



BUXTON OPERA HOUSE & PAVILION ARTS CENTRE

Romeo & Juliet

Year 10 are studying Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet as part of their GCSE English. On 2nd April they went to see a modern day performance of the play at the Buxton Opera House. Here's a review a student's review of the evening.

On Tuesday the 2nd of April, year 10 went to a production of Romeo and Juliet with Mrs Colley and Mrs Parsonage in the people carriers. When we got there we all sat down in our seats quickly because the play was just about to start.

The play then started with the opening scene where the Montague family and the Capulet family servants fought in the street. The Prince of Verona Escalus then came onto the scene and stopped the fighting between them. He then went on to rant about how it was the third civil brawl this week and basically told them off. Then it went on to the party scene where Mercutio is introduced, which in my opinion was right on the dot with his character and personality. Soon enough Romeo and Juliet meet for the first time and fall madly in love. Romeo and Mercutio run from the Capulet mansion as they were discovered by Montagues or friends of Montagues/ Romeo then breaks into the Capulet courtyard to see Juliet again who in on her balcony talking about Romeo, wishing he wasn't a Montague and were a Capulet. Romeo then reveals himself to her and they promise to get married on the next day.

Romeo goes to Friar Lawrence to get him and Juliet married. Friar Lawrence agrees to marry them because he thinks it will mend the feud between the two families and bring about peace to Verona. Romeo and Juliet then get married by Friar Lawrence in secret. Romeo goes to tell Mercutio about the wedding but finds Tybalt with them who challenge Romeo to a dual, but Romeo refuses because Tybalt is now his kinsman by marriage.

Tybalt is enraged by this and attacks Romeo. Mercutio then defends Romeo from Tybalt but gets stabbed by Tybalt in the struggle. Mercutio then dies and Romeo in an uncontrollable rage kills Tybalt. Soon after the Prince declared Romeo banished from Verona.

Lord Capulet, in his grief stricken state from Tybalt's death tells Juliet that she will be married in three days' time. Juliet then goes to Friar Lawrence and together they concoct a plan to get Romeo and Juliet together. Friar Lawrence gives Juliet a potion to take which will put her into a false death. Whilst she is in the family crypt Romeo will be given a message of the plan and told to come to the crypt where Juliet will wake up and they will escape Verona under a cloak of darkness.

The plan went along perfectly but Romeo never received the message so he thought Juliet had really died. He went to her crypt and drank poison to kill himself. Juliet then wakes up to Romeo's dead body and kills herself with a dagger to be with him.

In the end the feud between both the families is ended both with both their children's deaths. Lord Montague and Lord Capulate both agree to put up gold statues of their children. The play then ends.

Over all the play was interesting to watch and the modern day dress seemed to make it more relevant to us as teenagers. The set was a mix of modern day object, but relevant to the characters of the play. I think that seeing this production will make me write a better controlled assessment.