lad". Carries a knife. Always ready for a fight. Always at the front of any trouble.*
- Paris** *Leader of the Capulet gang. Juliet's boyfriend and gets engaged to her during the play. He is a good looking boy, admired by the girls. Rather big-headed he cannot take rejection by Juliet and plots his revenge on Romeo and to get Juliet back.*
- Romeo** *Leader of the Montague gang. A typical teenager. He gets involved in trouble but is never in the forefront of it. He would rather avoid actual fights but won't run away from them. He finds Rosalind's criticism of him hard to understand.*
- Benvolio** *Romeo's best friend. A well meaning boy treated as rather "wet" by everyone else. He does not want to get involved in any trouble.*
- John Friar** *The little brother of Laurence. Would love to be part of the Capulet gang so always tags along despite the fact the others don't want him.*
- Laurence Friar** *Part of the Capulet gang. Fed up with always having to look after his little brother. In love with Susanna Nurse. A "Mr. Fixit" character.*
- Tybalt** *A member of the Capulet gang. Argumentative and hot headed.*
- Judith** *A friend of Juliet. She is a typical teenager, loves parties, gossip and boys, particularly Paris.*
- Susanna Nurse** *A friend of Juliet. The one she turns to in times of trouble. Also loves parties and fancies Paris although she is going out with Laurence Friar.*
- Mrs. Capulet** *Juliet's mother. A forceful woman. Dominates her husband and daughter. Not immune to Paris's charms.*

Mr. Capulet *Juliet's father. Although henpecked by his wife he is under no illusions about Paris, Tybalt or anyone else.*

Juliet *The girlfriend of Paris but finds herself "railroaded" into getting engaged to him. Fed up with the way he behaves she falls for the far less egotistical Romeo.*

Priest *Small non speaking part. Can be doubled up with Benvolio.*

PRODUCTION NOTES

This play for teenagers takes Shakespeare's well-known story, puts it into the present day and looks at Rosalind and Paris's reactions to what's going on. The play is basically a comedy but involves the themes of Love, Jealousy, Hate, Revenge and ultimate Tragedy.

SETTING

Modern day. It can be played on a bare stage with the addition of props or with a set if the director requires one.

SONGS

There is a song for the wedding scene and at the very end. Directors may wish talented members of the cast to compose their own or use appropriate music as a soundtrack.

A. B.

