



508 Main St., Laurel MD 20707 301-617-9906

Romeo & Juliette

by William Shakespeare

Adapted & Directed by
Jacqueline Youm



Laurel Mill Playhouse

March 14 - April 6, 2025

Produced by Maureen Rogers

Music composed and directed by Andrew Mauer

**Friday and Saturday— 8 pm -March 14,15, 21, 22, 28, 29,
April 4, 5 (2 pm AND 8 pm),**

Sunday— 2 pm—March 16, 23, 30, April 6

**Artwork by Hannah
Ruth Blackwell 2025**

Director's Notes

“Amour, donne-moi la force, et la force me sauvera. Love give me strength! and strength shall help afford.” (Romeo & Juliet, Act 4 scene 1)

Romeo and Juliet (in this case ‘Romeo & Juliette’) is, dare I say it, one of the greatest love stories of all time. What makes it one of my favorite Shakespearean plays is the love and hope throughout. It doesn’t matter how many times we read it and watch it, we are always rooting for love. In this story, we have examples of so many different types of love. Agape, Eros, and Philia love abound. Love for and from God, love for another, love for your family, love for your friends, and love for oneself.

Despite the tragedies, it still ends with reconciliation and hope. Though Romeo and Juliette’s corporeal bodies no longer have breath, hope will see their families and communities through~

In these times of division and unrest, we need reminders that hope, joy, love, and reconciliation are some of the ingredients that make life worth living. Many times, the violence and deaths are made the focus of this story but in this tale as old as time, we are not focused on our differences but on what brings us all together. We are all human beings with shared life experiences, shared human emotion, and humanity.

Death is part of life. We all die and what makes life worth living is all of the joy and love that we can experience.

Love and reconciliation always win. L’amour et la réconciliation triomphent toujours~!!

~Jacqueline Youm

ROMEO & JULIETTE CAST

(in alphabetical order)

Angela Whittaker Lillian Inglewood

Apryl Motley Helena Triomphe, Balthasar Loyauté,
Sampson Brava

Asia Kerr Abraham Anderson, The Apothecary Cir-
ce Druilda, Lyric Sinclair

Corey J. Ahearn Friar Laurence Bartholomew Francis de
las Casas

Cameron IsaacMercutio Escalus

Derick John-KingBenvolio Asclepius Montague

Helen Cheng Mao Lady Lilith Catherine Capulet

Jacqueline Youm Juliette Elizabeth Paradis Capulet

Joseph Smith-Matthews .. Gregory, Count Paris Escalus, Sweeney

Mark Regini Friar John Vitus, Peter Coraggio, Sympho-
ny

Matthew J Murray Romeo Matteo Montague

Maureen Rogers Lady Elisabeth Cecilia Montague

Paul Norfolk Lord Harold Gregory Capulet

Semaj KellyTybalt Jeremiah Capulet

Seth RosePrince Escalus

Shiesha McNeil The Nurse Adelaide Ophelia Bellamy

Composer Notes

In Fair Verona where we lay our scene, this production's musical score celebrates individual convictions, forewarns of fatal consequences, and sonically journeys with our characters through the pursuit of love at all costs. The score fuses traditional broadway-esque moments with jazz harmonizations and improvisatory elements. Each family has been given their own musical signature, and musical motifs throughout the story have been woven together to showcase how individual perspectives shift as the plot's events unfold. The piano's extended chords are often riddled with lingering tensions that both haunt us and ground us. However, navigating these musical tensions makes their ultimate resolution even more satisfying.

In this production, you'll hear no battle music or underscored fighting. During these violent, tumultuous times in our lives outside of the theater, this cast sings of love.

Countries make bombs with the goal of hurting people, instilling fear, killing people, proving a point... Is anyone working on a bomb that makes people love you? Maybe a cupid bomb? I believe we already have it. It's called music. And every country has their own version of it. And it works. It brings people together. You don't have to know a thing about it to get it. It's a language. It's a lifestyle. And it can save the world.

- Victor Wooten

~ Andrew Mauer

ROMEO & JULIETTE CREW:

Director: Jacqueline Youm

Producer: Maureen Rogers

Lighting Designer: Jacqueline Youm, Lori Bruun

Co-Assistant Directors: Angela Whittaker & Imaan Khan

Music Director & Music Composer: Andrew Mauer

Live Guitar/Mandolin: Corey Ahern

Vocal Coach: Angela Whittaker

Production Assistant: Valerie Caniglia

Stage Manager: Lori Bruun

Assistant Stage Manager: Summer Skerritt

Dance, Fight, & Intimacy Coordinator: Celine Jones-Cameron

Scenic Designer: Katy Ann Carr

Costumes: Marge McGugan



Song List

Act 1 Scene 1 Family Flourishes

- The Joyful Chorus
- The Regal House of Eschalus
- The Refined Capulets
- The Blessed Montagues
- The Pious Friars

Act 1 Scene 1 Scene Change: The Story Begins

Act 1 Scene 4 The Fair Verona Blues Take 1 - Helena Triomphe, Lyric Sinclair, Symphony

Act 1 Scene 4 Scene Change: A Riff for Rosaline

Act 1 Scene 7 Capulet's Crown Jewel - La Grande Valse - Romeo

Act 1 Scene 7 The Fair Verona Blues Take 2 - Helena Triomphe, Lyric Sinclair, Sweeney

Act 2 Scene 2 Juliette is the Sun

Act 2 Scene 3 The Friar's Foreshadowing1

Act 2 Scene 5 Lady in Waiting - Juliette

Act 2 Scene 6 The Wedding Ceremony1

Act 3 Scene 2 Viens ô Nuit! - Juliette

Act 3 Scene 4 The Wedding Night Interlude

Act 3 Scene 5 Is That a Lark?2

Act 4 Scene 1 Scene Change: The Paris Problem1

Act 4 Scene 2 Farewell, Juliet?

Act 5 Scene 1 Farewell, Romeo!

Act 5 Scene 2 The Friar's Lament1

Act 5 Scene 2 Finale Ultimo: The Fair Verona Blues Take 3 - Helena Triomphe, Lyric Sinclair, Lillian Inglewood, and full ensemble

1. Transcribed excerpt from Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet"
2. Opening motif from Tchaikovsky's "Song of the Lark"

Meet the Cast and Crew

Angela Whittaker (Lillian Inglewood, Assistant Director, Vocal Coach) is a graduate of Berklee College of Music; she's performed around the country, working with the likes of Patti Labelle, Sting, Paul Simon, and Kelly Price. She's been seen and heard on Good Morning America, Spotify, NPR, and NBC. She is new to the theater community, performing her first professional musical this past December. She has starred in three more plays since then. "Mila" in the original play "*Stevie's Love Song to Me*," "Elise" in another original play entitled "*Yet I Stand*," "Beneatha Younger" in "*Raisin in the Sun*," "Nettie" in a stage production of "*The Color Purple*," "Herma" in "*Midsummers Night Dream*" with Chesapeake Shakespeare Theater Company, "Leah" in an original play entitled "*Better Love*." Most recently, Angela has appeared in Next Stop's production of "*African Mean Girls*" and in Compass Rose's production of "*Intimate Apparel*." She thanks Laurel Mills Playhouse for the opportunity to AD and appear in this production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Andrew Mauer (Composer/Music Director/Keyboard (Recorded)) – Andrew is excited to premiere for this audience his first feature-length, solo-composed musical theater score for your listening pleasure. He brings over a decade of professional experience in musical composition, arranging, choral direction and piano/pipe organ performance to this production. Andrew has provided music direction and collaborative piano performance for countless churches, nonprofits, and theater companies across the DMV such as Rockville Musical Theatre, St. Andrew's Players, and Theater@CBT, most recently music directing and performing in Best Medicine Rep's Helen Hayes Recommended "*Rules For Writing Christmas Cards*". He also arranges and performs with the piano quintet Moonscape Ensemble. (Follow @moonscape_ensemble on Instagram for future performance dates, including the Cherry Blossom Festival at Eastern Market on 4/12!)

Apryl Motley (Balthasar/Chorus/Sampson), a natural storyteller, is excited to be in her first Laurel Mill Playhouse production. Among her favorite experiences as an actor are killing it with the Murder Mystery Co., participating in the 2017 One-Act Festival at Silver Spring Stage, and performing two seasons with What Improv Group? previously at Howard Community College. Other HCC credits include *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* and *A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play*. She feels blessed to be able to stand on stage and perform with this incredible cast. She thanks family and friends for supporting her and W. Allen Taylor for coaching her to the next level.

Asia Kerr (Abraham Anderson, The Apothecary Circe Druidla, Lyric) is delighted to make her debut performance at Laurel Mill Playhouse. With a background in the arts, literature, music, and dance, stepping into the world of acting has been an exciting venture outside her comfort zone. She is deeply grateful to everyone who has made this experience so memorable. Asia looks forward to future opportunities in the world of acting and can't wait to be involved in more projects to come!

Corey Ahearn (Friar Laurence, Mandolin player) is an actor and public school English teacher who only auditions for Shakespeare and other early modern dramatists. Recent past credits include Dick/Melebius in *Galathea* with Baltimore Shakespeare Factory, musician/citizen of Windsor in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with Chesapeake Shakespeare Company and Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* with The Cumberland Theater. This performance is dedicated, as always, to the guiding light of my existence, Justine.

Cameron Isaac (Mercutio Escalus) is an amazing and tantalizing actor! This is his 9th stage play and third play in Shakespeare. Within the past year he performed in *Twelfth Night* and *Chocolate City Factory*, an original stage play about the city of DC!

Derick John-King (Benvolio Asclepius Montague) is an actor/artist, born and raised in Baltimore, Md. He's graced the stage at some of Baltimore's most prominent theaters such as, the Arena Players (*Stick Fly/ Black Nativity*), Unified Voices (*The Wiz*) and the Eubie Blake center (*Good Girls Never Tell*). Derick can be seen on A&E's "*Panic 911*" and on Tubi in films such as "*Selector*" & "*Check Please*". He just completed his 3rd run of "*The Polar Express*" at the B&O railroad and is a resident actor for "*The Dinner Detective*". This is his inaugural production at LMP. Derick would like to thank his family, friends, teachers and of course the amazing cast and crew of "*Romeo & Juliet*" for all of their support

Helen Cheng Mao (Lady Capulet) is thrilled to be making her Laurel Mill Playhouse debut. Past credits include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Nu Sass Productions); *Letters to Kamala/ Dandelion Peace* (Voices Festivals Productions); *Junk, Banana Brains, Yes Virginia There is a Santa Claus, and A Black & White Cookie* (Silver Spring Stage); *Frances Charlie Chan Jr. 's Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery* (Little Theatre of Alexandra); *Macbeth* (The Rude Mechanicals); *The Emergency Room* (Bowie Center for the Performing Arts); *Young Frankenstein* (Carroll County Community College); *The Nutcracker* (Olney Theatre Center); and *Rated S Sketch Comedy* (Stage Coach Theater). Helen is also a playwright whose plays and monologues have been produced (in person and virtually) by theaters across the US and in the UK. Some can be seen on her YouTube channel. In addition to working as a freelance writer, proofreader, and editor, Helen instructs clinical skills to healthcare professionals as a standardized patient and physical exam teaching assistant. She can be reached at www.linkedin.com/in/helencmao. Much love and thanks to David, Alexandra, Elizabeth, family and friends!

Jacqueline Youm (Director | Lighting Designer | Juliette) cannot describe how elated she is to share this beautiful adaptation of love, reconciliation, and life through William Shakespeare's *ROMEO & JULIETTE* at Laurel Mill Playhouse. She cannot thank Maureen, Marvin, her cast, her crew, her support systems, and LMP enough! She is a Senegalese-American actor, lawyer, and French, English, Spanish, Mediation, Negotiation, and Acting teacher. Some favorite credits include Frederick Shakespeare Festival: QUEEN & BISHOP CARLISLE in *Richard II*; Laurel Mill Playhouse (LMP): MISS EVERS in *Miss Evers' Boys*; Round House Theatre: ADENIKEH in *Nollywood Dreams* (HELEN HAYES nom); Dominion Stage: STOOL PIGEON in *King Hedley II* (2023 WATCH award); Chesapeake Shakespeare Co: HELENA in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Best Medicine Rep: JO ANNE in *The Trip* (HELEN HAYES nom); LMP: CLARICE LYLE in *Consecrated Ground*; Silver Spring Stage: NORA in *A Doll's House Part II*; Sisters Freehold: Yinghe in *The Sleepover*. She gives her everything to her ancestors and Maman. Youtube (Cestjackie): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvd4LWK9h1msuj9oeFXHtng> | Instagram: @jy_artiste | Facebook: Jacqueline Elisabeth

Joseph Smith-Matthews (Gregory, Count Paris Escalus, Sweeney) got into acting in 2015 and has been having a wonderful experience in everything he's done since then. He has appeared in film, commercials, tv and this play marks my 4th time in a stage play and is excited to be working with such a talented cast and crew in this wonderful production. "This is also my first project that I've done involving Shakespeare and I'll remember this experience forever. My previous work has prepared me for this opportunity and I'm grateful to be here with everyone and I will continue to strive towards my growth as an actor and be ready for whatever is next."

Lori Lyman Bruun (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be stage managing again at LMP. Previous stage management at LMP includes *Wisdom of Eve*, *Sylvia*, and numerous others. Lori has also stage managed for Best Medicine Rep and at Bowie Playhouse. She is beyond excited to be directing *Black Comedy* at LMP, which opens in June. Lori appreciates her husband's support for her seemingly endless theatrical adventures.

Mark Regini (Peter Coraggio/Friar John Vitus/Symphony) is in his first performance at Laurel Mill Playhouse. He last graced the Silver Spring Stage as Corrigan Wiley/Waiter in *Junk*, and Clark Kent in *No Transferable Skills*. He also performed as Amity in the *Lily Hare* world premier at the Abingdon Theatre in NYC, and as Bob in *Swimming in the Shallows* at Quinnipiac University. Mark would like to give a special thanks to his loving wife Rachel, without whom following his dreams wouldn't be possible.

Matthew J. Murray (Romeo Matteo Montague) flourishes on the quest of excellence in his craft as an actor. Having participated in numerous acting productions, he continually pushes his boundaries, pursuing growth with each undertaking. He debuted in *Bounce! A Peter Rabbit Remix* at Prince George's Community College. He moved to New Hampshire performing as part of TIGER Children's Touring Group. As well as other acting opportunities. Matthew is thankful for his friends and family that have supported him as he follows his dream.

Maureen Rogers (Lady Cecilia Elisabeth Montague/Producer) is the Artistic Director/Public Liaison of LMP. She has appeared on stage with Merely Players, GAC, RLT, Pasadena Theater Company and Laurel Community Theater. Some of her favorite roles have been as Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn in *The Music Man*, Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Marilla in *Anne of Green Gables* and Emma Goldman in *Assassins*. Thank you to Jackie and this talented cast and crew for bringing *Romeo & Juliette* to LMP!

Paul Norfolk (Lord Capulet) is happy to make his LMP debut! Recent favorite roles include Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes* (Gettysburg Community Theatre), William Gillette in *The Game's Afoot* (Cockpit in Court) and Howie Newsome in *Our Town* (Manor Mill Players). When not on stage, Paul works as a curriculum coordinator for Villa Maria School, a non-public special education program. Many thanks to Jackie for the opportunity to join this cast, to his fellow castmates who have quickly become friends and to Jeanine for her love and support.

Semaj Kelly (Tybalt Jeremiah Capulet) Semaj is making his Laurel Mill Playhouse debut playing the peacemaker Tybalt. Some of his recent credits include "*Richard II*" in the Frederick Shakespeare festival and "*Medea*" in the Capital Fringe Festival, which won "Best Drama" for the event. In the summer he will be starring in Baltimore Shakespeare Factory's "*Much Ado About Nothing*" as Don Pedro. On top of acting, he is also a scientist and a wannabe chef.

Seth Rose (Prince Escalus) is profoundly excited to get back to the words of Shakespeare after nearly a decade away from them. He would like to thank his castmates for being so weird and challenging in the best ways, his friends and family for tolerating his rehearsal-related absences, and Helen for getting him involved in the first place. Recent roles include Dr. Gibbs in *Our Town* with St. Mark's Players and O'Hare/Union Rep/Curt in *Junk* at Silver Spring Stage.

Shiesha McNeil (The Nurse Adelaide Ophelia Bellamy) is a versatile actress, poet, painter, and performer. A proud native of Washington, D.C., she returned to her roots after earning a master's degree in psychology. When she's not on stage, Shiesha is dedicated to education and therapy, working in various educational settings and providing counseling. Her passion for poetry and spoken word is evident from her time competing with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's slam team. Recently, she portrayed Lou Bessie in *The Old Settler* at the Bowie Community Theater. With a lifelong love for acting and performance, Shiesha continues to share her artistic talents with audiences.

Valerie Caniglia (Production Assistant) is a NYC/ NJ-based Director. Some recent and favorite credits include: *Cardboard Trees and a Painted Moon* (world premiere at Old Library Theatre), *Christmas Landing* (Outta Bounds Productions), *Romeo and Juliet* (Chaos Theatre Collective), *Sondheim Tribute Revue* (Stageworks Theatre Group). Valerie has worked and held a variety of positions in theater companies around the country ranging from regional to Off-Broadway over the past fifteen years. Education: Wagner College. Much love to family and friends.

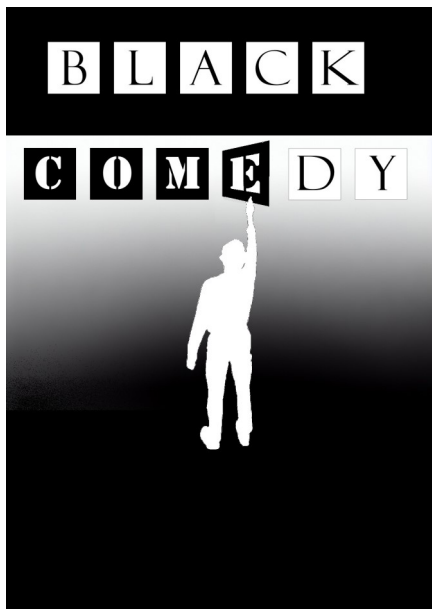
RENT

Directed by Michael Hartsfield

Produced by Maureen Rogers

Musical Direction by Mimi McGinnis

April 25—May 18



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June 6—June 22

Directed by Lori Bruun

Produced by Maureen Rogers

Artwork by Stephen Bruun

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Singing Opportunity for Women

Chesapeake Harmony Chorus loves to sing and invites you to visit a rehearsal. We are a women's singing group based in the greater **Annapolis MD**, area. We sing four-part acapella harmony in the barbershop style and are a chapter of **Sweet Adelines International**. We rehearse at Historic Baldwin Hall in Millersville, Md, every Wednesday night at 7:pm. For more information about visiting a rehearsal or joining the chorus, please contact us at Membership1@ChesapeakeHarmony.org.



LAUREL MILL PLAYHOUSE

508 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707

Reservations - Visit us at: www.laurelmillplayhouse.org

OUR HISTORY

Burtonsville Players Inc., doing business as Laurel Mill Playhouse, is a non-profit, tax exempt (501c3) status, community theater group. Originally organized thirty five years ago as the Burtonsville Players Inc., Laurel Mill Playhouse recently bought and completely renovated a 100 year old building in the middle of historic Laurel, Maryland. This makes Laurel Mill Playhouse one of the few community theater organizations to own their own facility.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide the community with the opportunity to expand the cultural base of the quad-county area. We do this through theater arts, combining music, art, dance, youth, and senior activities.

Our group has the determination to provide space and resources to foster a creative environment.

Our encouragement of individuals to be challenged by new works and skills will lead to discovery and expansion of creative potential in the community.

Our goal is to provide training and initiate outreach opportunities within the

Board of Directors Corporate Officers

Marvin Rogers – President

Larry Simmons – Vice-President

Diana Simmons – Secretary

Michael Hartsfield – Director

Lorraine Brooks – Director

Lori Bruun – Director

Marge McGugan – Costumes

**Maureen Rogers – Artistic Director
and Public Liaison**

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www.laurelmillplayhouse.org



**A proud member of WATCH AND AACT
and Laurel Board of Trade**