11-1-2012

Romeo & Juliet

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TAYLOR UNIVERSITY’S
Mitchell Theatre
PRESENTS

William Shakespeare’s Tragedie

Romeo & Juliet
The concession stand is open before the show and during intermission.

We are serving an assortment of baked goods. Pepsi products and coffee are also available.

Haze and fog are used in this production.

*The Designers*

**Cory Rodeheaver - Scenic and Projection Designer**
Cory has been working as a freelance scenic designer for the past 12 years and is no stranger to Taylor Theatre. He has been involved with Taylor theatre for the past 17 years. Last season Cory designed Taylor’s production of *Proof.* Outside of Taylor, Cory has designed for the Summer Studio Theatre Company at the University of Illinois, the Feltre Library Theatre in Chicago, Parkland College and the University of Illinois Theatre department to name a few. Some other productions to his credit are: *The Hobbit, La Traviata, Aloha Say the Pretty Girls, Tennessee Williams’ Spring Storm, Peter Pan, The Importance of Being Earnest, Tally’s Folley, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Urine Town the Musical, Into the Woods* and staged readings of Ghosts and Desire Under the Elms. Currently Cory is designing exhibits and themed environments across the country employed as the senior exhibit designer for Taylor Studios Inc. based in Rantoul, Illinois. He lives with his wife Jennifer and two children Ethan and Emmy in Champaign, IL. Cory holds a MFA in Scenic Design from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

**Kevin Gawley - Lighting Designer**
Kevin is returning to design his eighteenth production at Taylor. As a freelance lighting/scenic designer, Kevin’s work has appeared on many Chicago stages, including Lifeline Theatre where he won the Jeff Citation for his design of *Jane Eyre,* the After Dark Award for his design of *Strong Poison,* and has been an ensemble member and resident designer since 2001. His work also appeared in numerous productions at the Bailiwick, Organic, Porchlight, OperaModa, Blindfaith, Theatre on the Lake, Metropolis, StoreFront, Loyola University Chicago, Revels Chicago, Midwest Jewish and at the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival theatres. Kevin is currently the Lighting and Scenic Design professor at the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire and has previously taught courses at Loyola University Chicago and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is also a resident designer at St. Scholastica Academy. Kevin holds an MFA and BFA in Lighting Design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MBA in Finance from DePaul University. Kevin’s lighting/projection designs were featured summer 2009 at Lifeline Theatre’s productions of *Crossing California* and *Gaudy Night.*
**Production Staff**

**Photographers**
- Abigail Pollock
- Jonathan Wormgoor

**Master Electrician**
- Rachel Kulaga
- Ron Brunette
- John Leman
- Nate Randolph
- Mark Glenchur

**Properties Master**
- Kacey Heinlein
- Lauren Lewis

**Makeup/Hair**
- Jessica Koloian
- Paige Lanham
- Callie Haven
- Christi Kroll

**Costume Shop Supervisor**
- Taryn Dunton
- Kathryn Irwin
- Hannah Helpler
- Christina Goggin
- Natalie Smiley

**House Manager**
- Joshua Key

**Play Synopsis**

**ACT I**
Two rival families, the Capulets and the Montagues, feud on the streets of Verona. Benvolio, a Montague, tries to part them, but a hotheaded Capulet, Tybalt, incites more violence. The Prince breaks up the fight and warns that further violence will result in death. Lord and Lady Montague discover that their reclusive son, Romeo, is sick with love for the chaste Rosaline. That evening, Romeo and his friends put on disguises and crash the Capulets’ party, where he spies the lovely Juliet, steals a kiss and falls deeply in love.

**ACT II**
Romeo enters the Capulet orchard, where he is enthralled by the sight of Juliet. He overhears her calling his name and lamenting that they are of rival houses, so he emerges and professes his true love. Juliet asks Romeo to send for her tomorrow if his purpose is marriage. At Romeo’s request, Friar Laurence agrees to perform the ceremony, hoping it will end the feud. Romeo gives Juliet’s Nurse a message to deliver: he and Juliet will be married that afternoon. Juliet meets them as planned and they are wed.

**ACT III**
Tybalt challenges Romeo to a fight, but when Romeo refuses, Mercutio fights on his behalf and receives a mortal wound. Angry and remorseful, Romeo vows revenge, kills Tybalt and is banished by the Prince. Unaware of what has transpired, Juliet awaits the consummation of her marriage. She learns of Tybalt’s death and Romeo’s exile. Romeo hides in Friar Laurence’s cell, tortured by the thought of banishment. The Friar devises a plan for Romeo to visit Juliet that night, then wait until it is safe to return. After their first night together, Romeo begrudgingly leaves Juliet’s bedroom. When her parents tell her she must marry Paris on Thursday, Juliet objects, and Lord Capulet threatens to disown her. Juliet seeks out Friar Laurence for advice.

**ACT IV**
Juliet confesses to the Friar that she would rather die than marry Paris. Friar Laurence hands her a potion and instructs her to drink it that night, telling her that it will give the illusion of death. He sends Romeo a message that explains the plan, and tells him to meet his wife in the burial vault and take her to Mantua. Juliet returns home and makes a show of obeying her father. Once alone, she swallows the potion. The next morning, the Nurse discovers Juliet’s body.

**ACT V**
Having never received word of Friar Laurence’s plan, Romeo hears of Juliet’s death. He purchases a deadly poison and leaves to die at her side. When he encounters Paris mourning at the tomb, they fight and Romeo slays him. Romeo kisses Juliet one last time, swallows the poison and dies. When Juliet awakens to find Romeo dead, she takes his dagger and stabs herself. Lord Montague and Lord Capulet accept blame for the tragedy and agree to give up their hatred and honor the memories of Romeo and Juliet.

*Denotes Alpha Psi Omega Membership
National Dramatic Honor Society*
Brandon Potoczek
Brandon Potoczek is a transfer freshman from Ball State. This is his first theatre experience. Brandon is from Aurora, Illinois and lives in Zionsville, Indiana.

Jay Miller
Jay is a sophomore Film Production major from Monroe, Ohio. He performed in West Side Story, Beauty and the Beast, The Music Man and The Carol Burnett Show in high school. He has worked deck crew for A Christmas Carol and Noises Off at Taylor. This is Jay’s first show as an actor at Taylor. Other hobbies include film-making, singing, worship, spending time with friends and family, and growing spiritually with Christ. He would like to thank Tracy and all who have made this show an amazing, memorable and worthwhile experience.

*Cameron Cooper
Cam is a senior Theatre Arts major with a youth ministry minor from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Cam has been involved with five productions here at Taylor. He hopes to write plays and have them produced. You can also see Cam in the touring show But Not Destroyed.

Morgan Turner
Freshman Morgan Turner is from Kokomo, Indiana. She is a Theatre Arts major with a Christian education minor. In high school Morgan had roles in Cinderella the Musical, Hello Out There, Night Mother, Later, Oklahoma! and Peter Pan.

*Jessica Koloian
Jessica, senior Theatre Arts major, comes to Taylor from Plymouth, Michigan. While at Taylor, she played Eugenie in The Count of Monte Cristo and Sally in A Christmas Carol. Most recently, she appeared as Brooke in Noises Off and as Mandy in the student-directed production Time Stands Still.

*Braden Spear
Senior Braden Spear is a Theatre Arts major from North Smithfield, Rhode Island. He enjoys reading comic books, playing soccer, and snowboarding. While at Taylor Braden had roles in The Secret Garden, Hippolytus, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged, A Christmas Carol, and Proof. He is currently involved in the touring company’s show But Not Destroyed.

*Taryn Dunton
Taryn Dunton is a senior Theatre Arts and Spanish major from San Diego, California. This production marks her tenth Taylor credit and her most challenging role thus far. Juliet has brought great reward and growth but it would not have been possible without the support of those around her. She thanks her family, friends, and boyfriend for their constant source of strength. Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds.

*Ryan Maloney
A senior 3D Visual Art major, from Upland, Indiana, Ryan Maloney has appeared in numerous Taylor theatre productions. Most recently Ryan performed in Waiting for Godot, Noises Off, A Christmas Carol, Shakespeare Abridged, and he is a member of the Taylor Touring Company. Ryan has worked as the charge scenic artist at Taylor multiple times, and spent the past summer as the charge scenic artist at the Wagon Wheel Theatre in Warsaw, IN.

Tyler Smith
Freshman Tyler Smith is a Theatre Arts and Psychology major. He is from Rockford, Illinois. This is his first Taylor production. While in high school, Tyler had roles in Calamity Jane, Get Smart, Bye Bye Birdie, Oklahoma!, You Can’t Take It With You, and Fiddler on the Roof.

*Christina Goggin
Christina is a junior English Literature major from Cambridge City, Indiana. At Taylor she has appeared in several shows including The Count of Monte Cristo, Witness for the Prosecution, All My Sons and Proof.
**Dane Soderquist**  
Dane is a sophomore Film Production major from the city of Chicago, Illinois. He has been involved in theatre during his short time at Taylor, including *A Christmas Carol, Proof, Noises Off,* and the student-directed show *Master Class.* He would like to dedicate his performance to Josh Larkin.

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**Luke Secaur**  
Warsaw, Indiana, is home to Luke. He is a sophomore Media Communication major. His theatre credits include *A Christmas Carol, Incident at Vichy, Time Stands Still, Spinning Into Butter, You Can't Take It With You* and *Once Upon A Mattress.*

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**Ron Brunette**  
Ron is a freshman Physics major, making the stage as Peter/Gregory in this production. In his spare time, Ron plays piano and studies theology. This is his first theatre experience at Taylor.

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**Lexie Owen**  
Lexie is a sophomore Professional Writing and Theatre Arts major. She enjoys horses, watching "Doctor Who" and "Once Upon a Time," and hiking. She has previously appeared in high school productions of *Robin Hood, Beauty Lou and the Country Beast, American Idle, We the People,* and *Meet Me at Louigi's,* and was recently in Taylor’s production of *Waiting for Godot.* She hails from St. Joseph, Missouri, and plans to pursue freelance writing after graduating.

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**Esther Neel**  
Upland, Indiana, is home to Esther. She is a senior Theatre Arts major. She has been a member of the theatre production staff as Charge Scenic Artist for the last three years. Esther appeared in the student directed shows *All in the Timing* and *Butterflies Are Free.*
Romeo and Juliet

Cast
Romeo
Juliet
Mercutio/Prince Esculus
Benvolio
Nurse
Friar Laurence
Lord Capulet
Lady Capulet
Paris
Tybalt
Lord Montague/Friar John
Lady Montague/Paris’ page
Balthasar
Peter/Gregory/Second Watchman
Apothecary
Sampson/Servingman
Abraham/Citizen/1st Servant/Third Watchman
Cousin Capulet/Constable/Citizen
Women’s Chorus

*Braden Spear
*Ryan Maloney
*Ryan Maloney
*Taryn Dunton
*Christina Goggin
*Luke Secaur
*Esther Neel
*Nate Randolph
*Dane Soderquist
*Ron Brunette
*Cameron Cooper
*Jay Miller
*Erin O’Donnell

Fight Captain
Tyler Smith

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National Dramatic Honor Society

Production Staff
Artistic Director.................................................................*Tracy Manning
Technical Director.............................................................Terrance Volden
Scenic Designer.................................................................*Cory Rodeheaver
Assistant Scenic Designer......................................................Bobbie Jo Bonebrake
Lighting Designer...............................................................Kevin Gawley
Assistant Lighting Designer....................................................Claire Hadley
Fight Choreographer..........................................................Barbara Seifert
Weapon Designer .................................................................Nathan DeCoux
Dance Choreographer.........................................................Kori Browder
Stage Manager.................................................................*Tim Vest
Assistant Stage Managers ......................................................Kyla Sele
Master Carpenter...............................................................Tucker Wieland
Charge Scenic Artist............................................................*Esther Neel
Poster Design.................................................................*Ryan Maloney and Kelly Werner

*Denotes Alpha Psi Omega Membership
National Dramatic Honor Society
Welcome to Taylor University Theatre. If you are a regular supporter of our program we thank you for your encouraging participation over the years. If this is your first visit, we trust that you will enjoy our work enough to return - again and again and again. We have a distinct calling as a Christian liberal arts theatre program, reflected in our philosophical statement. We welcome your participation, your comments on our work, and any suggestions you might have to help us accomplish our mission.

Come Play with us. . .

Taylor University Theatre is a co-curricular educational program supporting the liberal arts mission of the University by providing a broad range of theatre experiences that span most theatrical periods, genres, and styles.

Plays that probe the human condition and reveal human action with integrity, authenticity, and a sense of “grace,” provide us the opportunity to understand better what is true about ourselves and others.

While individual plays may not necessarily reflect the ethos of the Taylor community, we believe that this theatrical pursuit of truth resides at the heart of a Christian Liberal Arts education.

The Stage Manager - *Tim Vest
Tim is a senior music major with an honors minor. He is from Lebanon, New Jersey. While at Taylor Tim has had roles in All My Sons, Incident at Vichy, A Christmas Carol, Antigone, Die Zauberflote, and directed Master Class.

Terrance Volden - Technical Director
Terrance is new to Indiana, and this marks his third production as Technical Director here at Taylor University. Originally from Kansas, Terrance graduated from Sterling College in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Theatre Arts. After graduation, he spent just under 3 years as a missionary outside of Chiclayo, Peru. During his time in South America, Terrance planted a church, was acting pastor of that church, taught English, planted feeding programs, led local youth, and worked as a translator for volunteer groups from the United States. His theatre credits include 3 years as Scene Shop Supervisor at Sterling College, design and directing opportunities at Sterling High School, and scene design and construction across Kansas and Oklahoma. Last year, Terrance returned to Sterling to finish his education licenses in both Theatre and Vocal Music. He is loving his experiences at Taylor, and is thankful to the TU family for welcoming him. “These students have been a blessing since day one. I hope that God continues to bless us in unimaginable ways as we continue to work together.”

Special thanks to the following for helping to make this production possible:

Jerry Stair
Taylor University Housekeeping and Maintenance
Nathan DeCoux - Gotham Armory

*Denotes Alpha Psi Omega Membership
National Dramatic Honor Society
Artistic Director - *Tracy Manning

One word has dominated the criticisms of *Romeo and Juliet*: “star-cross’d.”

From forth the fatal loins of these two foes, says the Prologue,

A pair of star-cross’d lovers take their life.

“Star-cross’d” backed by “fatal” has pretty much surrendered this drama to the astrologers. “In this play”, says one interpreter, “simply the Fates have taken this young pair and played a cruel game against them with loaded dice, unaided by any evil in men.” That is merely an extreme expression of the widely held view that makes *Romeo and Juliet*, in contrast with all other Shakespeare’s later tragedies, a tragedy of accident rather than of character, less profound, less universal. But that point ought not to be conceded without convincing demonstration. That this play betrays signs of immaturity and lacks some of the marks of mastery that are common to the other Shakespeare tragedies may readily be granted. The burden of proof is certainly on those who assert it, for nowhere else does Shakespeare show any tendency to believe in fate in this sense. The integrity of his mind makes it highly unlikely that in just one instance he would have let the plot of the story he was dramatizing warp his convictions about freedom.

The theme of *Romeo and Juliet* is love and violence and their interactions. In it these two mightiest of mighty opposites meet each other squarely – and one wins. And yet the other wins. It is a play which once again does for us what so many plays do ... explores our humanity in all it beauty and its ugliness. Choices made from passion, rash and impetuous; result in untimely pain and death. We too wrestle with our flesh ... eating what we shouldn’t, spending what we can’t, and pursuing pleasures that we think only impact us.

We have wrestled through the language, the aesthetic, the limits of our space and our understanding and bring to you the culmination of our struggle. We are grateful you have joined us ... we have long awaited you, planned and prepared for you. You complete our work.

Blessings

Tracy Manning

Please join us...

**Mainstage Productions**

**Godspell**
February 8-10, 15-17

**The Curious Savage**
April 26-28, May 3-5

**Student Directed Shows**

Jan. 25th & 26th
March 1st & 2nd
March 8th & 9th
March 15th & 16th
April 12th & 13th
May 10th & 11th