

William Shakespeare's

# ROMEO AND JULIET



Romeo and Juliet script adapted by Walter Bilderback,  
Gracie Martin, Anthony Martinez-Briggs, and Blanka Zizka  
directed by Blanka Zizka

1.15.19 - 2.3.19

## THIS PLAY HAS BEEN ADAPTED!

ad·ap·ta·tion the act or process of changing to better suit a situation

## THINGS YOU MIGHT NOTICE

01

### LANGUAGE YOU CAN RELATE TO.

We approached the text as a new play and began by editing out metaphors and imagery we thought didn't speak to us any longer. For example, the actor playing Mercutio has created his own language for some scenes, including the famous "Queen Mab" speech.

02

### A CHORUS OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS.

"...my thoughts kept returning to the Parkland high school students. After the horrible shooting at their school, they first went through a period of deep mourning. But they found a way out of their depression and became eloquent and hard-working activists. In our production, a Chorus of Youth will be played by ten students from The University of the Arts' Ira Brind School of Theater. These young people of Verona reject the spiritless, transactional system engrained among the rich in the city." – Blanka Zizka



In rehearsal for Romeo and Juliet:  
Anthony Martinez-Briggs (Mercutio) and  
Kevin Meehan (Benvolio)



March for Our Lives activists at a rally in March 2018. On February 14th, 2018, there was a shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL that killed 17 students.

# 03

## NO BALCONY, BUT LOTS OF WALLS AND GOLD.

The wealthy people of the 15th and 16th centuries hid their private riches behind very high walls and walls serve as huge obstacles facing Romeo and Juliet. The young, rebellious spirit of the play is encapsulated in the moment when Romeo chooses to climb the Capulet's garden wall and trespass. Additionally, these walls and the entire Wilma stage will be painted in gold adding another layer of meaning to the obstacles the young people in the play fight to overcome. Romeo pays the Apothecary for poison and says,

*There is your gold, worse poison  
to men's souls,*

*Doing more murders in this  
loathsome world,*

*Than these poor compounds that  
you may not sell.*



In rehearsal for Romeo and Juliet:  
Taysha Marie Canales (Juliet) and  
Matteo Scammell (Romeo)

# 04

## A LIVE BAND ON STAGE.

UArts graduate and Philly songwriter Gracie Martin will lead a live band on stage. Martin says that HipHop, Rap, Punk, Reggae, and Trap Music has influenced what she composed for this production. As part of the creative team adapting the script, she wrote original music and lyrics in conversation with discoveries made in rehearsal.



Pictured: Gracie Martin  
Photo by Michelle Goodman

Look for [Gracie Martin and the So Beautifuls](#) on Spotify.