

BYU YOUNG COMPANY

# ROMEO Y JULIETA





## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

While Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is commonly seen as a story of fate, I have always seen it as a story of miscommunication and misunderstanding. Because of this I felt a bilingual adaptation would provide opportunities to expand those moments in the play. And by introducing the Spanish-language and Latino cultures into the story, I hoped the focus on multiculturalism would help provide numerous access points for young and diverse community members to engage with this production. From these ideas, *Romeo y Julieta* was born.

I believe that the adaptation and translation of a traditional and monocultural script towards a nontraditional and multicultural one must involve diverse and varied artists; and indeed, many, many people helped with this adaptation. From fifth grade students at Sharon Elementary school in Orem, Utah, to my own father, Peter Ashworth (emeritus professor from the BYU Department of Spanish). Our cast and crew even received hands-on guidance and tutelage from one of this country's most prolific Latino-American playwrights for young audiences, José Cruz González—we are indebted to him and grateful for his support. However, the most help I received in this adaptation came from the very students involved in the play. The native-speaking actors in the play represent a wide variety of Latino cultures, from Mexican, to Peruvian, to Spanish, to Puerto Rican. And many of the other students involved are either fluent in Spanish, or bring seemingly endless acting, design, translation and dramaturgical skills. You will feel all of their influences in this play; their lives and experiences are intertwined throughout the language, sound, feel and look of this production. This truly was an enormous collaborative effort, and a labor of love.

Our hopes for your experience with this production are that you will see and hear the vital role that communication plays not only between young people, but between young people and the adults in their lives. We hope you see ways to improve communication in your own life. We also hope that this production builds a more diverse and inclusive audience, as we try to expand the idea of who we are as a community, and what we might become one day.

—Julia Ashworth, *director*



BYU COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND MEDIA ARTS  
YOUNG COMPANY

# ROMEO Y JULIETA

Written by

William Shakespeare

Shakespeare Adaptation by  
Julia Ashworth

Translation Adaptation by  
Emily Dickerson, Mariah Eames, Amelia Johnson

Scenic Design  
Rory Scanlon

Lighting Design  
Daniel Barton

Costume Design  
Elizabeth Banks  
Zoe Taylor

Makeup & Hair Design  
Courteney Shipley

Sound Design  
Hannah Gunson-McComb

Dramaturgy  
Hannah Gunson-McComb  
Emily Dickerson

Production Stage Management  
Cameron Cox

Directed by

Julia Ashworth

Feb 7-9, 14-16 7:30 PM  
Feb 10, 17 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM  
Nelke Theatre

Please join our cast and dramaturg to briefly Meet the Company immediately following each performance.

Please silence all mobile phones and electronic devices.  
Photography, video and/or audio recording, and texting are forbidden during the performance.



## STAFF FOR ROMEO Y JULIETA

### THEATRE STEERING COMMITTEE

Producer .....	Wade Hollingshaus
Artistic Director .....	Megan Sanborn Jones
Theatre Production Manager .....	Jennifer Reed
Design and Technology Area Head .....	Michael S. Kraczek

### YOUNG COMPANY COMMITTEE

Artistic Director .....	Julia Ashworth
Managing Director .....	Becky Wallin
Educational Consultant .....	Teresa Dayley Love
Faculty Liaison.....	Megan Sanborn Jones

Theatre Production Manager .....	Jennifer Reed
Assistant Costume Design .....	Timo Elliott
Assistant Lighting Design.....	Celia Linford
Assistant Prop Design .....	Timo Elliott
Assistant Makeup & Hair Design.....	Heather Everett
Assistant Stage Management .....	Emma Pankratz
Assistant Stage Management .....	Christina Hernandez

Costume and Makeup Operations Manager .....	Jessica Cowden
Wardrobe Supervisor .....	Jaynanne Meads
Costume Faculty Mentor .....	Dennis Wright
Dressers .....	Jeanelle Long
Lighting Operations Manager .....	Michael Handley
Lighting Crew Coordinator .....	Marianne Ohran
Lighting Faculty Mentor .....	Michael Kraczek
Light Board Operator .....	Miranda Clement
Sound Board Operator.....	Cooper Sutton
Technical Director .....	Travis Coyne
Scene Shop Manager .....	Ward Wright
Scenic Faculty Mentor .....	Rory Scanlon
Property Shop Manager .....	Jennifer Reed
Sound Supervisor .....	Troy Streeter
Sound Board Operator .....	Cooper Sutton
Makeup Coordinator .....	Arianna Krenk
Makeup Faculty Mentor .....	Jennine Hollingshaus
Dramaturgy Faculty Mentor .....	Shelley Graham
Stage Management Faculty Mentor .....	Jennifer Reed

## CHARACTER LIST

### Mercutio/The Prince

Sariah Lyles

### Señora Capuleto

Natalie Jennings

### El Ama/Lady Montague

Amelia Johnson

### Benvolio

Nikole York

### Teobaldo/Watchman

Daniel Mesta

### Romeo

Maximillian Wright

### Julieta

Rachel Leishman

### The Abbess

Olivia Ockey



From L to R: Natalie Jennings (Senora Capuleto), Rachel Leishman (Julieta), Max Wright as (Romeo), Amelia Johnson (Lady Montague)  
Photography by Savanna Richardson/BYU



## MEET THE CAST

Natalie Jennings  
**Señora Capuleto**

From Alpine, Utah, Natalie is a senior studying Spanish teaching and is thrilled to be making her debut on a BYU stage. Previously, Natalie has enjoyed ensemble roles in several musicals at Alpine Community Theater, including *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Cinderella*. She also choreographed for *Beauty and the Beast* at Alpine Community Theater. She hopes to teach Spanish in high school.

Amelia Johnson  
**El Ama/Lady Montague**

From Shawano, Wisconsin, Amelia is a senior in the theatre arts program with an emphasis in dramaturgy and a minor in international development. Recent dramaturgy credits include *Into the Woods* at BYU and *Arsenic and Old Lace* at the Highland City Community Center. She was also the assistant dramaturg for the American premiere of *Chariots of Fire*. Amelia is excited to make her BYU debut in *Romeo y Julieta*.

Rachel Leishman  
**Julieta**

From San Antonio, Texas, Rachel is a sophomore in the pre-acting program. She has been in several student productions at BYU and is excited to be making her mainstage debut.

Sariah Lyles  
**The Prince/Mercutio**

A freshman hailing from the sunny city of Lake Elsinore, California, Sariah is studying music dance theatre. Her stage credits include the Mouse King in *The Nutcracker* in a ballet school production, as well as the Gypsy Fortune Teller in *The Princess and the Pea* and Fantine in *Les Misérables*, both at Dehesa High School. Sariah is elated and honored to be making her BYU mainstage debut in such a beautiful and timeless production.

Daniel Mesta  
**Teobaldo/Watchman**

From Easley, South Carolina, Daniel is a senior studying theatre arts with a minor in geography. Recent credits include *The Elephant's Graveyard* at BYU, *See How They Run* in Spanish Fork, and *Clue, The Musical* at the Lehi Arts Center. He has appeared as a solo performer and comedian both onstage and on the radio. He is also the lead violinist and accordionist for Mariachi Los Pumas, BYU's resident mariachi ensemble.

Olivia Ockey  
**The Abbess**

From Lindon, Utah, Olivia Ockey is a junior studying acting. Recent credits include Emily in the *Corpse Bride* Mask Club, the Snake and Rose in the *Little Prince* Mask Club, Medea in BYU's mainstage production of *Argonautika*, and Maria in BYU Young Company's *Twelfth Night*. She has received two nominations for the Irene Ryan Scholarship in the last two years. Olivia loves Shakespeare and is thrilled to return to the Young Company for this production.

Maximillian Wright  
**Romeo**

From Orangevale, California, Max is a sophomore studying pre-media arts. Previously he has participated in three BYU Mask Clubs, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Abridged), and *The Fiddler on the Roof*, and now feels extremely grateful for the opportunity to be performing in his first BYU mainstage production.

Nikole York  
**Benvolio**

From Henderson, Nevada, Nikole is a freshman who hopes to study musical theatre, with a minor in women's studies. Recent credits include the Fairy Godmother in Las Vegas Academy's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* and Marie in Signature Production's *The Scarlet Pimpernel* in Las Vegas. Nikole received the spotlight award at the Nevada High School Musical Theatre Awards, as well as the Principal's Scholarship from Las Vegas Academy of the Arts.



## MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Julia Ashworth

**Director**

Julia Ashworth is an associate teaching professor in the Theatre and Media Arts department at BYU. She has worked in the field of arts education – as an artist, administrator and K-12 teacher – for nearly two decades. Her duties at BYU include serving as artistic director for Young Company (BYU's theatre for young audiences touring group) and acting as area head for the Theatre Arts Education K-12 program. Her work focuses primarily on inclusive and diverse initiatives in both theatre for young audiences and applied theatre practices.

Elizabeth Banks

**Costume Designer**

From Cedar Hills, Elizabeth is in her third year studying theatre arts Studies here at BYU, with a minor in French. Recent theatre and film credits include assistant costume designer for the BYU production *The Mill on the Floss*, wardrobe supervisor on the film *Arthur Weatherby*, and assistant wardrobe on the film *I Love My Robot Boyfriend*.

Daniel Barton

**Lighting Designer**

From Syracuse, Utah, Daniel is a junior studying theatre education with a minor in Korean. Recent Credits include master electrician for *Into the Woods*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *Argonautika*, as well as assistant stage manager for *Chariots of Fire*, all at BYU. He designed lights for *Proof* and *Woman in Black* for the BYU Mask Club series. He loves theatre but needs to learn how to say no to projects.

Cameron Cox

**Production Stage Manager**

From Orem, Utah, Cameron is a junior studying stage management with minors in statistics and linguistics. Recent stage managing credits include *Happysadness* through BYU Microburst, and *The 24 Hour Theatre Project*, *The Little Prince*, and *Dead Man's Cellphone* at BYU. Cameron is the president of the BYU Student Theatre Association and a resident stage manager in the Nelke Theatre.

Mariah Eames

**Assistant Director**

From Seattle, Washington, Mariah is a junior studying theatre arts studies with an emphasis in directing. She has worked as an assistant director for other productions in her hometown. This is her first mainstage production as an assistant director. She has also worked in the Hispanic community as a missionary serving in the California Ventura Mission. Mariah is excited to share this show with the community.

Hannah Gunson-McComb

**Head Dramaturg/  
Composer/Sound Designer**

Hannah is a graduate student in the Media and Performance Studies Master's program, having recently graduated with a BFA in technical theatre and design from BYU-Idaho. Previous dramaturgical credits include *Hedda Gabler* and an independent film, *Prisoner of War*. Her field of research is in Horror Performance. She and her husband, Burkely McComb, live in Orem but occasionally miss their hometown of Santa Barbara, California.

Zoe Taylor

**Co-Costume Designer**

From Fort Worth, Texas, Zoe is a junior studying theatre arts with minors in English and international cinema studies. Recently, she has designed costumes for the BYU student films *Socorro*, *La Refacción*, and *To Have and To Hold*. She was also the assistant costume designer on *The Glorious Story Emporium*.



Romeo (Max Wright) Julieta (Rachel Leishman)  
Photography by Savanna Richardson/BYU

