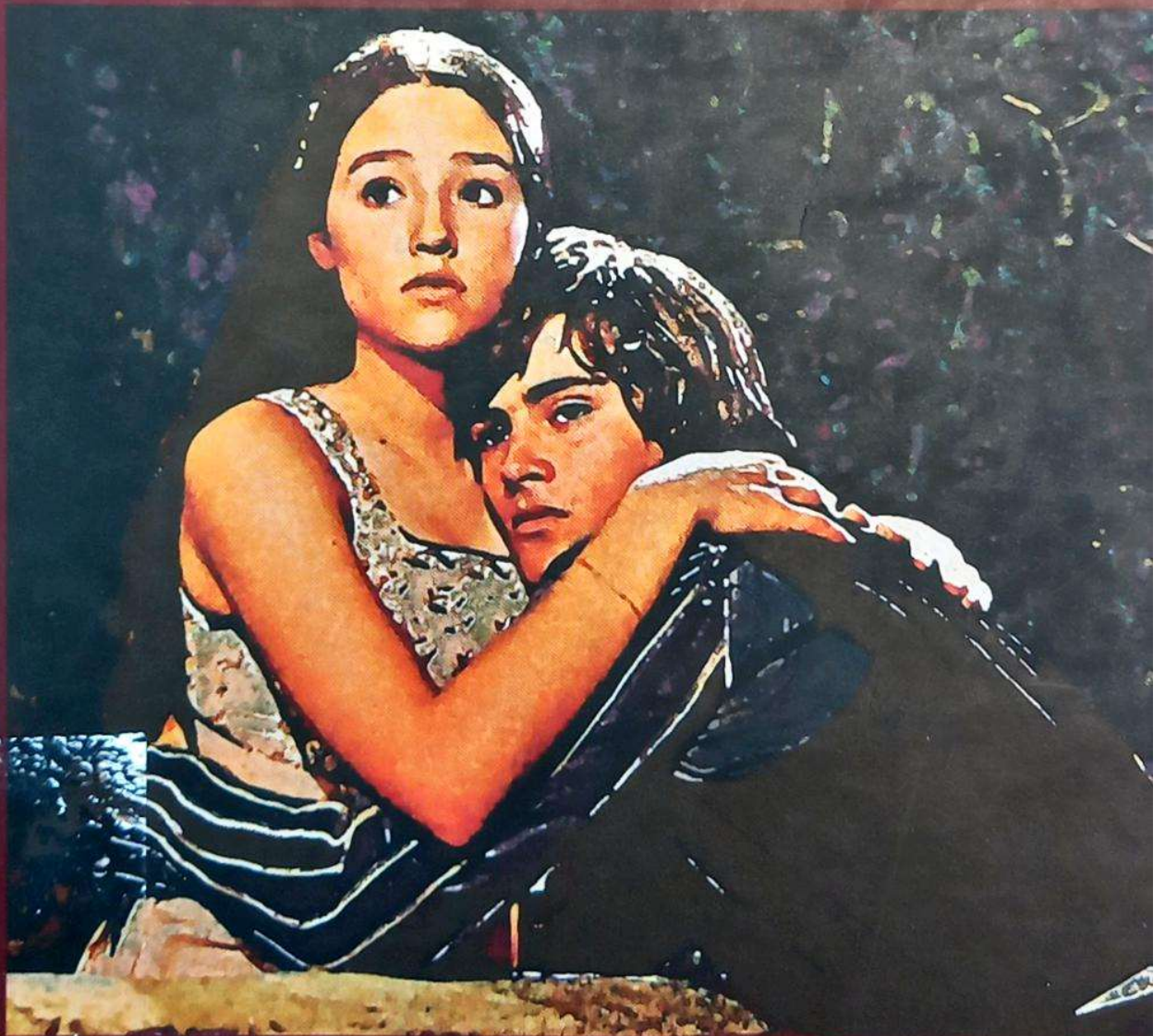


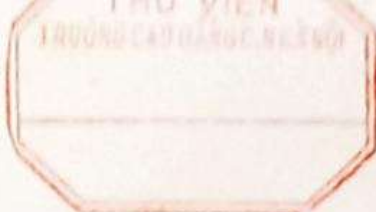
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PLAYSCRIPTS

2

Romeo and Juliet

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE





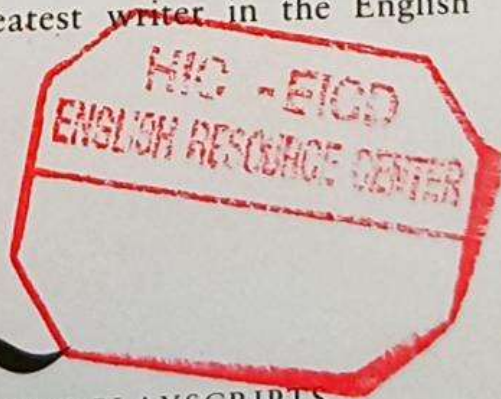
ROMEO & JULIET

Stage 2

This is the most famous of all Shakespeare's plays, first printed in 1597. It is a story of passionate young love, in the beautiful Italian city of Verona. Romeo and Juliet are the star-crossed lovers, who meet, fall in love, and promise to be true to each other for ever. A simple love story, with the saddest of all possible endings.

Love is strong, but not as strong as family tradition, or hate, or revenge. Like young people all over the world, Romeo and Juliet want the right to decide their future for themselves, but in the end the state and their families are too powerful for them. Romeo and Juliet cannot live without each other, and if they are not allowed to marry and live together, there is only one way out.

William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was an actor, poet and playwright, who lived and worked in Stratford-upon-Avon and London. He wrote more than thirty plays, which are still discussed and performed all over the world today. He is generally considered the greatest writer in the English language.



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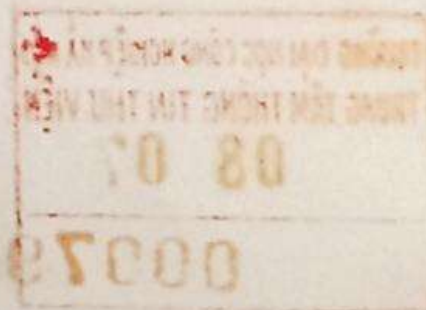
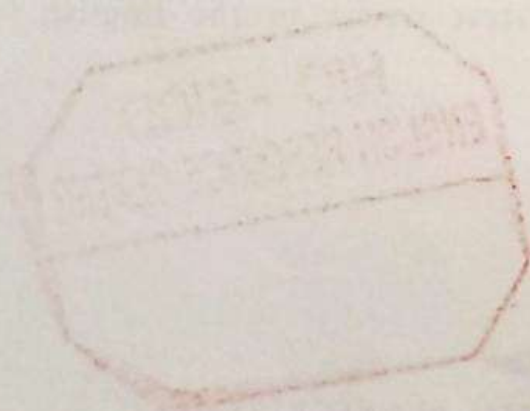
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Stage 1

The Murder of Mary Jones *Tim Vicary*
A Ghost in Love and Other Plays *Michael Dean*
Sherlock Holmes: Two Plays *Sir Arthur*
Conan Doyle (retold by John Escott)

Stage 2

Romeo & Juliet *William Shakespeare*
(retold by Alistair McCallum)



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Romeo & Juliet

Retold by
Alistair McCallum



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Photographs courtesy of BBC Picture Archives
from the television film *Romeo and Juliet* (1978).

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INTRODUCTION

Romeo and Juliet is a story about two families, the Montagues and the Capulets. It is set in Verona, a town in the north of Italy, over four hundred years ago. When the play begins, there has been an argument between these two families for many years.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- Act 1 Scene 1 and 2: A street in Verona
Scene 3 and 4: The Capulets' house
- Act 2 Scene 1: A garden outside the Capulets' house
Scene 2: Father Lawrence's garden
Scene 3: A street in Verona
Scene 4: Father Lawrence's house
- Act 3 Scene 1: A street in Verona
Scene 2 and 5: Juliet's bedroom
Scene 3: Father Lawrence's house
Scene 4: The Capulets' house
- Act 4 Scene 1: Father Lawrence's house
Scene 2 and 4: The Capulets' house
Scene 3: Juliet's bedroom
- Act 5 Scene 1: A street in Mantua
Scene 2: A garden outside a church

You will need some swords, a knife, glasses and bottles, tables and chairs, masks, a ring, gold coins, flowers, and some musical instruments.



CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

The Montague family

Lord Montague

Lady Montague

Romeo, the Montagues' son

Benvolio, Romeo's cousin

The Capulet family

Lord Capulet

Lady Capulet

Juliet, the Capulets' daughter

Tybalt, Juliet's cousin

Other characters

Escalus, Prince of Verona

Paris, a friend of the Prince's

Mercutio, a friend of Romeo's

Juliet's Nurse

Father Lawrence, a priest

Father John, a friend of Father Lawrence's

People of Verona and Mantua

Lord Montague's servants

Lord Capulet's servants

Shopkeeper

Musicians

Romeo and Juliet

ACT 1 SCENE 1

Trouble in Verona

A street in Verona, Italy. Some of Lord Montague's and Lord Capulet's servants are fighting and shouting.

LORD CAPULET'S SERVANTS We hate the Montagues! Capulet is
a better lord than Montague!

LORD MONTAGUE'S SERVANTS We'll kill you for that! Death to
the Capulets! (*Benvolio enters.*)

BENVOLIO What's happening? Stop! Stop fighting!
He tries to stop them, but they go on fighting.

TYBALT (*Entering*) Benvolio! What are you doing?
Fighting our servants? Turn and fight *me*!

BENVOLIO You're wrong, Tybalt. I don't want to fight
anyone. I'm just trying to keep the peace!

TYBALT That's not true! You Montagues are all the same.
I'm going to kill you! (*He pulls out his sword and
starts fighting with Benvolio. Lord and Lady
Capulet enter.*)

LORD CAPULET Look! The Montagues are trying to kill
Tybalt! Quickly – bring me a sword!

LADY CAPULET A sword? Don't be stupid, Capulet. You're
too old! You haven't used a sword for twenty years.

Romeo and Juliet

LORD MONTAGUE (*Entering with Lady Montague*) Look!

The Capulets are making trouble again!

LORD CAPULET What did you say, Montague? Trouble?

The man that started the fight was your nephew
Benvolio! (*He starts to shake Lord Montague.*)

LORD MONTAGUE Let me go, Capulet, you old criminal!

LORD CAPULET Criminal? Old? I'll kill you! (*They begin
fighting. Prince Escalus enters.*)

PRINCE ESCALUS Stop! Montague! Capulet! Stop it
immediately! Tybalt! Benvolio! Stop fighting now,
or I will execute all of you! (*The fighting stops,
and everyone is quiet.*) Listen. I'm very angry.
Verona is a rich, beautiful town, but there is
fighting in the streets nearly every day. Montague,
Capulet, come here. You must tell your families
to stop fighting. Do you understand?

LORD MONTAGUE AND LORD CAPULET Yes, sir.

PRINCE ESCALUS Why is there this argument between your
families? How did it start?

LORD MONTAGUE I can't remember, sir.

LORD CAPULET The argument started a long time ago, sir.

PRINCE ESCALUS The fighting must stop. We must have
peace in Verona.

*Prince Escalus leaves. Then Lord and Lady
Capulet, Tybalt and all the servants leave.*

LORD MONTAGUE The Prince is right, Benvolio.



'Stop fighting now, or I will execute all of you!'

BENVOLIO I agree. I was trying to stop the fighting when Tybalt and the others arrived.

LADY MONTAGUE Have you seen our son, Romeo? He wasn't in the fight. I'm very happy about that.

BENVOLIO I saw Romeo earlier today. It was about four o'clock in the morning and still dark. He was walking, alone, through the woods.

LORD MONTAGUE What's the matter with Romeo? He's very quiet these days. Sometimes he stays in his room all day. I think that he's unhappy about something. Will you try to talk to him, Benvolio?

Romeo and Juliet

Romeo enters.

BENVOLIO Look – here he is now. I'll talk to him. (*Lord and Lady Montague leave.*) What's wrong, Romeo? What's the matter with you?

ROMEO I'm in love, Benvolio. I'm in love with a beautiful girl called Rosaline.

BENVOLIO Then why are you unhappy?

ROMEO Because she doesn't love me. She doesn't love anyone. She says that she's never going to marry.

BENVOLIO There are hundreds of beautiful girls in Verona. If she doesn't love you, forget about her.

ROMEO I can't do that! Rosaline is the most wonderful girl in the world. I will never love anyone else.

ACT 1 SCENE 2

Exciting news

A street in Verona. Lord Capulet and Paris are talking.

PARIS Lord Capulet, I have something to tell you. You already know that I love your daughter Juliet. Well, I would like to marry her.

LORD CAPULET My daughter is very young, Paris. She's only thirteen. I don't want her to marry yet. You must wait for a year or two. Juliet doesn't really know you.