

ALLEY THEATRE

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Alley Theatre Presents Beloved Classic *Romeo and Juliet*

Discover what it means to love and risk everything for it

HOUSTON, TX - Tony Award-winning Alley Theatre and Artistic Director **Rob Melrose** announce the cast and creative team of **William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet***. Directed by **Melrose**, this production will show how each generation reinvents what it means to love and risk everything for it. This classic features Alley Theatre's entire Resident Acting Company and marks the debut of MFA student actors from the **University of Houston/Alley Theatre Professional Actor Training Program**.

Melrose shared, "I can't tell you how delighted I am to have Shakespeare back on the Hubbard Stage! Our last production of a Shakespeare play was in 2019. Whether you are a Shakespeare aficionado or someone who has heard about *Romeo and Juliet* but has never seen a play by Shakespeare and everyone in between, I hope you enjoy our production. In creating our show, I have kept all audiences in mind because I truly believe that Shakespeare is for everyone. Whatever your level of Shakespeare fandom, I hope our production delights you and that you join us for many more Shakespeare productions in the future."

Melrose continues, "I'm also excited that this is our first production with our new joint MFA in Acting program with third-year acting students in the cast and serving as understudies. I couldn't be more excited about this new program and partnership with UH."

The cast includes Alley's Resident Acting Company members **Elizabeth Bunch** as Lady Capulet, **Michelle Elaine** as Nurse, **Dylan Godwin** as Benvolio, **Chris Hutchison** as Tybalt, **Melissa Molano** as Juliet, **David Rainey** as Lord Capulet, and **Christopher Salazar** as Friar Lawrence.

Rounding out the cast are **Matthew Amendt** as Mercutio/Prince of Verona/Chorus, **Orlando Arriaga** as Lord Montague, **Mason Dowd** as Abraham/Romeo Understudy, **Brandon Hearnberger** as Paris/Ensemble, **Rob B. Kellogg** as Romeo, **Callee Miles** as Ensemble/Juliet Understudy, **Claire Metusalem** as Ensemble, **Allison Pistorius** as Lady Montague, **Allysia Peine** as Ensemble, **Spencer Plachy** as Gregory/Friar John/Ensemble, **Forrest Stringfellow** as Sampson/Mercutio Understudy, **Alexandra Szeto-Joe** as Peter, and **Gabriel Regojo** as Balthasar/Ensemble. Additional Understudies include **Bryan Jahnke**, **Woody Minshew**, and **Micah Weese**.

The creative team includes Scenic Designer **Michael Locher**, Costume Designer **Alejo Vietti**, Lighting Designer **Yuki Nakase Link**, Sound Designer **Fredrick Kennedy**, Fight Director & Intimacy Specialist **Adam Noble**, Voice and Text Director **Andrew Wade**, Stage Manager **Jocelyn Thompson**, and Assistant Stage Managers **Brandon Clark** and **Meagan Rachelle Smallwood**.

University of Houston/Alley Theatre Professional Actor Training Program expands the existing MFA in Acting program at the University of Houston by placing acting students in residence at Alley Theatre, working directly with the Alley's Resident Acting Company, in the third year of their graduate degree program. This partnership provides students exclusive opportunities to collaborate with accomplished

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professional actors and directors of both national and international acclaim. Through this collaboration, students forge meaningful networking relationships and garner exposure that paves the way for future employment in the dynamic world of theatre.

SPONSORS: *Romeo and Juliet* is generously sponsored by Margaret Alkek Williams, Valerie Jaluka, David Peavy and Stephen McCauley, and Judy and Mark Cook (Associate Producers). Alley Theatre is supported by Season 80 Sponsors United Airlines, the official airline of Alley Theatre, and The District, the official hotel of Alley Theatre.

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES: Captioned Performance on Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 PM, Audio Described Performance on Sunday, October 4 at 7:00 PM, ASL Interpreted Performance is Wednesday, October 7 at 7:30 PM and Simultaneous Spanish Translation Performances are Saturday, October 3 at 2:00 PM, and Thursday, October 8 at 7:30 PM.

TICKETS: Performances begin **Friday, September 25 to Sunday, October 11** in the Hubbard Theatre. Tickets are now on sale, starting at \$36. Discounted tickets are available for military, seniors, educators, and any student, regardless of age, with a valid ID for designated performances in designated sections. Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700).

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ABOUT ALLEY THEATRE:

Alley Theatre, one of America's leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Artistic Director Rob Melrose and Managing Director Jennifer Bielstein. The Alley is committed to developing and producing theatre that is as diverse as the Houston community. The Alley produces 11 plays and nearly 350 performances each season, ranging from the best current work and classic plays to new plays by contemporary writers. Home to a full-time resident company of actors and expert artisans in all theatre crafts, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline – actors, directors, designers, composers, playwrights – who work on individual productions throughout each season as visiting artists. Additionally, the Alley delivers a robust array of education and community programs reaching people Pre-K through adulthood.

Alley Theatre performs at the Meredith J. Long Theatre Center, which is comprised of two state-of-the-art theatres: the 774-seat Hubbard Theatre and the 296-seat Neuhaus Theatre. The Alley reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance, education, and community engagement programs.

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