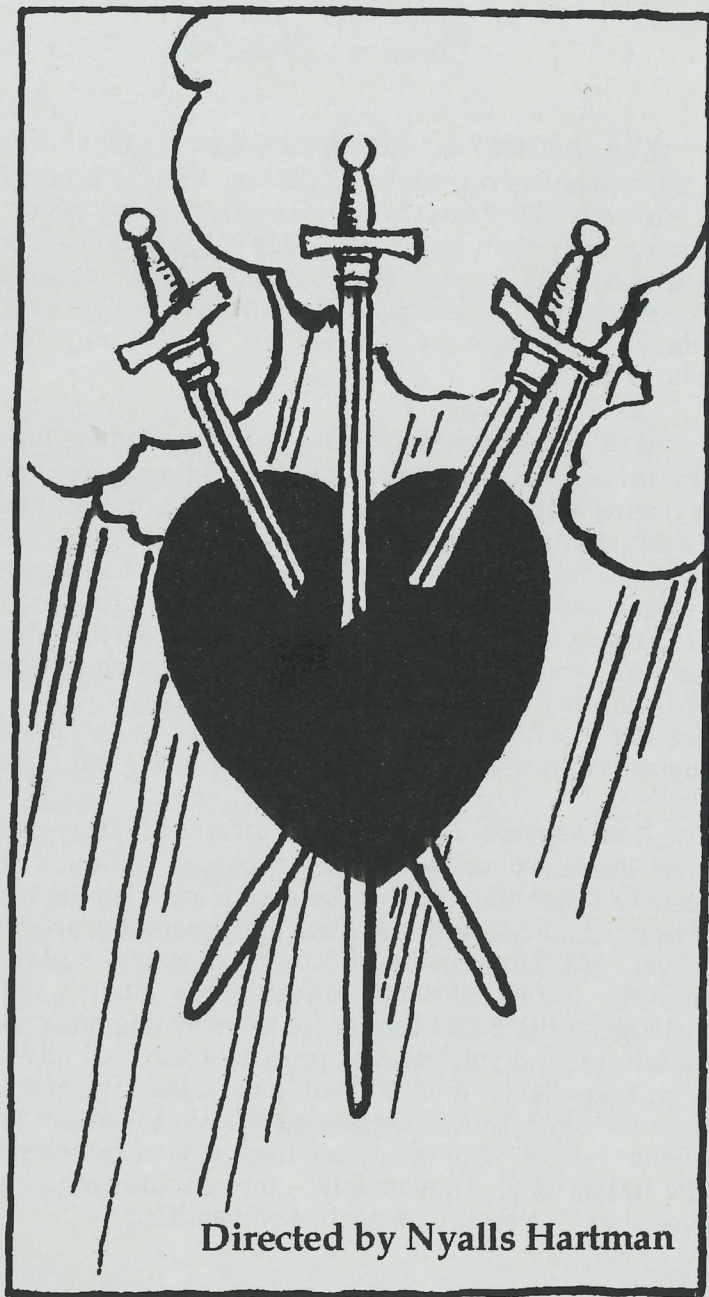


Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet



Directed by Nyalls Hartman

Director's Notes

We are, all of us, Romeo and Juliet. So familiar are we with the two lovers consumed by passion, that the roots of their story strangle the heart of love before it even lives. Our familiarity may stem from knowledge of the play itself or, like Romeo and Juliet, we too may have felt the devastating and tragic effects of a passionate love turned – like death, to heartbreak. Perhaps for some of us, we are only too well familiar with it.

It is here the difficulty of producing Romeo and Juliet can be found. Since we all know the ending before the love story begins, why do we choose to do it? It is in this quandary that I am captured by the play, and in this difficulty, its true universality is found. Though we know that tragedy of heartbreak lies ahead, like Romeo and Juliet we have no choice but to ignore love's dark promise because, we still desire to possess it. And desire it we do – with as much passion and ignore-ance as the central characters of the play. This is where *Romeo and Juliet* possesses its resonance. In the desire, the willingness to possess true love no matter how great the cost.

Shakespeare himself was aware of this profound human quandary and with his prologue accounts for the ultimately tragic path of love before he even begins his great love story. Like Shakespeare then, our production accounts for it as well. As a "company of actors" we start the play in full awareness, (much like our private love affairs) with full knowledge of the dark promise for its inevitable outcome. We, not innocent and still hopeful, proceed against all odds. Here too in knowledge, our Romeo and Juliet are not tender innocents - aged 14, but are seasoned lovers who are tortured by tender hearts. Though aware they may suffer intense pain of the heart, they unavoidably – though knowingly, still, as Romeo says "...venture for such merchandise."

Romeo and Juliet

Time: The Past – The Present

There will be one fifteen minute intermission

CAST

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Romeo | Matthew Karchesky |
| Juliet | Lisa Hoyt |
| Mercutio | Cannon Combs |
| Tybalt | Martin Balmer |
| Benvolio | Rashell Orton |
| Friar | Lyle Schwarz |
| Lord Capulet | Lloyd S. Brooks III |
| Lady Capulet | Tabitha Evans |
| Lord Montague | Jeff Downer |
| Lady Montague | Cynthia Ann Lloyd |
| Nurse | Amy C. Moe |
| Prince | Mick E. |
| Paris | Jeff Davis |
| Sampson | Grady Goodall |
| Gregory | Sascha Mae Krueger |
| Abram | Mark Hickey |
| Balthasar | Jill Irsik |
| Paris' Page | Rikki Jo Hickey |
| Prince's Page | Dave Gray |
| Servant | Kevin "Mac" Dilg |
| DANCERS: | Mary Chess |
| Jason Davis | Heather Davis |
| Niki Grace | Jeremy Smith |
| Andrea Strobel | George Thompson |

Romeo and Juliet Production Crew

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Director | Nyalls Hartman |
| Stage Manager | Angie Counsell |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Royal Standley |
| Costume Designer | Ashley McDonald |
| Assistant Costume Designer | Jamie Collier |
| Stage Combat Director | April Curtis |
| Dance Choreographer | Beckie Thompson |
| Light Designers | Marc Smith |
| | Matt Adams |
| Set Designer | Lyle Schwarz |
| Sound Board Operator | Jill Nebeker |
| Light Board Operator | Sarah Burch |
| Running Crew | Karen Wilkinson |

SET CREW: Martin Balmer, James Fitzgerald (set foreman), Shaun Sorensen, Sarah Burch, Tabitha Evans, David Homewood, Simon Lieske, Cynthia Lloyd, Jenny Meyer, Glen "Gee" Norgriff, Elizabeth Skinner, James Smith, Eve Browne, Cannon Combs, Laura Dessen, Charlie Brown, Mary Larson, Amy Ruberti, Lucas Arnott, Michael Donnelly, Mac Dilg, Dave Gray

COSTUME CREW: Amy Moe, Wanda Wixom, Marcie Austin, April Curtis, Jamie Collier, Ashley McDonald, Cindy Hickey, Suzie Goodall, Melody Austin, Jeff Davis, Michael Donnelly, Mick E., Aaron Kirsch, Sara Konschu, Sascha Krueger, Mary Larson, Jenny Lewis, Michele Sattar, Royal Standley, Kathleen Wadner, Rose Winegar, Matt Adams and Cast

LIGHT CREW: Jeff Jones, Gavin Lightfoot, Luke Boles, Matthew Karchesky, Jeff Davis, Royal Standley, Sarah Burch, Angie Counsell, Josh Karl, Nyalls Hartman, Mac Dilg, and Ashley McDonald

SPECIAL THANKS: Bridles 'N' Britches, Jill Nebeker, Thomas Geraci, Janet Hume, Elijah Hartman, Julie Deichman, April Curtis, Lyle Schwarz, Dean Ellston, and all actors for their commitment.

Nyalls Hartman, a professional director and professor of theatre from New York, has been directing regionally throughout the United States, working with many talented artists and gaining national attention. He is the Producing Artistic Director of The People's Repertory Theatre. Currently, Nyalls is in workshop rehearsals for the company's (yet to be titled) piece about the many levels/aspects of death (or dying), and the consumption of the individual (seen in accumulative losses) caused by the stringent economic times in our community. Upon finishing his residence here at Eastern Oregon University, Nyalls immediately goes into staging The RSC's, "*The Compleat Works of Wllm Shkspr (abridged)*" for the Leatherstocking Theatre Company, in Cooperstown, NY.