



59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket RI 02860 | (401) 484-0355 | www.burbagetheatre.org
Jeff Church, *Artistic Director* | Allison Crews, *Executive Director*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Burbage Theatre Co begins their 12th Season with
William Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* directed by Jeff Church**

PAWTUCKET, RI August 10, 2023 —

After their critically and popularly acclaimed 11th season, **Burbage Theatre Co opens their 12th season with a sweeping production of William Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*, directed by Jeff Church**, sponsored in part by the Pawtucket Arts Panel and the Pawtucket Arts Festival.

Romeo & Juliet will be presented from **August 31 through September 24 at Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre**, in addition to **two FREE outdoor performances to be presented at the Veterans' Memorial Amphitheater** in downtown Pawtucket **as part of the Pawtucket Arts Festival**.

"We are immeasurably excited to be producing one of Shakespeare's finest. This play contains multitudes – violence in the streets, passionate forbidden romance, multiple sword fights, and both joyous humor and deep sadness, as well as unmistakably apt, particularly poignant, elegant poetry. The drama of *Romeo & Juliet* is indelibly universal – it touches all of us, in some way.

"Young love's potent naivety — its power to strive singularly for fulfillment against whatever odds — is familiar to all of us. *Romeo & Juliet* suggests that perhaps young love is a force from which we can learn to smooth animosities and come to a better understanding of ourselves. Though the Montagues and Capulets learn this lesson too late to avoid tragedy, Shakespeare suggests that, perhaps, we can learn from their mistakes.

"This is no small task for Burbage Theatre Co, but like young indomitable young love, we rise to the challenge. We have a large and particularly outstanding cast of actors along with a dream-team of designers to bring this timeless play into full, vibrant, intimately massive life. And while most performances will take place at the Wendy Overly on Blackstone Avenue, we are thrilled to present this play outdoors as part of the Pawtucket Arts Festival, as well. Don't miss it!"

— **Jeff Church**, *Artistic Director, Burbage Theatre Co*

**Burbage Theatre Co's production of William Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* begins previews on
August 31 and closes on September 24 after 14 performances.**

*Performances on **Saturday September 2nd at 6:30pm and Friday September 8 at 7:00pm**
are **FREE and open to the public** as part of the Pawtucket Arts Festival,
and **will be held outdoors at Pawtucket's Veterans' Memorial Amphitheater** (175 Roosevelt Ave, Pawtucket, RI 02860).
Seating is general admission. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own chairs, cushions, etc.*

*The remaining 12 performances will take place at
Burbage Theatre Co's Wendy Overly Studio Theatre
(59 Blackstone Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860).*

***Critics and members of the Press** are invited to join us on our
Pay-What-You-Will Performance (Saturday, June 3 at 7:30pm) or on our Sunday Preview performance (Sunday, June 4 at 2:00pm).
You can reply to this email or contact Artistic Director Jeff Church at jeff.church.jr@gmail.com for more information.*

William Shakespeare's

ROMEO & JULIET

directed by Jeff Church

(August 31 - September 24)

Two households, both alike in dignity, In fair Verona where we lay our scene...

While a bitter and violent feud between the Montague and Capulet families rages in the streets of Verona, a son of Montague and a daughter of Capulet meet and find themselves irresistibly entangled in a secret love that seeks to overcome all odds. As these “star-crossed lovers” rise to the challenges posed by their families' ancient animosity and the stifling weight of societal expectations, they are led to a series of irrevocable choices that have profound and tragic consequences for themselves, their families, and all of Verona.

“There’s a right way and a wrong way to do Shakespeare — and certainly a right and a wrong way to introduce modern touches without ruining the beauty of the language and action — and then there is the Burbage way, which could actually ruin audiences for any other company... such reverent irreverence.”

—*Providence Journal*

“This is what we go to the theatre for... Burbage Theatre Co is making Shakespeare come alive.”

—*East Bay RI*

“Theater at its finest can either enlighten or entertain us, but in some rare cases [a company] can do both....”

—*Motif Magazine*

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

ROMEO & JULIET

by William Shakespeare

directed by Jeff Church

ENSEMBLE

Maggie Papa	Juliet
Ben Pereira	Romeo
David Sackal	Friar Lawrence
Amie Lytle	Nurse
Victor Machado	Mercutio
Omar Laguerre-Lewis	Benvolio
Eddy Tavares	Tybalt
Andy Stigler	Capulet
Francesca Hansen-DiBello	Lady Capulet
Jared Nobrega	Paris/Friar John
Sarah Taylor	Prince Escalus
Aaron Morris	Montague/Apothecary
Emma Freel	Peter

PRODUCTION CREW

Jeff Church	Director
Devra Levy	Stage Manager
Sarah Taylor	Assistant Directors
Isaiah Gamboa	
Manny Maldonado	Assistant Stage Manager
Andrew Iacovelli	TD
Brittany Costello	ATD/Props
Riley Nedder	Costume Design
Thomas Edwards	Lighting Design



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ROMEO & JULIET CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

Thursday August 31 at 7:30pm **Preview**

Friday September 1 at 7:30pm **PRESS Preview**

Saturday September 2 at 6:30pm ***Outdoor performance/FREE/Pawtucket Arts Festival**

Sunday September 3 at 2:00pm **PRESS Preview**

Thursday September 7 at 7:30pm **OPENING NIGHT**

Friday September 8 at 7:00pm ***Outdoor performance/FREE/Pawtucket Arts Festival**

Saturday September 9 at 7:30pm

Sunday September 10 at 2:00pm

Friday September 15 at 7:30pm

Saturday September 16 at 7:30pm

Sunday September 17 at 2:00pm

Friday September 22 at 7:30pm

Saturday September 23 at 7:30pm

Sunday September 24 at 7:30pm

TICKET POLICY —

"The best bang for your theatrical buck in the Ocean State." — Warwick Beacon

Preview Performances — \$15

General Admission — \$30

Students — \$15

High School Students — Any and all rush tickets are available to High School students for FREE

COVID-19 PREVENTION POLICY —

Burbage has implemented an *optional masking policy* for our patrons.

While masks are no longer required, you are encouraged to mask if you like.

Burbage will continue to make masks available to our patrons.

We do ask that you remain mindful of your own health and wellness before attending the theatre.

If you begin exhibiting new symptoms of Covid-19 that cannot be explained by regular seasonal allergies, we ask that you reconsider attending the theatre.

There is nothing more important to us than your health and safety.

If you must cancel or change your reservation with us, just contact the box office and we'll be happy to exchange your tickets to another performance.