

# NEWS RELEASE



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## ***Romeo and Juliet* Heats Up Season of Romance at Alabama Shakespeare Festival**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MONTGOMERY, AL (Monday, March 17) The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is turning up the heat this summer with the “Season of Romance,” which begins with a modern take on Shakespeare’s classic love story *Romeo and Juliet* running April 11 – June 28 on the Festival Stage in repertory with Shakespeare’s *Cymbeline* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Set in a steamy South Florida city, the production offers a fresh and accessible view of this standard of classical theatre.

In this modern treatment of Shakespeare’s best-known love story, the warring families of Montague and Capulet are forever changed when star crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet fall in love and marry in secret. When violence breaks out between the families and Juliet’s cousin is killed by her lover, the couple’s plans are tragically altered. Directors Geoffrey Sherman and Diana Van Fossen have accentuated the passion and urgency of young love by setting the play in a present day Miami-like city featuring art-deco homes and using up to the minute fashions and a top 40 soundtrack to support the production design.

*Romeo and Juliet* has been performed exclusively for Alfa SchoolFest matinee audiences since January 23 and over 11,486 students from regional schools have attended the performances.

*Romeo and Juliet* begins performances with previews on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 at 7:30PM. The opening matinee is on Sunday, April 13 at 2:00PM and will be followed by a reception with the cast. *Romeo and Juliet* is available in “Extreme Weekends” along with *Cymbeline* and *The Count of Monte Cristo* on May 9 – 11, 16 – 18, May 30 – June 1, and every weekend in June. Tickets are \$19 - \$42. Subscription packages save 20% on tickets to the Season of Romance. For more information call the ASF box office at 1-800-841-4ASF or go to [www.ASF.net](http://www.ASF.net).

*The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount’s gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.*

*This program/project has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

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## Fact Sheet

### *Romeo and Juliet*

by William Shakespeare

2007-2008 Season

Produced by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival

**Dates:**

**Previews:** Fri., April 11, Sat. April 12, 2008

**Opening:** Sun., April 13, 2008

**Extreme Weekends:** May 9 – 11, 16 – 18, 23 – 25, 30 – June 1 and every weekend in June.

**Regular Performances:** In Repertory April 24 – June 28, 2008

Curtain 7:30 p.m. Tues. – Sat.; 2 p.m. matinees on Sat. and Sun.

**Prices:**

Preview Performances only \$19! Regular Performance Tickets are range from \$19 - \$42. Group discounts are available. To purchase, call the ASF Box Office at (334) 271-5353 or toll-free at 1-800-841-4ASF.

**Website:**

[www.asf.net](http://www.asf.net)

**Location:**

The Festival Stage in the Carolyn Blount Theatre, home of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, located in the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park, on Woodmere Boulevard just off East Boulevard.

**Production Staff:**

*Directors*

Geoffrey Sherman and Diana Van Fossen

**Staff:**

*Scenic Designer*

Robert Wolin

*Costume Designer*

Elizabeth Novak

*Lighting Designer*

Lonnie Alcaraz

*Sound Designer*

Richelle Thompson

*Dramaturg*

Susan Willis

*Movement Consultant*

Denise Gabriel

*Fight Director*

Jason Armit

*Assistant Fight Director*

David Dortch†

*Stage Manager*

Tanya J. Searle\*

*Production Assistant*

Micheal Aaron Jones\*†

**Cast:**

**The English**

Escalus, *Prince of Verona*

Larry Bull\*

Mercutio – *a young gentleman*

Anthony Marble\*

and kinsman to the Prince

Paris – *a noble young kinsman*

Christopher T. VanDijk\*

to the Prince

Personal Assistant to Paris

Alison Frederick†

Montague – *Head of a Veronese*

*Family at feud with the Capulets*

Jerry Ferraccio†

Lady Montague

Hollis McCarthy\*

Romeo – *Montague's son*

Avery Clark\*

Benvolio – *Montague's nephew*

and friend of Romeo and Mercutio

Nathan Lange†

Abram – *a Servant to Montague*

David Dortch†

Beatrice – *personal assistant to Romeo*

Sarah Walker Thornton†

Capulet – *head of Veronese family at*

*Feud with the Montagues*

Matt D'Amico\*

Lady Capulet

Sarah Dandridge\*

Juliet – *Capulet's daughter*

Adriana Gaviria\*

Tybalt – *Lady Capulet's nephew*

J. Paul Nicholas\*

Capulet's cousin – *an old gentleman*

Chet Carlin\*

Nurse, *a Capulet servant,*

*Juliet's foster-mother*

Anne-Marie Cusson\*

Peter – *a Capulet servant*

*attending on the Nurse*

Nick Lawson†

Sampson - *a servant to Capulet*

Greg Foro\*†

Regan – *a servant to Capulet*

Afton Williamson†

Friar Laurence – *of the Franciscan Order*

Rodney Clark\*

(more)

***Romeo and Juliet***  
**by William Shakespeare**  
**(Continued)**

Friar John – <i>of the Franciscan Order</i>	Chet Carlin*
An Apothecary, of Mantua	David Dortch†
Bodyguard to the Prince	Anthony Marble*
Members of the Watch	Afton Williamson†, David Dortch†, Greg Foro*†
Citizens of Verona	Alison Frederick†, Chet Carlin*
Masquers	David Dortch†, Jerry Ferraccio David Dortch†, Greg Foro*†, Hollis McCarthy*, Sarah Walker Thornton†, Afton Williamson†
Servants	Greg Foro*†, Afton Williamson†

\*Member Actors' Equity Association

†Member of Graduate Acting Company

\*† Appears Courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

**Audience:** All patrons must have a ticket, regardless of age. Children under the age of six are not admitted to the theatre. Recommended for Ages 12+.

**Synopsis:** In this modern treatment of Shakespeare's best-known love story, the warring families of Montague and Capulet are forever changed when star crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet fall in love and marry in secret. When violence breaks out between the families and Juliet's cousin is killed by her lover, the couple's plans are tragically altered.

**Setting:** A South Florida-styled Verona, Mantua.