

ROMY & JULIAN

Inspired by William Shakespeare's
Romeo and Juliet

by Clive Duncan

📷 schooltoursgroup_orange

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Characters in the Play:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Actor 1 | - Julian |
| Actor 2 | - Romy
Juliet |
| Actor 3 | - Mrs Moore
Sara
Mercutio
Chorus |
| Actor 4 | - Ben
Mr Caple
Al
Tybalt |

**Worksheet available online
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Scene 1

To the back of the acting area is a large backdrop which shows a collage of brick walls covered in graffiti and Shakespeare quotes. There are also four simple chairs and a sound system.

Music.

Julian enters. He is dressed in his school uniform - black trousers, white shirt, school tie, black blazer. He has his phone in his hand and is checking for messages.

JULIAN: I went to see a play. "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare. It was a school trip, so I had no choice. Don't get me wrong, Shakespeare's ok, but this was a *school* play, yeah? Put on by a bunch of school kids. Not the best way to spend a Friday night. Not ... cool. I didn't want to go, but my mate, Ben, he said it'd be a laugh because the school putting on the play is The Greyfriars School for Girls – an upmarket¹ school, in an upmarket part of town, not like the crappy comprehensive² I go to. But the point was – girls, see? No boys, just lots of... well, girls! Ben thought it'd be fun to see the girls prancing about³ the stage in tights. Yeah? Only, they'd got hold of some lads from another school to play the men's parts, so we had to watch a load of boys prancing about in tights.

The Chorus from "Romeo and Juliet" enters and stands behind Julian.

JULIAN: Luckily, we got a seat on the back row, so the teachers couldn't see I was on my phone most of the time...

He notices he's standing in front of The Chorus and steps out of the way.

Elizabethan music.

JULIAN: *(to audience)* Oh, sorry.

CHORUS: Two households, both alike in dignity⁴,
In fair Verona where we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge⁵ break to new mutiny⁶,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.

Julian steps in front of The Chorus who continues although we no longer hear the play.

¹ gehoben, teuer...

² miese Gesamtschule (öffentlich)

³ herumstolzieren

⁴ Ehrenhaftigkeit, Würde, Ansehen

⁵ Groll

⁶ hier: Kämpfe

JULIAN: I couldn't understand a word of it. I like his rhymes and rhythms but it would have helped if Shakespeare had written it in English. Ok - from what I could make out of it - there were these two families who didn't like each other... What's new? Ever been to a wedding?

A second actor enters and a sword fight begins behind Julian...

JULIAN: There was always beef¹ whenever they met. Then one of the families decides to have a party. Of course, members from the other family gatecrash², just for fun. Everyone is wearing masks, don't ask me why, so nobody knows who anyone is.

Juliet enters in a mask. A male actor puts on a mask and dances with her.

JULIAN: Can you imagine it? You're at a masked party, you move in on a girl, then at the end of the night, she takes off the mask – and it turns out to be your.... aunt! Aaaagh! So, we have Romeo, from one family, meeting Juliet from the other. What happens? Spoiler alert! They fall in love. Just like in the movies!

Juliet removes her mask.

JULIAN: I did sit up at this point in the play. The girl playing Juliet... she took off her mask and even from where I was sitting, I could see that she was... fit³!

Juliet and the other actors exit.

JULIAN: After the party they all go home and Romeo just happens to pass Juliet's bedroom window – as if!

Juliet enters and stands on one of the chairs.

JULIET: Aye me⁴!

JULIAN: She speaks!

JULIET: O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo⁵?

JULIAN: They chat for a bit, then decide to get married. Secretly. Fast workers! But, as someone once said, the course of true love never did run smooth⁶ – it would have been a happy ending...

Enter Mercutio and Tybalt with swords. They start fighting.

JULIAN: ... if Juliet's cousin hadn't started a fight with Romeo's best mate ...

MERCUTIO: I am hurt. A plague o' both your houses! I am sped.⁷

JULIAN: Romeo couldn't stand by and do nothing...

Julian takes Mercutio's sword.

JULIAN: Mercutio's soul

Is but a little way above our heads

¹ Streit, Spannungen

² ohne Einladung teilnehmen

³ attraktiv

⁴ Ausdruck von Kummer (Sprachform zu Shakespeares Zeit)

⁵ Why are you... (Sprachform zu Shakespeares Zeit)

⁶ ... wahre Liebe geht niemals glatt ...

⁷ Ich bin verletzt. Ein Fluch (eigentl.: Pest) über beide Familien. Mit mir ist es vorbei.

Staying for thine¹ to keep it company:
Either thou, or I, or both, must go with him.

They fight. Tybalt falls.

JULIAN: Romeo kills his wife's cousin. Not the best start to a marriage. Romeo has to get out of town fast and Juliet's parents try to marry her off to some prince, not knowing she's already married.

Juliet enters.

JULIAN: Juliet takes a couple of pills and pretends to be dead. She's put in a tomb²...

Juliet lies across two chairs.

JULIAN: But Romeo hears about it, comes galloping back, sees her dead and takes a couple of pills himself... (*clutching at his stomach*) ...

Thy³ drugs are quick. Thus, with a kiss I die.

Julian seizes his opportunity and kisses Juliet. He collapses next to her and "dies".

JULIAN: Juliet then wakes up and sees her dead husband...

Juliet takes the sword from Julian's hand.

JULIET: O happy dagger⁴!

Juliet stabs herself and falls into the waiting arms of Julian.

JULIAN: End of play.

The Chorus enters and stands over the dead couple.

CHORUS: O, never was a story of more woe⁵
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

Juliet and The Chorus leave.

JULIAN: Woe? Apart from the sword fighting and the fit girl who played Juliet, it was two and a half hours of woe! What a waste! I could have been at home gaming, working on some beats, hanging with the crew⁶ on the estate – anything but sit through that!

Scene 2

Ben enters. He is dressed identically to Julian.

JULIAN: Then my mate Ben suggested we go to the party. What party?

BEN: The end of play party. It's the last night tonight. They're having a party backstage.

JULIAN: We're not invited.

¹ alte Form von 'dein(e)' (Akk.)

² Grabmal, Gruft

³ alte Form von 'dein(e), diese' (Nom.)

⁴ Dolch

⁵ Tragik, Unglück, Schmerz

⁶ Gruppe von Freunden mit denen man „abhängt“

BEN: I've got a friend who's got a sister who goes to this school. She said it'd be all right. She said no one would notice.

JULIAN: No one would notice two boys at an all-girls school?

BEN: We won't be the only boys – there'll be Romeo and that lot. They'll be a whole crowd – no one'll notice there's two more.

JULIAN: Cool!

BEN: But it'll be mainly girls – and not much competition.

JULIAN: There's Romeo and his mates.

BEN: Exactly – no competition!

JULIAN: It'll be like shooting fish in a barrel¹.

BEN: Taking candy from a baby.

JULIAN: Hang on, the uniform is a bit of a give-away.²

They remove their ties and blazers. Ben pulls two cans of cider from the pockets of his. He throws a can to Julian.

JULIAN: Where did you get this?

BEN: The corner shop, where do you think? We want the party to go with a swing.

JULIAN: How do we get in?

BEN: Follow me.

Julian and Ben go.

Party music.

Scene 3

Romy and Sara enter. They are dressed in their "Romeo and Juliet" costumes.

SARA: Now it's all over you can tell me... what was it like snogging³ Romeo?

ROMY: Stop it...

SARA: Was he any good?

ROMY: It was only acting. It wasn't real.

SARA: That's not what he's saying on the socials....

ROMY: Which is why I've blocked him.

SARA: Do you think he'll keep his costume on for the party?

ROMY: I'm sure you'll be able to persuade⁴ him to take it off!

SARA: Romy!

Sara shrieks with laughter as Julian enters. He is holding a can of cider and looks lost.

ROMY: Who's he? He didn't have anything to do with the play.

SARA: I don't know. Oh! He might be one of my guests. I told my sister to mention

¹ Fass; hier: shooting fish in a barrel = ein Kinderspiel

² ... aber in der Schuluniform fallen wir auf ... (give-away = verraten)

³ ... mit Romeo schmusen (umgangsspr.)

⁴ überreden

the party to a few boys.

ROMY: What? You are going to get into such trouble...

SARA: No one will know. You can't have a party without boys.

ROMY: What's wrong with the ones who were in the play?

SARA: I want one who isn't acting.

ROMY: He looks... nice.

SARA: He looks a bit basic!

JULIAN: Ben was right – not many boys. They stood around the edge of the stage watching the girls dancing. The girls had managed a glow-up between the play and the party. The way they danced and laughed it was clear they'd sneaked in some cheeky vodka with their Dr Peppers! The music was loud, but not my scene, so I moved backstage to check out the vibe there. Two girls – they were onto me at once. One was giving me the eye. Big time! Well...I don't need telling twice...

Julian flashes a big smile at Sara.

ROMY: He's looking at you, could be your night!

SARA: He should be so lucky! He's far too young for me!

Sara flashes a big smile at Julian.

JULIAN: She looked a bit needy, but I won't worry about that.

ROMY: He's coming over! What do you think his chat-up line will be?

SARA: If it's not witty and charming, he's out that door!

Julian approaches them but stops before he gets to them.

JULIAN: Then the other girl looked at me and smiled.

The party music stops.

And the world...stopped...dead! The room dissolved¹, blood roared in my ears, my heart pounded, skin tingled, breath all gone. I'd never seen a girl this beautiful before – her eyes, rich jewels, burning into me; her smile lit up her face, the room... and my entire life!

The music continues. Julian is transfixed by Romy.

SARA: Has nobody told you it's unpolite to stare!

ROMY: Sara!

JULIAN: Sorry?

SARA: What's wrong? Is this the first time you've met a member of the opposite sex? Do you not get out much?

JULIAN: What? Yes! ...er.... no! I... I ...er...I... *(To the audience)* What's going on? I've got brain-rot²! Never happened before. Where's the clever chat when you need it? *(To Romy)* ... Hi...er...yes... I'm Julian....

SARA *(mimicking as if he's stupid)*: Hi..er...er.. I...I...I... I'm Julian!

ROMY: My name's Romy.

JULIAN: Romy. Oh!... you played Juliet! You were gor... (geous)... good.

¹ löste sich auf

² Hirnfäule

SARA: Romy, I think you have a fan. I'm called Sara, by the way, the one you've just been smiling ridiculously at!

JULIAN: Hi, I'm Julian. Were you in the play?

SARA: No, I always dress like this. I played The Chorus.

Romy motions Sara to leave, but she stands her ground.

ROMY: I'm glad you enjoyed the play.

JULIAN: Oh, I did. That's why I came backstage. To tell you – you really ate that part¹!

SARA: Excuse me whilst I throw up...

JULIAN: You nailed it. And remembering all those words!

SARA: I think my social battery is getting low.

Romy waves her away and Sara moves off a little. Julian is painfully stuck for something to say.

JULIAN: I'd better bounce². I'm not really supposed to be here.

ROMY: Don't go!... yet. I'm sure no one will mind. Did you really like the play?

JULIAN: Not gonna lie, I couldn't understand what most people were saying, but when you were speaking – I did! Every word!

SARA: *(sarcastically)* Thanks.

ROMY: Are you studying "Romeo and Juliet" at your school?

SARA: He's certainly studying Juliet!

Mr Caple, Romy's father, enters. He nods to Sara, then slowly realises there's a boy talking to his daughter...

ROMY: Don't mind Sara. She has a strange sense of humour.

SARA: Ha-ha!

Julian sees Mr Caple and hides his can of cider behind his back.

JULIAN: That's random. What's he doing here?

ROMY: Who?

JULIAN: Mr Caple. He's the headteacher of my school.

ROMY: Ah!

JULIAN: I didn't know he was coming to see the play. Miserable old sod...

ROMY: He came to see me. He's my father.

JULIAN: Ah!

MR CAPLE: Romy, introduce me to this member of your adoring public. I didn't think fans were allowed backstage.

SARA: Oh, he's just selfie-hunting with the stars of the show, Mr Caple.

MR CAPLE: Really? What did you make of the play, lad?

JULIAN: Very good, sir. Romy was the best thing in it. As Juliet, I mean...

MR CAPLE: Correct answer! They teach diplomacy at your school, do they?

JULIAN: Er....

¹ Du hast die Rolle großartig gespielt.

² Ich gehe lieber

SARA: (*sweetly*) You tell us, Mr Caple.

MR CAPLE: (*catching on*) Of course... I didn't recognise you for a moment – you're not in your proper school uniform. It's...er...

JULIAN: Julian Moore, sir.

MR CAPLE: Yes, I know. Year...um...

JULIAN: Eleven, sir.

MR CAPLE: The school trip, of course. I wasn't aware that The Greyfriars School had invited the audience to the cast's after-show party...

JULIAN: No, Mr Caple. But my mate... I mean my friend, Ben, you see, he's got a friend who knows a girl whose sister...

ROMY: Is Sara! Who thought...

SARA: (*cutting her off*) Thanks!

MR CAPLE: And that qualifies as an invitation, does it?

ROMY: (*pleadingly*) Dad...

MR CAPLE: Well, I suppose if you behave yourself, I can square it with¹ Greyfriars' Head and you can stay for half an hour or so. But no trouble. And we'll speak further on Monday, Mr Moore.

JULIAN: Yes, sir. Thank you.

ROMY: Thanks, Dad.

Mr Caple is about to go when he realises Julian is hiding something.

MR CAPLE: What's that?

JULIAN: Er...

MR CAPLE: Behind your back. Let's have it, lad...

Julian shows the can of cider. Mr Caple takes it from him.

MR CAPLE: That's it. I'm sorry Romy, but you know the school rules: no alcohol.

(*To Julian*) You – out!

ROMY: He didn't know. He's only just got here.

MR CAPLE: Everyone's underage². The school has a duty of care³. Out, I said.

Julian starts to move, followed by Mr Caple and Sara.

JULIAN: I'm sorry, sir, I didn't mean...

MR CAPLE: Out!

Julian, Mr Caple and Sara leave. The music ends abruptly.

ROMY: Julian Moore. There's something about him I like. He's different, not like the boys who were in the play. I wonder what he's into. Where does he live? Does he want to see me again? I'd like to see him again. Didn't get the chance to swap numbers... This party's ruined, thanks to dad. I think I'll go home, I'd rather be in bed doomscrolling. Oh, perhaps I'll find him on Instagram! Julian Moore...

She goes.

¹ es absprechen, Bewilligung einholen

² minderjährig

³ Aufsichtspflicht