

Romeo And Juliet - a love story for the 90s

for Brunswickan Entertainment

Theatre UNB's Stage Left Productions is proud to present The Will Act For Food Theatre Collective's production of *Romeo and Julian*, a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Romeo and Julian continues the tradition of alternative theatre started by The Will Act For Food Theatre Collective's first production *90% Proximity*, which enjoyed a successful run at the Atlantic Theatre Festival in 1994, and Stage Left's 1993 production of *Orpheus*. This joint venture marks the first collaboration between these two like-minded and successful theatre companies.

Romeo and Julian is an adaptation of Shakespeare's play; however, the basic story and language of the play are unaltered. The only difference in this production is the non-traditional gender casting of several parts. The most obvious change in this regard is that Juliet becomes Julian. We feel that this adaptation opens the play up to a new and broader understanding. Much like Ian McKellen's recent adaptation of *Richard III*, we hope to expand our audience's appreciation of Shakespeare. We see our production as a modest continuation of the experiment Shakespeare began when he boldly adapted Arthur Brooke's well-known and conventional *Romeo and Juliet* for the Elizabethan stage.

Romeo and Juliet has been adapted by Dr. Randall Martin, who teaches Shakespeare and English Renaissance Literature at UNB. Dr. Martin studied at the Shakespeare Institute, Stratford upon-Avon, and the University of Oxford, where he participated in several college productions of Shakespeare's plays, including *Romeo and Juliet*. Dr. Martin will also be performing the role of Lord Montague for this production.

Directing this production is Greg Doran. Since arriving in Fredericton in 1991, Mr. Doran has worked with almost every theatre group in Fredericton, including the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Theatre Fredericton, Theatre UNB, and he co-founded the Will Act For Food Theatre Collective. His theatrical involvement has included directing, acting, stage management and technical work. His recent directing credits include the Gilbert and Sullivan Society's successful productions of *HMS Pinafore* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He also directed Will Act For Food's inaugural production *90% Proximity*, which enjoyed a successful run at The Atlantic Fringe Festival in 1994.

Linda McNutt, a Fredericton based writer and director, will be stage managing the production. Ms. McNutt's

playwriting credits include shows for the Fredericton Women's Theatre Collective, ATV television, and Downstage Theatre, where she was the resident director for the 1993-94 season. Recent assistant directing credits include *Motor Trade* and *Safe Haven* at TNB, where she was also an apprentice stage manager for the 1992-93 season. Stage Left and Will Act For Food are pleased to have Dan Silk as their designer for this production. Mr. Silk has

in the recent productions of *A Chorus of Disapproval*, *Black Comedy* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Darren also participated in FROSH (Fredericton Outdoor Summer Theatre) with the Calithumpians. Also, Darren performed the role of Scott in Will Act For Food's first production *90% Proximity*.

Playing the role of Julian is Alan Wong. While Alan is fairly new to the Fredericton theatre scene, he was involved in Stage Left's monologue series with *Dance! He Said*, a piece he wrote himself. Alan is a regular contributor to CHSR FM as a DJ, interviewer and reviewer. Alan is in the process of completing his MA in Creative Writing at UNB.

The role of Mercutio will be performed by Rachel Jones, who appeared in Theatre Fredericton's acclaimed production of *Cowboy Names* this past summer. She has also been very involved in campus theatre appearing in Theatre UNB's *An Actor's Nightmare*, and Stage Left's *Speed The Plow* and monologue series. Rachel has also participated in dramatic readings at Gallery Connexion and CHSR's annual Women's Day Commemoration.

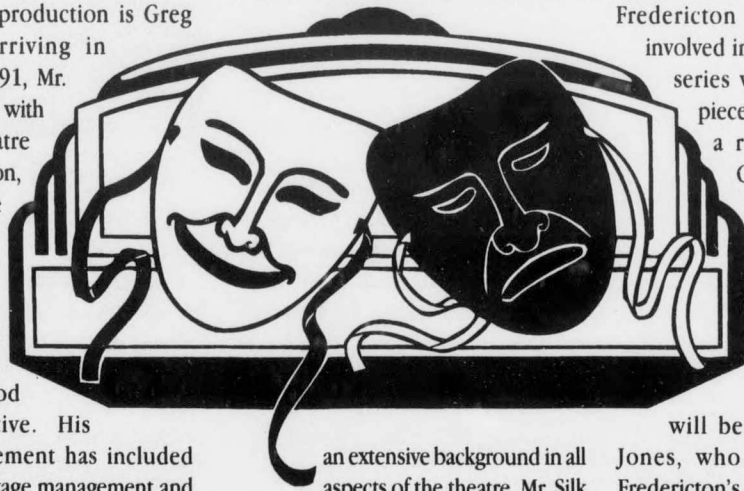
Playing the Nanny is Katherine Atkinson, who has many backstage and

acting credits. Her most recent acting credits include Vera in the female version of *The Odd Couple* and Mother in *Night Mother*, for which she received critical acclaim.

Kenny Fitzpatrick, who plays Tybalt, gave a powerful performance as Herschel in Theatre UNB's production of *Fire* as well as a strong performance in Theatre Fredericton's acclaimed production of *Cowboy Names*. Also, Kenny was the director of the Theatre UNB's recent production of *Wolfboy*.

Playing Lord Capulet and Lady Capulet are Rodger Wilkie and Alysha Godin, respectively. While Rod has numerous backstage and acting credits with Stage Left, Alysha is new to the company. However, both actors have extensive theatre backgrounds. Rod directed Stage Left's 1993 production of *Orpheus* and stage managed the Gilbert and Sullivan Society's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Alysha has many high school acting credits in Moncton, as well as participating with a TNB group under the direction of TNB's past Assistant Artistic Director Stewart Arnott.

Romeo and Julian runs from March 13th to March 16th at Dugald Blue Auditorium in Marshall D'Avary Hall on Fredericton's UNB campus. Curtain is at 8 pm and all tickets are \$5 at the door. For further information about the production, please contact Heather or Greg Doran at 459-8778.

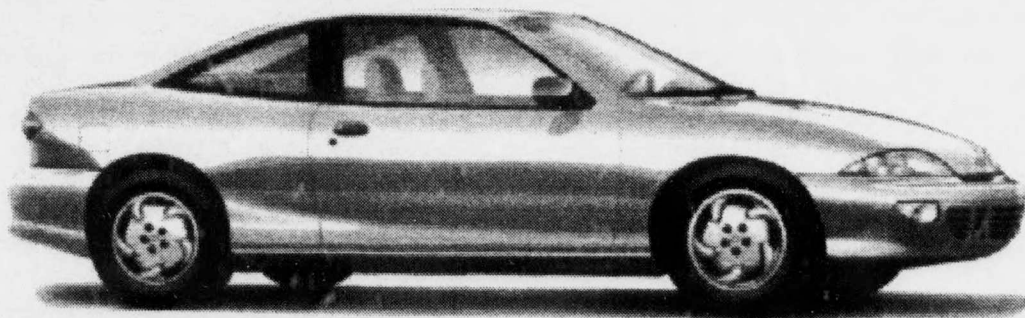


an extensive background in all aspects of the theatre. Mr. Silk is currently the Artistic Director for Theatre Fredericton and overseeing the Theatrical Fine Art Minor offered at UNB. For this current production Stage Left and Will Act For Food are pleased to have assembled a talented cast, many of whom will be familiar to the Fredericton theatre going public.

Darren Elliot, who plays Romeo, has been very involved in the UNB Theatre program including lead roles

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