

## ROMEO AND JULIET

Teen Opera in 3 acts,  
that follows William Shakespeare's play, and  
composed mostly for teenager performers, similarly to the famous Zeffirelli  
film.

Music and libretto by Zoltan Demme.

### CHARACTERS

ESCALUS, prince of Verona.  
PARIS, a young nobleman.  
MONTAGUE, head of a Verona house  
CAPULET, head of an other Verona house.  
ROMEO, son to Montague.  
MERCUTIO, a friend to Romeo.  
BENVOLIO, a friend to Romeo.  
TYBALT, nephew to Lady Capulet.  
FRIAR LAURENCE, FRIAR JOHN, franciscans.  
BALTHASAR, servant to Romeo.  
SAMPSON, GREGORY, servants to Capulet.  
ABRAHAM, servant to Montague.  
LADY MONTAGUE, wife to Montague.  
LADY CAPULET, wife to Capulet.  
JULIET, daughter to Capulet.  
NURSE to Juliet.  
APOTHECARY.

### GROUP SINGERS

Citizens of Verona,  
Men and Women, relations to both houses,  
Maskers, Guards, Watchmen, and Attendants.

### CHARACTER IN PROSE

An Archeologist.

### LOCATION AND TIME

Charnel House, and, the ruined Old Town of Verona, Italy, 21st Century.

### SCENERY AND COSTUMES

Stage has three levels. Underground Charnel House of the old, middle age town of Verona is the first one. Main Plaza of the ruined old town of Verona is the second one. Main Plaza is surrounded with ageworn two stores buildings thus the balconies and terraces of these buildings represent the third level.

In the first level, in the underground Charnel House of the old town, archeologists are working. They have opened the graves of the members of the Capulet family, of the Montague family, of the Escalus family, and so on. With high tech devices now they reconstruate the original outlook of the family members. From the shapes of skulls and bones they conclude the precise location of muscles of the contemporary persons, and determine the features of their faces and bodies. From textile and leather remains they

determine their clothes and shoes also. Archeologists are surrounded with many man-sized, semi-finished puppets. Here few bones, there few muscles, again there few parts of clothes are missing. However, too much unfinished puppets they have, thus from the narrow places of the Carnel House they bring and bring the puppets up to the terraces and loggias of the ruined buildings.

#### IMPORTANT CASTING NOTE

When the Romeo and Juliet story revives on the stage, the archeologists have already partially done with the puppets of *all adults* of the play. These semi-human, semi-puppet adult charecters all are located in the terraces and loggias of the two stores ruined buildings, and behave like semi-human, semi-puppet creatures during the play. Even the puppets of the youngsters of the play are done partially, *except Juliet, Romeo, Mercutio, Capulet teenager servants, Montague teenager servants, and teenager people crowd of plazas, markets, and public places. They behave like living human beings, and not like semi-humans or semi-puppets.*

Because the fancy dresses fully cover the all puppets, for puppet activities singers of any age could be casted. But the living, non-puppet characters of the opera must be casted from singers under eighteen years of age! Strenght of their voices is intensified by unisono choir support in each case of necessity, as the partiture properly shows.

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#### Act 1 Scene 01-01

Carnel House. Archeologists at work. Choir of ghosts, who are invisible.

#### CHOIR OF GHOSTS

Ooh!...

#### AN ARCHEOLOGIST

(Performing in prose. The reason and circumstances of that he tells the below prologue to the audience is determined by stage director upon his own choice.)

Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whole misadventured piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

#### Act 1 Scene 01-02

Main Plaza of the old Verona. Morning time, the sun is rising. In the terraces the puppets revive. From the terraces the puppets watch how the Plaza becomes full with living Verona people of the old times as the trading, the gossips, the shows and stunts start.

Clothes clearly presents who is who among the puppets. Capulet family, whose house and loggia locates on the left side of the stage among other houses, and Montague family whose house and loggia locates on the right, wear different color uniforms. Family of Escalus, and Escalus Prince himself, whose house is the highest one and locates in the middle of the scene, is not present this time, but the uniform of his doormen also differs from any other clothes.

Vivid life in the plaza. Italian temperament, quick talks, fast movements. NOT ONLY IN THIS SCENE BUT IN THE ENTIRE OPERA. Mediterranean guitar music sounds now.

CAPULET AND MONTAGUE BOY AND GIRL SERVANTS

Don't stand here! This is my place!  
Don't stand here! This is my place! Don't stand here!

Is this your place? My place, shit-ass!  
Shit-ass, you said? You are that one!  
I see now that who you are! You serve him, the jerk Capulet!  
Jerk Capulet! Yes!

Ugh, ugh, ugh, ugh!...

Jerk Capulet? What did you say? Jerk Capulet? What did you say?  
Say it again, jerk Montague! Say it again!  
Jerk Montague? What did you say? Jerk Montague? What did you say?  
Say it again, jerk Capulet! Say it again!

Ugh, ugh, ugh, ugh!...

You serve him, the jerk Capulet! You serve him, the jerk Capulet!  
Jerk Capulet! Jerk Capulet! Jerk Capulet! Yes!

Ugh, ugh, ugh, ugh!...

We will show you who is Capulet! Just to remember for life time!

Give me a sword! I will show him who is the jerk, who is shit-ass!  
Give me a knife! I will show him who is the jerk, who is shit-ass!  
Here's a knife! Here's a sword! Go!

Fuck! Now we will show you who is Montague! Just to remember for life time!

(Puppets from the loggias and terraces throw down swords, knives, sticks, clubs with no stop. Both Capulet and Montague parents, Tybalt, Benvolio are present, and act this way. Capulet, Montague, Tybalt, Benvolio are ready to fight even.)

Here's a sword! Here's a knife! Here's a stick! Here's a club!  
Beat Montagues! Kill Montagues! Beat Capulets! Kill Capulets!  
Here's a sword! Here's a knife! Kill Montagues! Kill Capulets! Go!

(Puppets exhort the fighters.)

PUPPETS

Puh-puh-puh-puh!... Ta-ta-ta-tah!...  
No Capulets! We terminate your family!  
No Montagues! We terminate your family!

Puh-puh-puh-puh!... Ta-ta-ta-tah!...  
No Capulets! We terminate your family!  
No Montagues! We terminate your family!

Act 1 Scene 01-03

Fanfare. Prince Escalus and his servants appear in their terrace. Fighters disappear. Main Plaza becomes almost empty. Mostly, on their terraces, the puppets stay on the stage.

PUPPETS

Ooh!... Aah!...

PRINCE ESCALUS

Oh rebellious subject, oh, you enemies to our good peace, oh, you!  
You thrice disturbed the quite and peace of our streets!  
Carefully listen to know my words!

PUPPETS

Ooh!... Aah!...

PRINCE ESCALUS

If you ever disturb quiet and peace over here,  
nothing but your lives shall pay forfeit of that!  
Nothing but your lives shall pay forfeit of that!  
Keep in your mind, rebels, the words what I said!

PUPPETS

Ooh!... Aah!...

PRINCE ESCALUS

If you ever disturb quiet and peace over here,  
nothing but your lives shall pay forfeit of that!  
Nothing but your lives shall pay forfeit of that!  
Keep in your mind, rebels, the words what I said!

PUPPETS

Ooh!... Aah!...

PRINCE ESCALUS

Oh rebellious subject, oh, you enemies to our good peace, oh, you!  
Who thrice disturbed the quite and peace of our streets!

Carefully keep in your mind these words!

PUPPETS

Ooh!... Aah!...

(Fanfare. Escalus and guards leave.)

PUPPETS

Ooh!... Aah!...

LADY MONTAGUE

Oh, where is my son, my little boy, Romeo?  
Oh, did you see him this morning Benvolio?

BENVOLIO

Yes, I did see him early morning outside of the town wall!  
He hid himself when he saw me in the grove of sycamore!

(More and more puppets leave the terraces and return back to the houses.)

PUPPETS

Ooh!... Aah!...

MONTAGUE

I don't understand, what is his trouble!

LADY MONTAGUE

Oh, he's just coming!

MONTAGUE

(Turning to Benvolio.)

Talk to him my friend!  
Catch what is his problem now!

(Benvolio agrees and makes a bow.)

MONTAGUE

(Turning to Lady Montague.)

Better to leave!

(Parents exit with other puppets. Benvolio, few Montague servants stay.)

**Act 1 Scene 01-04**

Romeo is coming. Few of his friends follows him. Friends have lants, guitars, wind

struments. Romeo too has music instrument. Sunshine. Mediterranean music.

BENVOLIO

(From the terrace.)

Good morning my friend! We have a nice day!  
And how are you today Romeo?

ROMEO

I had a sad night, I think best would be  
to play some music, my Benvolio!

(Friends and Romeo start to play guitar music. But Romeo stops and sits down sadly.)

FRIENDS OF ROMEO

Tra la la la la la!...  
Oh yes! Tra la la la la la!...

(Montague's teenager boy and girl servants step out of the house to the loggia.)

CHOIR OF SERVANTS

(Turning to Romeo.)

'Morning, Little Lord! We have a nice day!  
And how are you today Romeo?

FRIENDS OF ROMEO

He had a sad night, we think best would be  
to play some music! Right Benvolio?

FRIENDS OF ROMEO AND CHOIR OF SERVANTS

Tra la la la la la!...  
Oh yes! Tra la la la la la!...

BENVOLIO

Just tell me my friend, what is the matter,  
why you are so sad, dear Romeo?

ROMEO

Rosa had told me, she doesn't love me,  
she takes the nun veil, my Benvolio!

BENVOLIO

Ooh!...

(Mercutio and his band is coming with guitars.)

MERCUTIO

'Morning you all, guys!

(Turning to Romeo.)

Why you are so sad in this nice morning my friend Romeo?

ROMEO

Rosa just told me, she does'nt want me,  
ehh, play some music my Mercutio!

(Band of Mercutio starts to play music. Later Romeo too, trying to forget his problem.)

FRIENDS OF ROMEO, BAND OF MERCUTIO, AND CHOIR OF SERVANTS

Tra la la la la la la lah!...

MERCUTIO

Try to forget her, look for other girl,  
who then will love you, this is my request.

FRIENDS OF ROMEO, BAND OF MERCUTIO, AND CHOIR OF SERVANTS

Just to forget her, look for other girl,  
who then will love you, this would be the best!

(Coming closer and closer, friends and servants play music almost directly to Romeo's ears.)

FRIENDS OF ROMEO, BAND OF MERCUTIO, AND CHOIR OF SERVANTS

Tra la la la la la!...

Come with us now, we make good programs,  
that you will enjoy, and you forget her!

ROMEO

I go, but I know, that during my life  
I will not love else, I won't forget her!

FRIENDS OF ROMEO, BAND OF MERCUTIO, AND CHOIR OF SERVANTS

Ooh!...

(Towards the town all players exit.)

### Act 1 Scene 01-05

(To the terraces and loggias, from the Capulet house, puppets come out.)

ADULT SERVANTS

Fa la la la fa la la lah!...

(Preparations for The Capulet House's Fancy Dress Party. Decorating the loggia even, with many flowers and lampions. Tumult and excitement.)

ADULT SERVANTS

This flower you put here! That one just put over there!  
This lampion you put here! That one just put over there!  
Fa la la la...

(Lady Capulet, Capulet, Nurse, Paris appear.)

PARIS

What's your answer to my question?  
May I marry your nice daughter?

CAPULET

Noble Paris! She is so young!  
But if she wants, I'll not resist!

PARIS

I'll come Friday to you again!  
A bit try to influence her!

CAPULET

Lord! A diamond of my house  
you are always! I try my best!

ADULT SERVANTS

That lampion you have to change!  
We need much more vivid color!  
That flower you have to change!  
From this we need much bigger one!  
Fa la la la...

(Paris makes a bow to the family.)

PARIS

Fa la la la...

CAPULET

Fa la la la...

LADY CAPULET

Fa la la la...

NURSE



Fa la la la...

(Nurse kisses the hands of the noble man. Paris exits.)

ADULT SERVANTS

Fa la la la...

(Nurse spots Juliet and her servants down the plaza. Parents hurry to the edge of terrace.)

NURSE

She comes now with her servants!  
What a beauty, oh God, she is!  
She'll be a noble lady,  
as well as a rich woman!

LADY CAPULET

Fa la la la...

ADULT SERVANTS

(Almost an ovation waits for Juliet when she arrives up to the terrace.)

Fa la la la...

NURSE

Fa la la la...

LADY CAPULET

Fa la la la...

(Lady Capulet and Nurse caress Juliet, strokes her, adjust her hair, clothes, everything.)

ADULT SERVANTS

Fa la la la...

(Servants show the decoration, the lampions, the flowers to Juliet.)

NURSE

Oh Juliet! Oh Juliet!  
Noble Paris sues for your hand!

LADY CAPULET

(Turning to the Nurse.)

Stop! Stop! I want to tell this her!  
Shut up! I want to tell this her!

CAPULET

He'll come Friday to the house, yes, yes, yes, yes,  
I hope you give proper answer to his request!

LADY CAPULET

Why not you tell what do you think, oh, Juliet?

NURSE

(To Lady Capulet.)

She is always silent when she has some good news!

CAPULET

(To Lady Capulet.)

She is very tired now, make bath for her,  
make her pretty and very nice for the tonight great event!

(Italian tumult, running servants. By them, the family becomes fully covered very soon.)

ADULT SERVANTS

This flower just put here! That one just place to the left side!  
This lampion just put here! That one just place to the right side!  
That lampion you have to change! We need much more vivid color!  
That flower you have to change! From this we need much bigger one!  
Fa la la la...

(Terrace decoration is done. Puppets leave.)

**Act 1 Scene 01-06**

Main Plaza. Night. Moonlight. Stars. Mediterranean brass music. With torches and masks in their hands strange people move here and there in the darkness, appear, disappear, appear again. Whistles. Friends of Romeo step out. Later his servants, then Mercutio and Romeo too.

FRIENDS OF ROMEO

Ooh!...

OTHER FRIENDS OF ROMEO

Ooh!...

FRIENDS OF ROMEO

Did you see Romeo, Mercutio in this mild evening?  
Did you see Romeo, Mercutio in this mild evening?

TEENAGER MONTAGUE SERVANTS

Did you see Romeo, Mercutio in this mild evening?

OTHER FRIENDS OF ROMEO

Yes boys ! We saw them when they just picked up fancy, party masks!

TEENAGER MONTAGUE SERVANTS

Got it? They saw them when they just picked up fancy, party masks!

OTHER FRIENDS OF ROMEO

Got it? They just don't dare to step into Capulet yard without these mask!

TEENAGER MONTAGUE SERVANTS

Oh look at them, they are coming! Oh look at them, they are coming,  
having fancy, having fancy, having fancy masks!

AGAIN OTHER FRIENDS OF ROMEO

How are you Mercutio? Oh Romeo how are you? Oh Romeo why you are so sad?

ROMEO

I feel not fine, I had bad dreams, everything turns bad!

FRIENDS OF ROMEO

Ooh!...

ALL FRIENDS OF ROMEO

O, I see the Queen Mab hath been with you my friend! She runs through the  
men's noses as they lie asleep! Her wagon-spokes made of long legs  
of the spiders, the cover made from the wings of the grasshoppers!  
The traces made from the smallest spider's web and the collars of  
evening moonshine's watery beams! Her wagoner is a small gnat,  
not bigger as a round shape, little wermin! Her chariot  
is an empty small hazel-nut that was made by joiner squirrel!  
And in this state she gallops through night by night the all lovers' brains!

TEENAGER MONTAGUE SERVANTS

O, I see the Queen Mab hath been with you my Lord! She runs through the  
men's noses as they lie asleep! Her wagon-spokes made of long legs  
of the spiders, the cover made from the wings of the grasshoppers!  
The traces made from the smallest spider's web and the collars of  
evening moonshine's watery beams! Her wagoner is a small gnat,  
not bigger as a round shape, little wermin! Her chariot  
is an empty small hazel-nut that was made by joiner squirrel!  
And in this state she gallops through night by night the all lovers' brains!

MERCUTIO AND FRIENDS OF ROMEO

I think, the best would be, the best would be,  
if we now would walk to the Capulet party!

TEENAGER MONTAGUE SERVANTS

He thinks, the best would be, the best would be,  
if we now would walk to the Capulet party!

ALL FRIENDS OF ROMEO

So then let's go my friends, let's go my friends, to the Capulets'.  
So then let's go my friends, let's go my friends, to the Capulets'.

Ta ta ta ta tah!...

Puh-puh-puh-puh...

Tra la la la!..

TEENAGER MONTAGUE SERVANTS

Ta ta ta ta tah!...

Puh-puh-puh-puh...

Tra la la la..

(Groups disappear in the darkness.)

**Act 1 Scene 02-01**

Fancy dress party inside the Capulet's house groundfloor and terraces. Except Juliet, Romeo, Mercutio, and teenager servants, everyone is a puppet. Dancing is already going on when Capulet Family steps in.

GUESTS AND SERVANTS

Fa la la la...

CAPULET AND HIS SERVANTS

Greetings to our respected guest,  
to all ladies, gentlemen!... Fa la la la...

GUESTS AND SERVANTS

Fa la la la...

LADY CAPULET AND HER GIRL SERVANTS

Greetings to our respected guest,  
to all ladies, gentlemen!... Fa la la la...

ALL

Fa la la la...

LADY CAPULET AND HER GIRL SERVANTS

Have a good dance, have a good meal,  
all you, ladies, gentlemen!... Fa la la la...

GUESTS AND SERVANTS

Fa la la la...

CAPULET AND HIS SERVANTS

Have a good dance, have a good meal,  
all you, ladies, gentlemen!... Fa la la la...

ALL

Fa la la la...

(Delicious meals of great outlook are served. Dancing continues.)

ALL

Fa la la la...

TYBALT

(To Capulet.)

You see uncle who is up there? He is just a Montague!  
Outrageous! He came here! I'll kill him right now!  
Fa la la la...

CAPULET

You stop Tybalt! Just remember, what the Prince said this morning!  
And Romeo is a good boy! Sit down and stop mourning!  
Fa la la la...

ALL

Fa la la la...

LADY CAPULET AND HER GIRL SERVANTS

Have a good dance, and have fine drinks,  
all you, ladies, gentlemen!

ALL

Fa la la la...

LADY CAPULET AND HER GIRL SERVANTS

Have a good dance, and have fine drinks,  
all you, ladies, gentlemen!  
Fa la la la...

(Drinks are served. Dancing continues.)

ALL

Fa la la la...

CAPULET AND HIS SERVANTS

We need more lights! More meals! More drinks!  
Enjoy, ladies, gentlemen!  
We need more lights! More meals! More drinks!  
Enjoy, ladies, gentlemen!  
Fa la la la...

GUESTS AND SERVANTS

Fa la la la...

(Dancing continues then ends.)

**Act 1 Scene 02-02**

Four hours later. Everybody is a bit tired. Next turn in dancing. New music. In a dancing group Juliet, in an other one Romeo is visible in the downstage.

GUESTS

Let's have dancing the Landlord! As well as Landlady!  
Let's have dancing, let's have dancing, let's have dancing them both!  
Tra la la la la la...

(Lady Capulet and Capulet dance each other. Romeo and Juliet spot each other.)

JULIET

(Seconds ago Romeo touched and then held her hand.)

Hmm, hmm, hmm! Hmm, hmm, hmm! Hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm!

ROMEO

You can tell, if you think that it's wrongdoing what we make!

JULIET

Wrongdoing, but it's sweet, when hands each other give a kiss! Hmm!

ROMEO

Something is much more sweet, if a kiss given by the lips.

Romeo and Juliet look at each other for a while, then kiss each other. Later they repeat. Dancing goes on with no interruption until it ends.

GUESTS

Thank you for the music, thank you for the great meal,  
thank you for the all kindness of you all Capulets!  
Tra la la la la la...

CAPULETS

Tra la la la la la...  
Thank you for that you came, thank you for that you stayed,  
thank you for this beautiful night what we enjoyed so much!

GUESTS AND CAPULETS

Fa la la la la la, fa la la la la la...  
(More and more guests leave the house. )

CAPULET SERVANTS

(With nervousness, to Juliet.)  
Your mother calls you!  
(Juliet runs towards the house, up to the terrace.)

ROMEO

(To Mercutio, who stands just few steps far from him.)  
Who is her mother?

MERCUTIO

Lady Capulet.

ROMEO

Oh God, she is my enemy! God! God! God!  
(He steps to Mercutio, and they leave the scene.)

JULIET

(Asking Capulet servants who stand on the terrace.)  
Who's that charming boy?

CAPULET SERVANTS

Son of Montague.

JULIET

Oh God I love my enemy so much, so much!  
(She disappears in the house.)

**Act 1 Scene 03-01**

Carnel House. Archeologists at work. Choir of ghosts, who are invisible.

CHOIR OF GHOSTS

Ooh!...

AN ARCHEOLOGIST

(Performing in prose.)

Now old desire doth in his death-bed lie,  
And young affection gapes to be his heir;  
That fair for which love groan'd for and would die,  
With tender Juliet match'd, is now not fair.  
Now Romeo is beloved and loves again,  
Alike betwitched by the charm of looks,  
But to his foe supposed he must complain,  
And she steal love's sweet bait from fearful hooks:  
Being held a foe, he may not have access  
To breathe such vows as lovers use to swear;  
And she as much in love, her means much less  
To meet her new-beloved any where:  
But passion lends them power, time means, to meet  
Tempering extremities with extreme sweet.

CURTAIN.

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A BRIEF MADE FROM THE FULL AND COMPLETE LIBRETTO OF ACT 2

Libretto follows the Shakespeare play: SCENE 1. Capulet's orchard. Romeo, Juliet, Nurse.

SCENE 2. Friar Laurence's cloister. Backyard. Friar Laurence, Romeo. SCENE 3. Friar Laurence's cloister. Chapel. Next day. Friar Laurence, Romeo, Juliet, Nurse. SCENE 4. Main Plaza of Verona. Benvolio, Mercutio, Tybalt, Romeo, Prince Escalus, youngsters, puppets. SCENE 5. Friar Laurence's cloister. Backyard. Romeo, Friar Laurence, Nurse. SCENE 6. Capulet's orchard. Next day, early morning. Romeo, Juliet, Nurse.

A BRIEF MADE FROM THE FULL AND COMPLETE LIBRETTO OF ACT 3

Libretto follows the Shakespeare play: SCENE 1. Capulet's orchard. Lady Capulet, Capulet, Juliet, Nurse. SCENE 2. Friar Laurence's cloister. Backyard. Friar Laurence, Paris, Juliet. SCENE 3. Capulet's orchard. Nurse. Lady Capulet, Capulet, Friar Laurence. SCENE 4. Mantova. Main Plaza. Romeo, Balthasar, Apothecary, youngsters. SCENE 5. Carnel House of the old Verona. Friar John, Friar Laurence, Paris, Romeo, Balthasar, Juliet, Lady Capulet, Capulet, Lady Montague, Montague, Prince Escalus, youngsters, puppets. SCENE 6. Carnel House of the recent Verona. Archeologists.

(OPTIONAL: Archeologists briefly talk about certain social experiments that lead towards a New World wherein the written and unwritten rules of the adult world, of the society, are not capable to obstruct the happiness of youngsters and to turn their life into tragedies.)