

ROMEO AND JULIET

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

REINTERPRETED AND
DIRECTED BY
Søren Olsen

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact Department of Theatre Arts in advance at 319-335-2700 or theatre@uiowa.edu.

IOWA

Theatre Arts

ROMEO AND JULIET

Romeo and Juliet

By William Shakespeare

Reinterpreted and Directed by Søren Olsen

E.C. Mabie Theatre | UI Theatre Building

Approximate run time is 100 minutes. There is no intermission.

Please be advised that this production includes haze, flashing lights, profanity, depictions of violence and self harm, and moments of loud sounds.

From its chaotic, unorthodox opening brawl, Søren Olsen's *Romeo and Juliet* delivers a bold, unapologetic reimagining that challenges the legacy of Shakespeare's classic romance. Hot-mess celebrity parties, perilous make-outs, and passion-fueled duels collide in this director-designer's vision of theatrical candy. Barreling forward at breakneck speed and interlaced with the iconic text, this highly physical production offers its own tragic answer to the question: *Why do we keep letting love die?*

Performances:

Friday, October 10 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 11 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 12 at 2 p.m.

Thursday, October 16 at 8 p.m.

Friday, October 17 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 18 at 8 p.m.

Tickets:

Purchase your tickets in advance through Hancher Box Office by calling 319-335-1160 or online through [their website](#).

The Box Office at the Theatre Building opens one hour prior to the performance, with tickets on an as-available basis, unless the production is sold out.

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Special thanks to Toby Ramaswamy for providing rehearsal music.

Music credits:

"still tippy" from the album yeah. i see it.; written by Spencer Eliot Worth-Davis; performed by Big Cats; courtesy of Spencer Eliot Worth-Davis

"Where Do We Go From Here" from the album Club Romantech; written by Yaroslav Polikarpov, Philip Strand, Aino Jawo, Caroline Hjelt, & Robin Sherpa; performed by Icona Pop; courtesy in part by Kobalt Music Publishing

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Cast

ROMEO AND JULIET

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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MEET THE CAST



Juliet | NICOLETTE MAYER*

Nicolette is a fourth-year undergraduate at the University of Iowa studying Theatre Arts on the Music Theatre track. Nicolette has performed in several productions, including *Something Rotten* (Snug), *Macbeth* (Witch), *Into the Woods* (Little Red Riding Hood), *Side Show* (Fortune Teller), and *Grease* (Rizzo). She is so grateful to work alongside such a talented cast and crew, to her family and friends for their constant love and support, and—most importantly—*Gnomeo and Juliet*. She hopes you enjoy the show, bro!



Romeo | HUNTER MEYER**

Hunter Meyer is a 2nd year MFA Acting candidate from Kansas City. Previous UIowa credits include Louis XVI in *Marie Antoinette*, Tom in *Tom & Eliza*, and Rossa in *salt tongue*. Most recently he played Tybalt in Riverside Theatre's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Other favorite credits include Doug in *Gruesome Playground Injuries* which played at the 50th KCACTF Region V in Des Moines, Macbeth in *Macbeth* at JCCC, and Howard in *Moon Over Buffalo* at Tent Theatre. He remains incredibly grateful for the privilege to share creative spaces with imaginative ensembles and hopes you enjoy

this show.

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Cast



Friar | LEAH URZENDOWSKI**

Leah has been on the University of Iowa stage in *Marie Antoinette* and *An Enemy Of The People*. Previous, Leah was an ensemble member of The Neo-futurists from 2011-2021. She regularly wrote, directed, and performed in *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind* and *The Infinite Wrench*. Performer/choreographer/devisor credits include: *Burning Bluebeard*, *Miss Neo Pageant*, *The Unicorn Hour?* (Neo-futurists). Choreography credits include: *Lord of The Flies* (Steppenwolf), *The Magic Play* (Goodman), *Ivywild* (Hypocrites), and Jeff award winner for *All Quiet on the Western*

Front (Red Tape). Performer credits include: *500 Clown Trapped*, *500 Clown Frankenstein* (500 Clown), *Hunchback* (Redmoon). Thank you for witnessing live theatre. Please do it again.



Nurse | ALICIA PHILADELPHIA**

Alicia is a second year MFA acting candidate. Favorite credits include Katrine Stockmann in *An Enemy of the People*, Beatrice in *Sigh No More*, Elizabeth Lavenza in *Frankenstein*, Norma Valverde in *Hands on a Hardbody*, and Shrek in *Shrek the Musical*. Special thanks to her supportive and loving friends and family, as well as the entire cast and crew of this beautiful production.

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Cast



Capulet | **RAPHAEL THOMÉ****

Raphael Thomé is a second-year MFA acting candidate. Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, he worked in TV shows and movies such as *Pelé – Birth of a Legend* and *The Text*, a Cola-Cola short. In 2018, he came to the United States to pursue an undergraduate degree in Film Production at Cal State Northridge. There, he got involved in stage productions and had a chance to play Tartuffe and Laertes in *Hamlet*, and direct Ionesco's *The Killing Game*. At Iowa, he has been seen as Fersen in *Marie Antoinette*, Hovstad in *An Enemy of the People*, and now he is thrilled to play Lord Capulet alongside such passionate actors.



Lady Capulet | **ALYSSA BENITEZ****

Alyssa Benitez is a second year MFA actor here at the university. Her favorite past credits include Eliza in *Tom & Eliza*, Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Carlo in *At the Wedding*. She is grateful to her friends and family for their support as well as the entire cast and crew of this exciting show. Enjoy!

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Cast



Paris | HAYDON BAILEY*

Haydon Bailey is a second-year undergraduate studying Musical Theatre and Screenwriting. Previous university credits include *When You Read This* (Luke/Roan), and *Side Show* (Lizard Boy/Tod Browning/Ensemble). He is thrilled to be in such an inventive production of *Romeo and Juliet* and is immensely grateful to be working with such a wonderfully talented cast and crew. He would like to thank his amazing family for supporting him throughout his creative endeavors, as well as his friends, who have made the journey all the more fun through their encouragement.



Benvolio | LOGAN WESTIN*

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Cast



Mercutio | JASPER ROOD*



Tybalt | EPHRAM SINNWELL*

Ephram is a third-year undergraduate studying Theatre Arts. Previously he was seen on University of Iowa stages in *Spells for Going Forth by Daylight*, *Marie Antoinette*, and *Far Away*. Ephram would like to thank his family, his close friends, and the theatre department community for supporting him as he works and grows. He'd like to specifically thank his parents, Lindsey and Ryan, (especially his mom who is the BIGGEST *Romeo & Juliet* fan) for their devotion to providing unwavering support and love to him even in tougher times. Love you lots!

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Cast



Prince | KATE CARLSON*

Kate Carlson is a first-year undergraduate student. *Romeo and Juliet* is her first production at the University of Iowa. She wants to thank her friends and family for their support, and all the wonderful people in this production for their hard work and friendship!



Montague | TYLER ANDREW*

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Cast



Lady Montague | JORDAN KINNEY*

Jordan is a senior at the University of Iowa and has been in theater since middle school. She has been apart of numerous productions since then. The list of roles Jordan has been cast as are ensemble member of *Peter and The Starcatcher*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Roger and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, Tiffany Edwards (*The Laramie Project*), Celia (*As You Like it*), Officer Lockstock (*Urinetown*), Juliet (*Romeo and Juliet*), Peaches (*Lil G: A Gatsby Remix* (NPF 2023)), Maeve (*Dance Nation*), and *The Indoctrination of Bananas*.



Ensemble / Montague Crew / Balthasar | MICHAEL GLOVER*

Michael Glover is a third-year undergraduate studying history at the University of Iowa. This is his first production here at the university. He'd like to give a big thanks to the production team for giving him this opportunity, his parents for forcing him to do show choir (even though he hated it), and to Anna Gordon for giving him the confidence to go ahead and finally audition for something.

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Cast



**Ensemble / Montague Crew / Third Watch |
TYNDAL HERVEY***

Tyndal is a second-year undergraduate majoring in Screenwriting Arts, Cinema, and Theatre Arts. This is Tyndal's first mainstage production at the University of Iowa. He is extremely grateful for the opportunity to perform with so many talented artists in this production. He would like to thank his doctor; he kept him alive for this long and is excited to continue to stay alive.



**Ensemble / Capulet Crew / Second Watch |
KAIYA KRALIK***

Kaiya is a second-year undergraduate studying Screenwriting and Musical Theatre. Previous credits through the university include the Ten-Minute Play Festival (*Honey, Other Woman*) and *3 Cubes and a Ghostlight* (Kit). She's excited to be in her first mainstage, and work with such a wonderful cast and crew. She would like to thank her parents and brother for their endless support, and all her friends for their constant encouragement. Special shoutout to her roommate for putting up with her late-night ventures and scarce time in the room.

She couldn't do it without any of them. Enjoy the show, bro!

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Cast



Ensemble / Prince Crew / Party Guest / Friar John | SHELBY LANDUYT*

Shelby Landuyt is a third-year undergraduate at the University of Iowa. She is studying Theatre and Cinematic Arts with an emphasis in Acting. Previous university credits are *The Indoctrination of Bananas* and *The (T-)Re(X)formation*. She wants to thank her family and friends for their support, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Ensemble / Capulet Crew / Apothecary | NORAH LOGAN*

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Cast



Ensemble / Montague Crew / Watchman | FLYNN MILLIGAN*

Flynn Milligan is a third-year undergraduate studying Theatre Arts. Flynn would like to thank his parents, Mike and Megan, for their support, and his brothers, Roan and Liam, for being his best friends. To prepare for his role, Flynn spent weeks studying and living amongst a fraternity that communicated only in verse and through golf references. Enjoy the show!



Ensemble / Capulet Crew | JIMMY REMPEL*

Jimmy is a first year Theatre major with a musical theatre focus. His favorite credits include George in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, The Baker in *Into the Woods*, Trevor in *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and Edward (Sergeant of Police) in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Jimmy also went on a trip to Greece with ITDP this past summer. Special thanks to his parents Tristan and Natalie for being so supportive, his siblings Garrett and Emmalin for inspiring him, and his friends Kaiya and Haydon for helping him get familiar with the department.

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Cast



Dead Montague | CHASE HOHMANN*

*Undergraduate student.

**Graduate student.

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Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Creative Team

ROMEO AND JULIET

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

REINTERPRETED AND DIRECTED BY SØREN OLSEN

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Director | SØREN OLSEN**

Søren Olsen is a third-year MFA candidate in Directing and Design at the University of Iowa. www.sorenolsen.com He would like to thank all the people (you know who you are) who have played a part in the ecology of this production. He also thanks the culture of domination and oppression for motivating him to question rules, test boundaries, take risks, and examine whether the traditions we uphold are relevant or outdated. Finally, he thanks every individual who strives to find connection through conflict, using tragedy as a path to actual reconciliation and healing; for this is the truest act of defiance, not to

apologize, tokenize, or forgive to feel stronger, but to communicate, empathize, and dare to love in a world where power rests with those who profit from division.

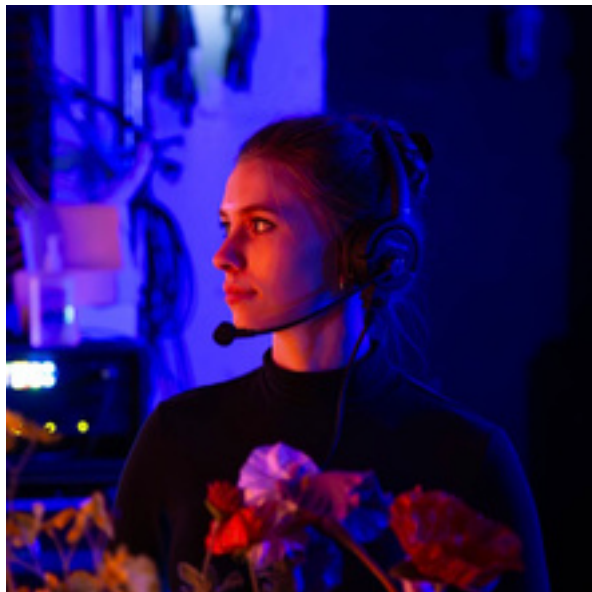


Fight Choreographer | PAUL KALINA

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Creative Team



Intimacy Director | CRISTINA GOYENECHÉ



Stage Manager | MAGGIE MCCLELLAN**

Maggie McClellan (she/her) is a third-year Stage Management MFA candidate. At Iowa, she has stage managed the fall 2024 Grad/Undergrad Dance Concert, *An Enemy of the People*, *Così Fan Tutte*, and *Anti-Hero: Revenge of the Swifties* and assistant stage managed *Into the Woods* and *L'amico Fritz*. Professional credits include Stage Manager for Mixed Blood Theatre Company, Riverside Theatre, Interlochen Center for the Arts, and Willow Creek Theatre Company and Company Manager for North Country Center for the Arts. This winter she will be the Production Stage Manager for *Die Fledermaus* at Cedar

Rapids Opera Theatre. Thank you Shellie, Anna, Meenakshi, Melissa, and Sam for your love and support.

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Creative Team



Scenic Designer | JASON SIMMS



Costume Designer | CATHY PARROTT†

Cathy Parrott (BA 2001) is an Assistant Professor of Costume Design at the University of Iowa. Before joining the faculty, she spent nearly two decades working as a professional costume designer in New York City. Her Broadway associate design credits include *Alicia Keys' Hell's Kitchen* and *Berry Gordy's Motown: The Musical*. Her assistant design credits for film include *The Greatest Showman*, Lin-Manuel Miranda's *In the Heights*, and *Spirited* starring Will Ferrell and Ryan Reynolds. A native of Manchester, Iowa, Cathy holds a BA from the University of Iowa and an MFA from the University of Georgia.

She is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. Special thanks to her student design team, Johanna and Alexandra.

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Creative Team



Media Designer | EMILY BERKHEIMER



Sound Designer | MOLLY COSTELLO

Molly Costello is a sound designer and technician, a recent graduate of the University of Iowa. Currently based in California, she is so excited to be back at Iowa for *Romeo and Juliet*. Recent credits include *Songs for Nobodies* (A2 and ASD; PCPA), Iowa Director's Festival (Sound Designer; University of Iowa), and *Dance Nation* (Sound Designer; University of Iowa). As always, listen with care and enjoy the show!

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Creative Team



Lighting Designer | NICOLE BLODIG

Nicole Blodig is a New York City based lighting designer & electrician, and proud graduate of the University of Iowa (BA Theatre Arts). She is thrilled to be back as a guest designer for *Romeo & Juliet*! Recent lighting design credits include *Come From Away* (Circa 21), *Company* (JCP), *OLIO* (Jack NY), *I Felt a Funeral in my Brain* (Bucknell University). Special thanks to her incredible family.



Dance Choreographer | MICHAEL C. FLORES**

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Creative Team



Assistant Stage Manager | SAMMI LEWIS*

Sammi Lewis (she/her) is a third-year undergraduate stage manager. She recently spent the summer at SSMT working on *Little Women* the musical. Her recent University of Iowa theatre credits include Iowa Director's Festival and *salt tongue*. She wants to thank the cast, crew, and the amazing stage managers she got to work with on this project. Enjoy the show!



Assistant Stage Manager | MATTHEW TEPFER**

Matthew Tepfer (he/him) is a first year MFA candidate in the Stage Management program and is thrilled to make his debut with the University of Iowa. "Oh, how I LOVE learning!" He is deeply grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such a talented and supportive team. Special thanks to Søren Olsen, Maggie McClellan, and Sammi Lewis for their warm welcome and guidance. Matthew recently earned his BA in Theater Design and Technology from Rutgers University–Camden. He looks forward to this next chapter and continuing his development

as a dedicated and collaborative storyteller. Have fun and be well.

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Creative Team



Assistant Scenic Designer | SAM RUDY††

Sam Rudy is a first year MFA candidate in Scenic Design at the University of Iowa. Before joining the MFA program, she spent the last decade working with multiple summer stocks, regional theatres, national tours and is a proud member of IATSE Local 412. Most recently she was found at Feld Entertainment building props and scenery for Disney on Ice and their many other properties. She would like to thank Jason for this amazing opportunity so early into her time here as well as her wonderfully supportive husband, Trevor, for going on this adventure. Sam's work can be found

at www.samrudydesigns.net



Assistant Costume Designer | ALEXANDRA RUNNELLS*

Alexandra Runnells is a fourth-year undergraduate, double majoring in Screenwriting Arts and History. Before assisting Cathy in *Romeo and Juliet* she assisted on last semester's play *Adaku* for Iowa New Play Festival and has taken part in a few small fashion shows around Iowa, including the university's Recycled Runway this past April. She would like to thank Cathy so much for the opportunity to work with her on this production, as well as everyone in the costume shop for making this such a wonderful experience.

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Creative Team



Assistant Costume Designer | JOHANNA SPECHT**

Johanna Specht is a first year MFA candidate in Costume Design at the University of Iowa. Before joining the MFA program, she completed a bachelor's degree in communication studies at Gonzaga University in 2025. She would like to thank Cathy for the opportunity to assist on the first mainstage of the season and looks forward to many future projects here at the University of Iowa.



Script Editor | EMMA MURRAY

*Undergraduate student.

**Graduate student.

UI Theatre is dedicated to providing hands-on theatre experience for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Romeo & Juliet – Meet the Crew

ROMEO AND JULIET

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

REINTERPRETED AND DIRECTED BY SØREN OLSEN

MEET THE CREW

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Deck Crew Captain | Jason Vernon* |
| Wardrobe Crew Captain | Parker Lambert* |
| Light Board Operator | Addi McBride* |
| Media Board Operator | Colin Kiernan* |
| QLab Operator | Ava Burmahl* |
| Run Crew – Deck | Roxy Glave* Cody Holcomb* Maya Lapan-Islas* |
| Run Crew – Wardrobe | Hayden Robertson* Daniel Weber* Lindsey Wildman* |
| Follow Spot Operators / Run Crew | Ryan Lim* Hannah Lipski* |

*Undergraduate student.

**Graduate student.

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Department of Theatre Arts – Meet the Production Team

THEATRE ARTS PRODUCTION STAFF

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Director of Theatre | Bryon Winn † |
| Performing Arts Production Director | Briana Maxwell S |
| Production Stage Manager | Samantha Goblirsch-Paradis |
| Associate Company Manager | Jason Millsap |
| Scheduling and Facilities Manager | Katie McClellen |
| Administrative Coordinator | Kelly Walsh |
| Events Marketing Manager | Kayla Schindler |
| Marketing Assistant | Reed Davis**S |

FRONT OF HOUSE

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Head House Manager | Natia Zembroski* |
| House Managers | Lydia Winick*, Apocalipsis Santiago* |

COSTUMES

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Costume Shop Manager | Emily Busha |
| Costume Fabricator | Jessica Smith |
| Temporary Professionals | Kaelen Novak, Chelsea Prestien |
| Wardrobe Assistant | Abby Garraty**, Sydney Joos*, Bella Fortunado**, Abby Paul*, Nat Payan*, MK Shultz*, Cassel Friemel*, Anna Gordon*, Parker Lambert* |

Department of Theatre Arts – Meet the Production Team

ELECTRICS AND AUDIO VISUAL

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Electrics Supervisor | Josh Nathanson |
| Electrics Assistant | Julia Corbett |
| Electrics Crew | Elizabeth Renner*, Gabby Johnson* Vi Kasych*, Julia Corbett*, Asher Bonner*, Aiden Kelsey*, Lowden Flower* |
| Audio/Video Supervisor | Rachel Duncan |
| Audio Engineer | Christopher Jensen |
| Audio Engineer Assistant | Audrey Frett |
| Digital Media Specialist | Emily Berkheimer |
| Audio/Video Technicians | Gabe Quint, James Miller |

SCENERY AND PROPS

| | |
|---|--|
| Technical Director | Robert Durham |
| Scene Shop Supervisor | Herbert Moore |
| Master Carpenter | Eric Hansen |
| Carpenters | Nazanin Vakili**, Jasper Rood*, Abbie Talken*, Marisa Rodriguez*, Maximus Ferris*, Charlotte Ericson*, Sammi Lewis*, Grace Ziomek* |
| Props Manager | Gina Smothers Hansen |
| Props Artisans | Reese Morgan, CJ Johnson**, Zahra Vohra* |
| Paint Shop Manager | Joan Newhouse |
| Scenic Artist | Jamie Clausius Galbraith |
| Scenic Painters (<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>) | Bella Fortunato**, Bella Hogan*, Ava Slater* |
| Scenic Painters | Bella Fortunato**, Bella Hogan*, Ava Slater*, Kaela LaFortune*, Charlie Graves*, Magdalena Roy* |