



Wesfarmers Arts

SYNOPSIS & CASTLIST

WEST AUSTRALIAN
OPERA PRESENTS

Roméo et Juliette

15 - 24 October 2026
His Majesty's Theatre

*A co-production between West Australian Opera,
State Opera South Australia,
and Irish National Opera.*

Composer Charles Gounod
Librettists Jules Barbier, Michel Carré

Conductor Christopher van Tuinen
Director Rodula Gaitanou
Set & Costume Designer takis
Lighting Designer Bernie Tan-Hayes

Roméo Alasdair Kent
Juliette Samantha Clarke
Mercutio Benjamin Del Borrello
Friar Laurent Andrew Foote
Count Capulet Christopher Hillier
Tybalt Kohsei Gilkes
Stéphano Ruth Burke
Gertrude Fiona Campbell

West Australian Opera Chorus
West Australian Symphony Orchestra

ACT ONE

In Verona, Count Capulet hosts a grand ball to celebrate his daughter Juliette's coming of age and to introduce her to Count Paris, her intended suitor. Among the guests—uninvited and in disguise—are Roméo, a Montague, and his friends Mercutio and Benvolio. The Montagues and Capulets are sworn enemies, but Roméo is drawn to the celebration by a strange sense of fate. At the ball, Juliette confides in her nurse Gertrude that she's not ready for marriage and longs for freedom. When Roméo sees her, he is instantly captivated. They speak briefly, unaware of each other's identities, and fall in love. Tybalt, Juliette's fiery cousin, recognizes Roméo and is enraged, but Count Capulet insists on keeping the peace—for now.

ACT TWO

Later that night, Roméo sneaks into the Capulet garden and overhears Juliette expressing her love for him, despite the feud between their families. He reveals himself and they share a passionate exchange, vowing to marry in secret. Their moment is interrupted by Capulet servants, including the brash Grégorio, searching for intruders. Roméo's page, Stéphano, narrowly avoids capture. As dawn approaches, Roméo and Juliette part with a promise to wed.

ACT THREE

Roméo turns to Frère Laurent, a wise and compassionate friar, who agrees to marry the young lovers in secret, hoping their union might end the feud. Juliette arrives, and the two are wed.

Meanwhile, tensions erupt in the streets. Stéphano sings a mocking tune outside the Capulet home, provoking a fight with Grégorio and other Capulet servants. Mercutio joins the fray, and when Tybalt arrives, he challenges Mercutio to a duel. Roméo tries to keep the peace, but Mercutio is fatally wounded. In a fit of grief and rage, Roméo kills Tybalt. The Duke of Verona arrives and, seeing the bloodshed, banishes Roméo from the city.

ACT FOUR

Roméo and Juliette spend one final night together before he must flee. Though devastated, Juliette forgives him for Tybalt's death, knowing it was in self-defence. As Roméo departs, Count Capulet announces that Juliette will marry Pâris that very day, honouring Tybalt's dying wish. Juliette turns to Frère Laurent for help. He devises a daring plan: she will take a potion that mimics death. Once she is laid to rest in the Capulet tomb, Roméo will come to rescue her, and they can escape together. Juliette bravely drinks the potion.

ACT FIVE

Frère Laurent sends a message to Roméo explaining the plan, but it never arrives as Frère Jean, the messenger, is delayed. Roméo hears only that Juliette is dead. Heartbroken, he returns to Verona and enters the Capulet tomb. Believing Juliette truly gone, he takes poison. Moments later, Juliette awakens. They share a brief, joyful reunion before Roméo reveals what he has done. As he dies, Juliette finds no poison left and takes her own life with a dagger. In their final moments, they pray for forgiveness and peace—a tragic end to a love that dared to defy hatred.

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