

CenterStage in Lake Forest *presents*

William Shakespeare's

Timeless *Love* Story



Adapted & Directed by Barbara J. Anderson

Produced by Edward Kuffert

**10 FREE** 90-Minute Performances!

**Saturday August 14, 4:00 PM**

Market Square, Lake Forest

**Donations  
Gratefully  
Accepted**

**Sunday, August 22, 4:00 PM**

West Park, Lake Forest

**Saturday & Sunday, August 28 & 29, 4:00 PM**

The Amphitheater at Gallery Park, Glenview

**Saturday & Sunday, September 4 & 5,**

**11 & 12, 4:00 PM**

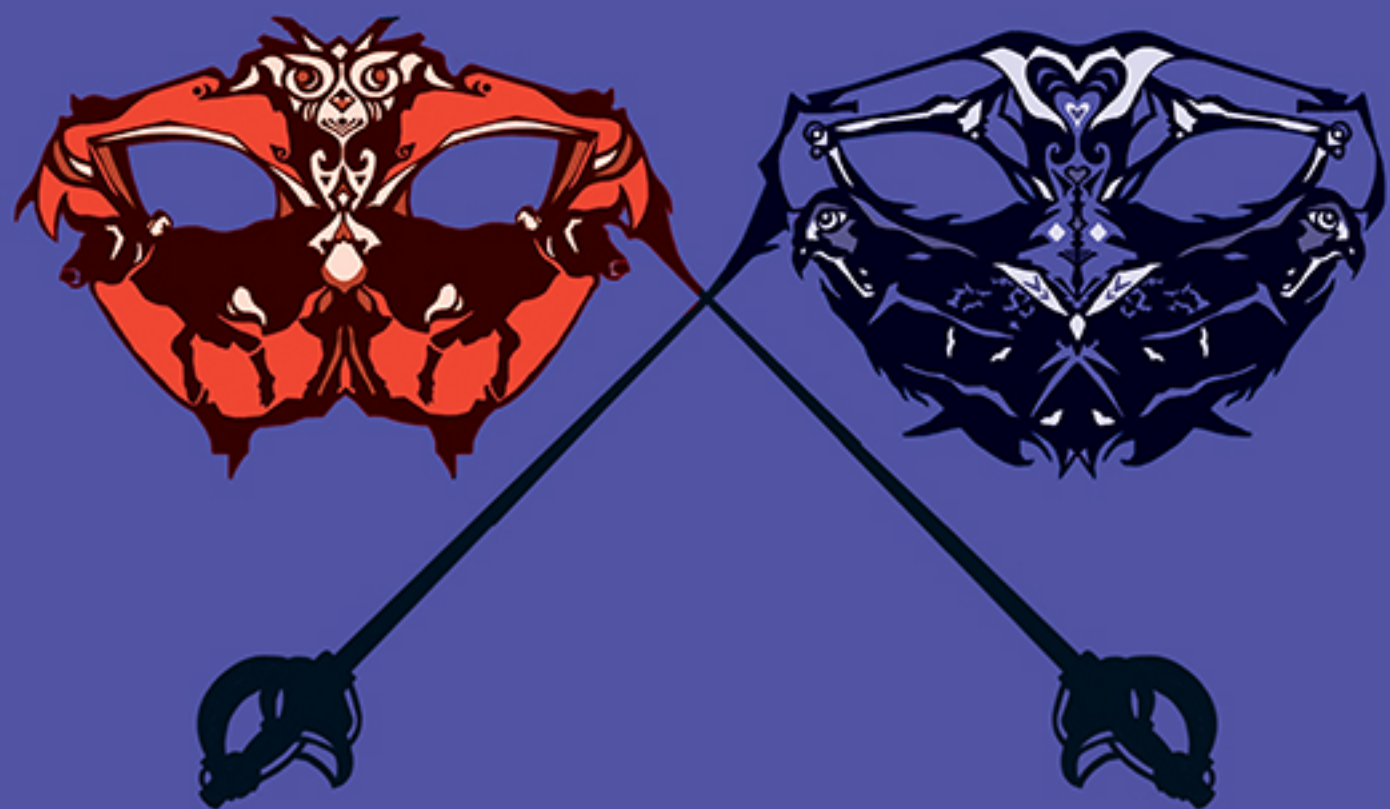
The Village Green at the Gazebo, Lake Bluff



**Saturday & Sunday, September 18 & 19**

Jackman Park, Glenview





Welcome to **CenterStage in Lake Forest**, and *Romeo and Juliet*, our fourth Shakespeare in the Park production!

2020 was a year of lockdowns, solitude, and isolation. The theatre stages were dark. But the sun shines, the vaccines are available, and theatre returns. We felt our first post-COVID production should still allow us to practice social distancing, so we chose our Shakespeare in the Parks production of *Romeo and Juliet* to kick off our 50<sup>th</sup> season.

Keep an eye on our website for exciting announcements regarding our 2021-2022 season.

Our Shakespeare is free – though we cheerfully accept (tax-deductible) donations. But quality theatre comes at a cost. If you would like to join our journey of exploration, please consider becoming a member.

A tax-deductible \$35.00 (or more) entitles you to our monthly newsletter, advance notice and discounts on ticket sales, and most importantly, a chance to be part of a local tradition, a tradition almost fifty years old. Since 1971 CenterStage has been a part of your community. Won't you be part of ours?

Edward Kuffert, President  
[www.centerstageinlakeforest.org](http://www.centerstageinlakeforest.org)  
847.234.6062

# Romeo & Juliet

## CAST

*In Order of Appearance*

Chorus/Prince Escalus	.....	Edward Kuffert
Sampson/1 <sup>st</sup> Watch	.....	Christopher Ward
Balthasar	.....	Marshall Kious
Benvolio/2 <sup>nd</sup> Watch	.....	Benjamin Terpstra
Tybalt	.....	Jason LaCombe
Lord Capulet	.....	Joe Page
Lady Capulet	.....	Claire Hart Proepper
Lord Montague / Apothecary	.....	John Benischek
Romeo	.....	David Moreland
Count Paris	.....	Steven Yandell
Nurse	.....	Liz Cloud
Juliet	.....	Juliet Wolfe
Mercutio	.....	Christopher Ward
Friar Laurence	.....	Bruce Moore



# Romeo & Juliet

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Adaptation / Direction	.....	Barbara J. Anderson
Costumes	.....	John Gion
		Theresa Kerrigan
Fight Captain	.....	Steven Yandell
Armorer	.....	Marshall Kious
Properties	.....	Laura De Croocq
Producer	.....	Edward Kuffert
Graphic Design	.....	Phoebe Rothfeld
Program / Website	.....	Bob Sanders
Cast Photography	.....	Dale Jessen



# Romeo & Juliet

## Director's Note

Welcome to CenterStage in Lake Forest's fourth Shakespeare in the Parks Tour. After the restrictions of the COVID-19 Pandemic, isn't it nice to be outdoors, watching theatre? I am delighted to be at the helm once again, this year presenting CenterStage's first foray into Shakespeare's tragedies, the ever-popular *Romeo & Juliet*.

The play is based on a real Italian love story about the Capeletti and Montecchi families from the 3rd Century. Shakespeare's principal source for the plot of *Romeo and Juliet* was *The Tragicall Historye of Romeus and Juliet*, a long narrative poem written in 1562 by the English poet Arthur Brooke, who had based his poem on a French translation of a tale about the two young lovers by the Italian writer Matteo Bandello.

In addition, scholars know that Shakespeare was also familiar with the Roman myth *Pyramus and Thisbe*, which tells a story very similar to that of *Romeo and Juliet*. Indeed, Shakespeare doffed his proverbial cap to this myth in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (written in 1595-96), where The Bard used it for the basis of the Mechanicals' Play, which—in turn—was adapted into the plot for a famous modern musical: *The Fantasticks*. Indeed, you might even have seen our Lord Montague (**John Benischek**) perform in *The Fantasticks* recently: not long before the COVID-19 Pandemic broke out, John appeared in a production of the musical by our theatrical neighbor in Lake Forest--Citadel Theatre.

Let's return to information about our show: While there is no clear indication within *Romeo and Juliet* of the actual historical period's setting, it seems to be set somewhere between 1200-1300, since the actions of rival noble houses in late Medieval and early Renaissance periods in Italy often disturbed the local peace. (Have you ever seen the Netflix production of *The Medici*, set in Florence?) Medieval and Renaissance Italians were often divided by jealousy, and especially by business, familial, and personal rivalries between and within city states. In *Romeo and Juliet*, wealth, culture, rivalry, and enmity are all displayed, also reflecting this historical time frame.



# Romeo & Juliet

However, the time that passes within the play is very clear. Only five days pass from the opening street fight to the deaths of Romeo and Juliet:

- 1) On Sunday morning, the brawl in the town square occurs; that same night Romeo meets Juliet at the Capulet feast, and they declare their love for one another.
- 2) On Monday afternoon, Friar Lawrence marries the couple; later in the day, Romeo kills Tybalt.
- 3) On Tuesday, Romeo flees from Verona to Mantua; the Capulets announce Juliet's engagement to Paris; and she drinks Friar Laurence's herbal potion that makes her appear to be dead.
- 4) On Wednesday, Juliet's body is discovered and taken to the Capulet tomb.
- 5) On Thursday, Romeo hears of Juliet's death, hastens to Verona, and commits suicide in her tomb. When Juliet awakens later in the day and finds him dead, she stabs herself.
- 6) The play ends on Friday morning.

Most modern scholars place Shakespeare's writing of the play somewhere between 1594 and 1596, since it is similar in language to *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and *Richard II*. *Romeo & Juliet* was first published in an unauthorized quarto in 1597. An authorized quarto of *R & J* appeared in 1599, substantially longer and more reliable. A third quarto, based on the second, was used by the editors of the First Folio of 1623.

As we did in our last Shakespeare production, *As You Like It*, in the long-ago pre-COVID days of 2019, CenterStage in Lake Forest is offering this poignant tragedy to our audiences for free! It is our gift to audiences past and present for supporting CenterStage for 50 years. We thank you for coming to see the show and hope you'll return--several times--bringing your family, your neighbors, and your friends!



# Romeo & Juliet

Indeed, we hope you enjoy the show enough to consider giving CenterStage in Lake Forest a tax-deductible donation. You can give cash or checks here at the end of the show when some of our actors will pass the proverbial hat! Or you can contribute by credit card on our website, [www.centerstagelakeforest.org](http://www.centerstagelakeforest.org). Your donation of any size will help CenterStage continue our tradition of bringing wonderful theatre experiences to our community and offering opportunities for performers and theatre-technicians of all ages and from all communities to learn, polish, and hone their craft for many years to come.

That's enough background! Both CenterStage's production staff and actors are proud of the show we have worked hard creating for you. We hope that the weather will be delightful; that you will be able to relax; and that you will enjoy the wonderful love story, talented acting, exciting swordplay, and beautiful costumes that we present to you in our first post-Covid-19 Pandemic production: William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Cheers!

Barbara J. Anderson  
Adapter and Director;  
CenterStage Board Member

Some of the literary and historical information in this Director's Note was adapted from  
<https://sites.google.com/site/romeoandjulietshakespeare101/>