Christopher Norton's Christopher Norton's Romeo & Juliet

for Abbey Primary School, Nottingham

SCRIPT

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SCRIPT

Stage directions are suggestions only.

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SCENE 1

A street in Verona, Italy. Backdrop of an archway in the town. The stage is empty, apart for the two NARRATORS, who stand one on each side of the stage.

NARRATOR 1	Two families in Verona fair fight endlessly with swords and knives, and as our tale will shortly show two star-crossed lovers lose their lives.
NARRATOR 2	The Montagues and Capulets can never find a path to peace till death and sorrow, pain and loss make parents see that war must cease.
NARRATOR 1	The lovers in this tale of strife are Romeo and Juliet. They love - although their families cannot forgive, cannot forget.

They exit the stage.



SONG 1 | MONTAGUES & CAPULETS

(PAGE 18)

The ensemble cast are split into houses of MONTAGUES and CAPULETS. MONTAGUES begin off-stage left, and CAPULETS off-stage right. Throughout the song one cast member from each family strides with purpose to a pre-determined point on the stage to meet their counterpart. They face up to one another and mime the process of antagonising their foe. By the end of the song the stage is full of MONTAGUE and CAPULET pairs confronting each other.

ALL

Montagues and Capulets brawling in the street with swords, clubs and catapults kick, stamp and beat each other senseless! [2nd time only:] (Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey!)

Benvolio and Tybalt insult and demean. Peace is a dirty word. They need to be seen to be invincible.

(Repeat)

Montagues and Capulets.

MONTAGUES exit stage-left, CAPULETS exit stage-right.

SCENE 2

The same street. PARIS and CAPULET enter from stage-right. They walk slowly and purposefully across the stage and are deep in conversation.

PARIS So now, my lord, what do you say?

CAPULET My Juliet is still a child. So you must wait for two more years before you take her for your bride.

COUNT PARIS and CAPULET exit stage left. BENVOLIO and ROMEO enter from stage-left.

- **BENVOLIO** A ball is planned. The Capulets will host, and you'll see Rosaline.
- **ROMEO** Then I must go, and she will hear that I will one day call her mine.

BENVOLIO and ROMEO exit stage-right.



(20)

2

(33)

The Capulet's chamber. CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, PARIS, JULIET and NURSE are on stage. LADY CAPULET and NURSE attend JULIET, who sits on a chair stage-right as NURSE brushes her hair. During the song, NURSE's counsel to JULIET is as if in secret.

 LADY CAPULET Do think about what Paris said; he truly is a noble man. He'll bring you honour - riches too! so do accept him if you can.
JULIET I do not wish to marry yet I'll take my time, as father said. I'll see him at the ball tonight,

but maybe I'll find love instead.

They exit stage-right.



SONG 2 | I WISH TO MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER

(PAGE 22)

PARIS and CAPULET enter from stage-left.

PARIS	I wish to marry your daughter, the beautiful Juliet. I know your family, I know your girl; her future with me is set.
CAPULET	You wish to marry my daughter? Well, sir, you will have your way! But can I ask you to wait two years? She's only fourteen this day. But come to our ball, do come to our ball.

() forward to next track

LADY CAPULET	He wants to marry our daughter, the beautiful Juliet. We know his family, we know the man; her future with him seems set.
NURSE (to Juliet)	But don't let Paris persuade you that you have to be his wife. True love is needed to make this work; you're not only someone's wife.
LADY CAPULET	But go to the ball, do go to the ball.
CAPULET & LADY CAPULET	Come to our ball, do go to our ball.

They all exit stage-right.



SCENE 4

 $^{\text{sic}}$ **(5) (23) (41)**

fade if required forward to next track

Romeo's chamber. ROMEO sits disconsolately, stage-left. BENVOLIO is standing beside him.

ROMEO

My soul is leaden; dancing shoes do not become me at this time. I love the niece of Capulet; I die for lack of Rosaline.



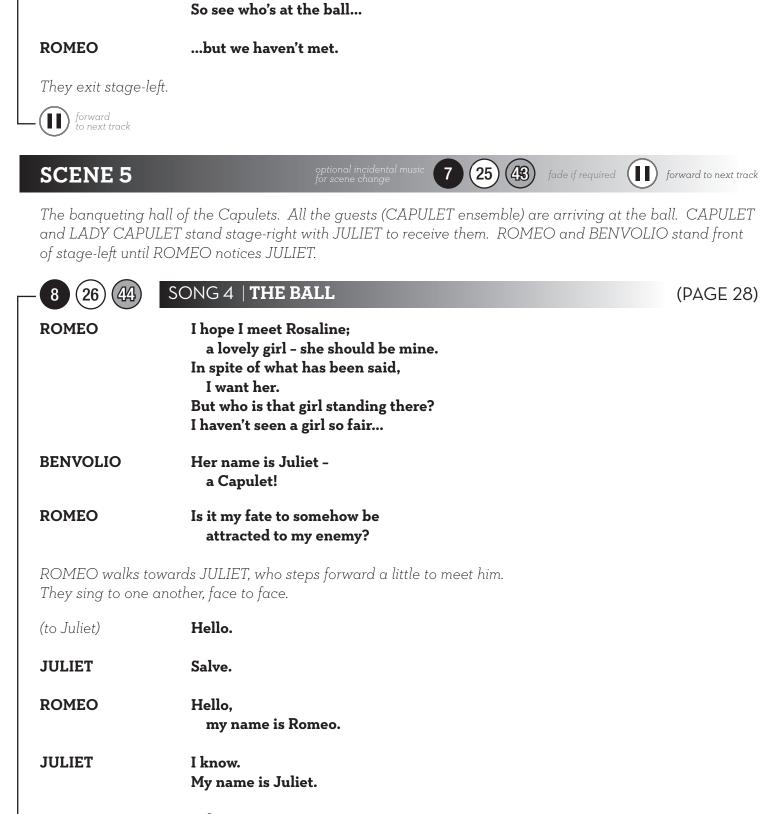
SONG 3 | COUSIN, WHY SO SAD?

BENVOLIO	Cousin, why so sad? All your life's before you There's something on your mind; I knew it when I saw you.
ROMEO	Rosaline's her name: a niece of Capulet. It really is a shame that we haven't met.
BENVOLIO	Cousin, you must know you can do much better. So see who's at the ball. Romeo, forget her.
ROMEO	Rosaline's her name: a niece of Capulet. It really is a shame that we haven't met.

(PAGE 25)

Cousin, you must know that none of this is set.

BENVOLIO



ROMEO Salve.

ROMEO & JULIET

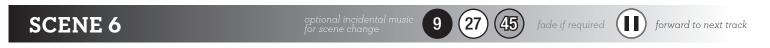
ROMEO exits stage-left, JULIET exits stage-right.

Hello.

forward to next track The stage is empty again. The two NARRATORS stand one on each side of the stage.

NARRATOR 1	Romeo has found true love in Juliet - his sun, his moon - and he determines that he will see her again, and very soon.
NARRATOR 2	And she, as much in love as him, then hopes that he will find a way to meet and to declare his love; she cannot wait another day.

They exit the stage.



The balcony scene. JULIET stands on a balcony, stage-right, which is slightly raised from the stage. ROMEO, stage-left, sings to JULIET and to the audience. JULIET is unaware of Romeo's presence at first and sings into midde-distance.

	SONG 5 THE BALCONY SCENE	(PAGE 32)
ROMEO	What light do I see from that window?	
JULIET	What light do I see from my window?	
ROMEO	Juliet's beauty I see!	
JULIET	Could it be Romeo?	
ROMEO	She doesn't know how much I love her,	
JULIET	He doesn't know how much I love him.	
ROMEO	of how I would like things to be.	
JULIET	O Romeo! wherefore art thou, Romeo?	
ROMEO	I cannot believe what I'm hearing,	
JULIET	I cannot believe what I'm hearing,	
ROMEO	she has swept me right off my feet.	
JULIET	he has swept me right off my feet.	
ROMEO	And now she is saying my name like a rose: by other names would smell as sweet.	
JULIET	O Romeo! wherefore art thou, Romeo?	

ROMEO kneels, facing upwards to JULIET.

ROMEO Goodnight, precious lady, I promise my love is so deep and so strong. We will find a way to be married. Farewell, Juliet - not for long.

JULIET O Romeo! wherefore art thou, Romeo?



JULIET exits stage-right. NURSE enters and stands centre-stage.

 ROMEO (to Nurse) Ask Juliet this afternoon to meet me at the Friar's cell. We can be married if you help. I'm in your debt; I'll pay you well.
NURSE There is no need for payment sire; true love is all that matters here. This afternoon - the Friar's cell; she will be told, she shall be there.

ROMEO exits stage-left. JULIET enters stage-right.

NURSE (to Juliet)Have you some time this afternoon?JULIETI have, Nurse;
I can make it so.NURSEYou must go to the Friar's cell
and there you'll meet with Romeo.

They exit stage-right.





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(47)

The cell of FRIAR LAWRENCE. NURSE stands front of stage-left. ROMEO enters from stage-left.



SONG 6 | THE WEDDING

(PAGE 36)

ROMEO sings the first three lines of the song to NURSE before leaving and walking upstage to meet FRIAR LAWRENCE, who is standing stage-right.

ROMEO	Tell Juliet that she must go
(to Nurse)	to the cell of Friar Lawrence
	where we'll be married.

JULIET enters from stage-right and sings the next three lines of the song to NURSE before leaving and walking upstage to meet FRIAR LAWRENCE and ROMEO.

JULIET	Tell Romeo I'm on my way
(to Nurse)	to the cell of Friar Lawrence
	where we'll be married.

NURSE exits stage-left. ROMEO and JULIET face one another. FRIAR LAWRENCE stands behind them facing the audience.

FRIAR	Do you take this man to be your husband?
JULIET	I do.
FRIAR	Do you take this woman to be your wife?
ROMEO	I do.
ROMEO & JULIET	I do.

They exit stage-right, hand in hand.



SCENE 8

13 (31)

(49)

forward to next track

A street in Verona. BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO enter from stage-left. BENVOLIO is agitated. An argument and fighting ensues.

BENVOLIO	The day is hot! No Capulets disturb the peace, but if we meet I fear that there'll be no escape from fighting them out on the street.
MERCUTIO	You are hot-blooded. Cousin, stop! before this starts to escalate. The prince has said that banishment or even death would be our fate!
TYBALT appears.	

TYBALT A word with you is all I ask...

MERCUTIO	Your word a war conceives! Why are you taking us to task, and do you challenge me?	
ROMEO enters.		
TYBALT	A villain, you are, Romeo!	
ROMEO	A villain? I am none! Therefore, good day! I pick no fight; from this no war shall come.	
MERCUTIO (to Tybalt)	I challenge you; if Romeo won't fight, then you must answer me.	
TYBALT (to Mercutio)	And I will draw, for Romeo has slighted all my family.	
ROMEO	Mercutio, put down your sword; let's live to fight another day. Benvolio, you must not duel; the Prince has spoken - we obey!	
- 14 32 50 5	SONG 7 THE DUELS	(PAGE 38)
TYBALT	I challenge you, so draw your sword if you can. You've slighted me so stand and fight like a man. I saw you talking to Juliet.	
ROMEO	I will not fight you, I won't say why. But things have changed so please let me by.	
MERCUTIO	I challenge you,	

and you know I fight to kill.

won't fight you, I surely will.

You don't speak like that to Montagues!

If Romeo

TYBALT and MERCUTIO fight. MERCUTIO falls.

ROMEO and TYBALT fight. TYBALT falls.

Try not to rise

to what Tybalt says. Leave while you can, there are other ways.

Tybalt, now that you have

and then this must end.

killed my friend I will fight you

forward to next track

ROMEO

ROMEO

BENVOLIO Mercutio is dead, alas. ROMEO On this black day I didst defend the honour of the Capulets - for Tybalt too has met his end! BENVOLIO Oh Romeo, begone for now that Tybalt's slain, you must away. The Prince will send you to your death,

so go! You know you cannot stay.

The PRINCE appears and sees the bodies of MERCUTIO and TYBALT strewn on the ground.

PRINCE	Who did this deed? Vengeance is mine! Two noble kinsmen dead today!
LADY CAPULET	Tybalt - my cousin's lying dead!
PRINCE	And who began this bloody fray?
BENVOLIO	Tybalt and then Mercutio began to fight, then Romeo tried everything to stop them but his death was from a secret blow.
	Then Romeo killed Tybalt for the slaying of Mercutio. Yes, Tybalt had to die as well: the duel was won by Romeo.
PRINCE	We banish him. If he returns his life will meet a certain end. Begone! and let all fighting cease so we can live again in peace.

The corpses are lifted off stage by the ensemble.



SONG 8 | YOU ARE BANISHED

(PAGE 42)

PRINCE	You are banished
	for the murder
	of Tybalt, *of Tybalt.
	If we see you
	execution
	awaits you, *awaits you.
ROMEO	I must see Juliet;
	one night is all we'll get.
	I must go.

* The second instances of 'of *Tylbalt*' and 'awaits you' may be sung by the ensemble.

During the extended musical interlude, PRINCE, ROMEO, LADY CAPULET and BENVOLIO leave the stage.

CAPULET, LADY CAPULET and JULIET enter. JULIET is distraught.

CAPULET

She's unhappy, I can see it. We must speak to Paris. She will marry who we've chosen. It will make her happy.

CAPULET and LADY CAPULET exit.

JULIET I cannot marry now. We must delay somehow; I won't go.

JULIET is joined by FRIAR LAWRENCE.

Friar, help. We must do something.

FRIAR This drug here will send you to sleep dear, so deeply your family will mourn, and Romeo will join you when you wake.



JULIET exits.

FRIAR I'll send a message so that he will be with her when she comes to. She'll take the drug the night before her wedding to the Count is due.

FRIAR exits.



The Capulet family crypt. A table or bed is prepared and JULIET enters and lies down, as if dead. The NARRATORS take their places either side of the stage.

NARRATOR 1	She goes into a heavy sleep; her family assumes she's gone. They lay her in the family crypt and Juliet lies there all alone
NARRATOR 2	Romeo never hears the truth; a servant tells him of her fate. He buys some poison, goes to her and hopes that it is not too late.



ROMEO

SONG 9 | JULIET IS DEAD

ROMEO enters the crypt with a jar of poison and a dagger.

Why is Juliet lying there so still? It's not the plan we made. It makes my heart stand still. She does not move. What horror lies in her hand?

Juliet is dead, lying in her tomb. I can no longer live. I must go to my doom. I'll die with her: this poison will see to that.

And now I die.



Believing JULIET to be dead, ROMEO takes the poison and dies. The NARRATORS return to their places either side of the stage.

NARRATOR 1Now Juliet wakes up and finds
her love lies lifeless there and so
she takes his dagger; cannot bear
to live without her Romeo.

JULIET stabs herself with ROMEO's dagger. The entire cast take to the stage around the bodies of ROMEO and JULIET.

NARRATOR 2	The families go to see the sight of children lying lifeless there. How true love died because of strife that happened in Verona fair.
NARRATORS 1 & 2	And never was a story told so full of sorrow, pain and woe than these two lovers, cruelly lost - of Juliet and Romeo.



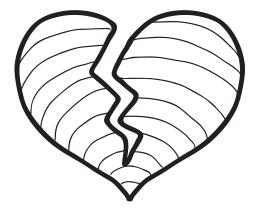


SONG 10 | THE DEATHS

JULIET sings as if from death:

O Romeo, O Romeo, wherefore are thou Romeo?
Montagues and Capulets, a scourge upon your hate. Letting this go on so long sent them to their fate; the star-crossed lovers.
Montagues and Capulets, agree to fight no more. Time to love the enemy; time to stop the war. Their love demands it now. Montagues and Capulets, now see where it's led: swords, clubs and catapults, two young people dead - and for no reason.
Never was a story told, a story of such woe than this one of Juliet and her Romeo. The star-crossed lovers.

THE END



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