



Kory Howard

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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Romeo and Juliet Extravaganza! was first performed on February 27-29, 2019 at Manti High School, Manti, Utah: Dr. Andrew Bahlmann, director.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Maicee Hill

CAPULET NARRATOR: Breanna Cruz

ROMEO: Brad Young

JULIET: Kaylie Crisp

TYBALT: Hope Marsing

BENVOLIO: Josh Douglas

MERCUTIO: Danielle Hatch

PETER: Aaron Hughes

PRINCE: Miriam Bishop

PARIS: Jacob Norris

ROSALINE: Abby Watson

NURSE: Allie Swapp

FRIAR: Naomi Boorman

LORD MONTAGUE: Andrew Olsen

LADY MONTAGUE: Cari Carmody

LORD CAPULET: Sam Young

LADY CAPULET: Miranda Slusser

TV REPORTER: Emma Allred

POLICE OFFICERS: Macie Howick, Cami Cox

MONTAGUES/CAPULETS: Ashlie Tippetts, Janice Baker,
Avery Allred

Romeo and Juliet Extravaganza!

INTERACTIVE FARCE. Audience members get in on the fun in this interactive version of *Romeo and Juliet* as they are randomly cast as Capulets or Montagues and are prompted by two feuding narrators to cheer for their respective families. The cast first performs an abridged micro version of the original story of the two star-crossed lovers. Then the mischievous narrators create their own “Romeo and Juliet Extravaganza!” by altering major plot points in the story with “what if” questions. What if the Montagues and Capulets liked each other? What if Romeo never met Juliet? What if the Friar’s plan actually worked? What ensues is an evening of hilarious twists and turns, silly skirmishes, and outlandish outcomes. And in the end, the audience gets to vote for either a happy or tragic ending. A fast-paced, riotous romp!

Performance Time: Approximately 75 minutes.

Characters

(10 M, 5 F, 8 flexible, opt. extras)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: flexible.

CAPULET NARRATOR: flexible.

ROMEO (Montague): Falls in love with Juliet and secretly marries her; male.

JULIET (Capulet): Only daughter of Lord and Lady Capulet; falls in love with Romeo and secretly marries him; female.

TYBALT (Capulet): Juliet's hot-tempered first cousin and Romeo's rival; male.

BENVOLIO (Montague): Romeo's cousin and friend who tries to prevent violence between the Capulet and Montague families; male.

MERCUTIO: Romeo's close friend who is related to Prince Escalus and Count Paris, so he is neither a Capulet nor a Montague; male.

PETER: Plays the role of Balthasar and fills in as the Nurse; male.

PRINCE ESCALUS: Ruling prince of Verona; male.

COUNT PARIS: Wealthy kinsman of Prince Escalus who wishes to marry Juliet; male.

ROSALINE (Capulet): Lord Capulet's niece and Romeo's unrequited love; female.

NURSE: Juliet's personal attendant and confidante; female.

FRIAR LAURENCE: Franciscan friar who serves as Romeo's confidante and advisor; male.

LORD MONTAGUE: Romeo's father and patriarch of the house of Montague; male.

LADY MONTAGUE: Romeo's mother and matriarch of the house of Montague; female.

LORD CAPULET: Juliet's father and the patriarch of the house of Capulet; male.

LADY CAPULET: Juliet's mother and the matriarch of the house of Capulet; female.

CAPULET 1: Capulet who fights with the Montagues; flexible.

MONTAGUE 1: Montague who fights with the Capulets; flexible.

TV REPORTER: TV Reporter with Verona Live PD reporting on the manhunt for Romeo and Juliet; flexible

POLICE OFFICER 1, 2: Police officers involved in a manhunt for Romeo and Juliet; wear uniforms; flexible.

SECRET AGENT: Searching for Romeo and Juliet; flexible.

EXTRAS (opt.): As Guitarist/Musician and additional Montagues and Capulets.

Note: Male roles may be played by females dressed as males and vice versa, which only adds to the humor.

Set

A stage.

Setting

A bare stage. Only simple props and set pieces are required and include a cart, a bench, a small table, and a tomb door that can be rolled on. A rostra may be used for levels and different scenes, if desired. Projections may be used in various scenes, if desired.

Production Note

The audience is randomly given a red or blue playbill. Those who receive a red playbill are Capulets and those who receive blue playbills are Montagues. Audience participation is encouraged but controlled by the narrators.

Props

2 Signs that read, "Boo!"	Whistle
2 Signs that read, "Yeah!"	Rose
2 Signs that read, "Fight! Fight! Fight!"	Sword (plastic)
Tumbleweed	Small table
Sign that reads, "Poor Romeo!"	2 Cups
Sign that reads, "Aw, cute!"	Script
Bucket of popcorn	Superhero costume with mask, for Romeo
Cart	Headset
Several vials of "potions"	Wig, for Juliet
Bench	Tomb door that can be rolled on
Flowers	Table
Donut	Flowers
Sign that reads, "Ooooh!"	Wanted poster
Sign that reads, "Stop!"	Pen or pencil
Juice box	Slip of paper
Notebook	
Dagger (plastic)	

Sound Effects

Western gunslinger music
Dance music
Mysterious melody (or a musician can play live)
Happy music
Wedding march
Sound of a helicopter
Approaching footsteps

“Maybe none of this
would have happened
if someone
hadn’t faked her death!”

—Romeo

Romeo and Juliet Extravaganza!

(Spotlight on CS. Dramatically, Capulet Narrator steps into the light.)

CAPULET NARRATOR: "Two households, both alike in dignity, in fair Verona, where we lay our scene, from ancient grudge break to new mutiny—"

(Montague Narrator runs on into the spotlight.)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! What is going on here?

CAPULET NARRATOR: I'm starting our show.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Without me?

CAPULET NARRATOR: Well, you weren't backstage.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: I had to...well...uh...you can't rush nature! But, anyway, where were you?

CAPULET NARRATOR: Just reading the prologue.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Ugh! So drab and boring.

CAPULET NARRATOR: But it's Shakespeare!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Yeah, I know. But we've all seen Shakespeare before.

CAPULET NARRATOR: What are you implying...that we cut him from the theatre?

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Well...

CAPULET NARRATOR: Blasphemy! Spoken like a true Montague!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Okay, not cut him from the theatre but at least mix it up a bit, ya know?

CAPULET NARRATOR: What do you have in mind?

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: First, we'll need the audience's help throughout the show...as long as they can behave themselves.

CAPULET NARRATOR: And if they don't?

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: We stop the show and close the curtain. We already have their money!

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*Admonishingly.*) [Mike]! [*Or insert the name of the actor playing Montague Narrator.*]

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Kidding. (*To audience.*) But please be an energetic, responsive audience and be respectful as well.

CAPULET NARRATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, the Montague Narrator and I will be your cheer coaches, if you will. When we prompt you with verbal cues, physical gestures, or signs, we would like you to respond accordingly, but then we'll signal like this... (*Gestures.*) ...for you to cease.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Time to practice. Let's say that a Capulet does something really stupid because it's highly likely they will. I will cue you to cheer with this sign... (*Holds up a sign that reads, "Boo!"*) ...and you "boo"! (*Audience "boos" and narrator cues them to stop.*) Excellent!

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) To have this show make sense, we need to perform a shortened version of the original story.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) And then we'll remix it.

CAPULET NARRATOR: I hope our actors are ready to cut a bunch of their lines.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: We may have to cut a few characters as well.

PETER: (*Offstage, calls.*) Like who?

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To Capulet Narrator.*) I think we may have to cut Peter.

(Peter runs on.)

PETER: You can't cut me! I finally got cast in a speaking role! I have, like, three lines!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: I'm sorry...director's choice.

PETER: Lame!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Don't worry. I'm sure you'll be useful later on.

(Peter exits, deflated.)

CAPULET NARRATOR: (To audience.) Let's get this micro version of "Romeo and Juliet" started. What do the Capulets say...?

(Capulet Narrator motions for Capulets in audience to cheer. Audience Capulets cheer.)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: And the Montagues...? (Motions for Montagues in audience to cheer. Audience Montagues cheer. Shouts.) Action!

(Western/gunslinger music plays. A tumbleweed tumbles across the stage, opt. A group of Capulets and Montagues enter. Both Narrators hold up signs that say "Boo" or "Yeah." Montague 1 bites his thumb at Capulet 1.)

CAPULET 1: (To Montague 1) Dost thou bitest thine thumbeth at me-eth?

CAPULET NARRATOR: Wait! Hold on, hold on! Is that even Shakespearean language?

CAPULET 1: But of course-eth!

CAPULET NARRATOR: All right, can we get someone out here who actually knows the correct lines?

TYBALT: (Angrily.) Fine! I'll do it!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: You can at least smile and pretend you're having fun.

TYBALT: Why would I do that? I'm Tybalt, and I hate all Montagues!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Fine. (*Shouts.*) Take two!
Action!

(*Capulet Narrator to audience, "Down with the Montagues!" Audience Capulets shout. Montague Narrator to audience, "Down with the Capulets!" Audience Montagues shout. Benvolio bites his thumb at Tybalt.*)

TYBALT: Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

BENVOLIO: I do bite my thumb, sir.

TYBALT: Down with the Montagues!

(*A fight ensues between the Montagues and Capulets. Capulet Narrator and Montague Narrator hold up signs to audience that read, "Fight! Fight! Fight!" Montagues and Capulets engage in stage combat. Prince enters.*)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Ooooh, look! It's the Prince! (To audience.) Let's clap for the Prince! (Claps with audience.)

PRINCE: "Rebellious subjects, enemies of peace,
Hear the sentence of your moved Prince.
Have thrice disturb'd the quiet of our streets,
If ever you disturb our streets again
Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.
Once more, on pain of death, all men depart."

(All exit except Capulet Narrator and Montague Narrator.)

CAPULET NARRATOR: (To Montague Narrator.) Wow! He is so cool! I bet these fine folks... (Indicating audience.) ...could get his autograph after the show.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: I know I will!

CAPULET NARRATOR: (To audience.) After the fight, Romeo's father asks Benvolio, Romeo's cousin, if he knows what's wrong with Romeo, for Romeo has been one moody, angsty teenager.

(Romeo wanders on, looking lonely and lost. Benvolio follows him on.)

ROMEO: (To audience.) It's true. I am very sad.

(Montague Narrator holds up a sign that reads, "Poor Romeo" and motions for the audience to respond.)

BENVOLIO: "What sadness lengthens Romeo's hours?"

ROMEO: I'm out of love. "Out of her favor, where I am in love."

(Montague Narrator holds up a sign that reads, "Poor Romeo.")

BENVOLIO: Ah, "coz, [I rather weep]. [or "I weep"]

At thy good heart's oppression.

[By giving liberty onto] thine eyes: [or "but give liberty unto"]

Examine other beauties."

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (To Capulet Narrator.) That's the best he can come up with...look at other chicks?

CAPULET NARRATOR: Well, duh! It was star-crossed from the beginning. All right, we will pause that scene right there for a moment. (To Romeo and Benvolio.) Thank you. That was a touching scene. (Romeo and Benvolio exit. To audience.) But now we turn the action over to the house of Capulet. (To audience, "Woo-hoo!")

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (To audience.) We begin this scene at the end of a conversation between Lord Capulet and the exquisite man, Paris.

(Lord Capulet and Paris enter.)

PARIS: (To Lord Capulet.) "My lord, what say you to my suit?"

LORD CAPULET: Um...I...I think it fits you nicely. It goes with your eyes, too. Cufflinks would really add to the look, though.

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*Clears throat.*) Eh-hem! (*Aside.*) He means his proposal to marry Juliet.

LORD CAPULET: (*Breaks character.*) Oh, right! I totally forgot my line, so I just went for it.

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To Actors.*) Try again. From the top, and... (*Shouts.*) ...action!

PARIS: (*To Lord Capulet.*) "My lord, what say you to my suit?"

LORD CAPULET: Ummmm...well...uh...

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*Stage whisper, cues him.*) "Woo her, gentle..."

LORD CAPULET: (*Breaks character.*) Right!

(*To Paris.*) "Woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart,
My will to her consent is but a part."

(*Lord Capulet and Paris exit.*)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: And... (*Shouts.*) ...scene!

CAPULET NARRATOR: He had one line and couldn't get it!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Ease up. He's never been in a show before.

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*Calls.*) Next scene, please!

(*Lady Capulet and Nurse enter.*)

LADY CAPULET: (*Calls.*) "Juliet!"

(*Juliet enters. Capulet Narrator holds up a sign that reads, "Aw, cute!"*)

JULIET: "What is your will?"

LADY CAPULET: "The valiant Paris seeks you for his love."

NURSE: "A man, young lady! Lady, such a man
As all the world—why, he's a man of wax."

(*Capulet Narrator holds up a sign that reads, "Aw, cute!" or something similar.*)

JULIET: Eeeeew!

LADY CAPULET: "What say you? Can you love the gentleman?"

JULIET: "I'll look to like, if looking liking move."

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: And... (*Shouts.*) ...scene!

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) And so...yada, yada. Capulets have a grand party...dancing, a little samba, and a buffet bar to die for!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) But, more importantly, Romeo and Benvolio come to the Capulet party. (*Montagues and Capulets enter. Music is heard. The party and dancing ensue. Capulet and Montague Narrators get the audience to cheer, dance, hoot and holler, etc.*) And... (*Shouts.*) ...pause music!

CAPULET NARRATOR: Wait! What are you doing? I was just gettin' jiggy wit it!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Just watch. (*To Cast.*) Everyone except Romeo and Juliet...slow motion!

(Note: For the following, the cast moves in slow motion except for Romeo and Juliet.)

ROMEO: "O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!"

TYBALT: (*In slow motion.*) "Montague!"

LORD CAPULET: (*In slow motion.*) "Leave him alone!"

(*In slow motion, Lord Capulet throws Tybalt out.*)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Romeo and Juliet see each other and kiss...twice!

(*Romeo gives Juliet a peck on the cheek twice.*)

CAPULET NARRATOR: So precious! Right, audience?! (*Holds up "Aw, cute" sign.*) Aw, cute!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Boo! Boo! They don't even know each other's name! (*Shouts.*) Everyone, off the stage!

(*Cast exits except for Romeo, Juliet, and Friar.*)

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) It's true love! Watch! Romeo and Juliet, stay! You too, Friar!

JULIET: (*To Romeo.*) "If that thy bent of love be honorable,
Thy purpose marriage, send me word to-morrow."

ROMEO: "So thrive my soul--"

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Ha! See? True love! I know some of you are sad that we have skipped the famous balcony scene—

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*Holds up "Boo" sign.*) Boo!

CAPULET NARRATOR: Hey! To be honest, it's really too long and cliché.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: True, but some of Shakespeare's most famous lines are in there. "O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" "What's in a name?" "Parting is such sweet sorrow."

CAPULET NARRATOR: Looks like you've covered them well enough. (*To audience.*) So...moving on. Romeo and Juliet get married.

FRIAR: (*To Romeo and Juliet.*) "These violent delights have violent ends."

ROMEO: (*Sarcastic.*) Encouraging words! Thanks, Friar!

FRIAR: (*To Romeo and Juliet.*) I now pronounce you man and wife. I would say, "kiss the bride," but you've already done that.

ROMEO: Twice!

JULIET: You kiss by the book!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Okay! Low blow, Julie! (*To audience.*) This ends acts one and two.

CAPULET NARRATOR: Audience, let's hear it for Romeo and Juliet's mature decision to get married within 24 seconds of meeting each other! (*Applauds with audience.*)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Now, act three! While Romeo and Juliet were getting hitched, this scene occurs.

(*Benvolio and Mercutio enter.*)

BENVOLIO: "I pray thee, good Mercutio, let's retire.
The day is hot, the Capulets are abroad."

MERCUTIO: "By my heel, I care not."

(*Tybalt enters, looking angry as usual. Montagues and Capulets gather around the stage.*)

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*Excited.*) Oh, oh! Here comes my favorite part! Where's my popcorn? (*Calls.*) Peter? (*Peter enters, carrying a bucket of popcorn and hands it to Capulet Narrator.*) Thanks, Peter.

PETER: Yeah, yeah...

(*Peter joins the ensemble of Montagues and Capulets, or he may play any role the director chooses.*)

TYBALT: "Mercutio, thou consortest with Romeo—"

BENVOLIO: (*To Mercutio.*) "Depart; here all eyes gaze on us."

MERCUTIO: "I will not budge for no man's pleasure, I."

(*Romeo enters.*)

TYBALT: "Romeo, the love I bear thee can afford
No better term than this: thou art a villain."

CAPULET NARRATOR: Oooh! (*Holds up a sign to the audience that reads, "Oooh!"*)

ROMEO: (*To Tybalt.*) "I do protest I never injured thee,

But love thee better than thou canst devise." (Turns to exit.)
TYBALT: Boy, turn and draw!

(Tybalt "attacks" Romeo, but Mercutio steps in the way and is "stabbed.")

MERCUTIO: "A plague a' both houses!" (Dies.)

ROMEO: "Mercutio slain!"

(To Tybalt.) "Either thou or I, or both, must go with him."

(Romeo and Tybalt "fight.")

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (To audience, encouraging audience to chant.) Montague! Montague!

CAPULET NARRATOR: (To audience, encouraging audience to chant.) Capulet! Capulet! (Romeo "kills" Tybalt. Everyone except Romeo exits. Throwing popcorn at Romeo.) Boo! Boo!

(Capulet Narrator encourages audience to shout, "Boo!" Prince enters.)

PRINCE: "And for that offense
Immediately we do exile him hence."

CAPULET NARRATOR: (To audience.) And so Romeo is banished from Verona, and Juliet is saddened by the news.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (To audience.) So Juliet's parents force her to marry Paris even sooner or else they will disown her.

CAPULET NARRATOR: (To audience.) Without any other option, she turns to the trusted Friar, who comes up with a "brilliant," "fail-safe" plan to get her back with Romeo.

(Friar enters, rolling out a cart with several vials of potions on it.)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Ha-ha! Not!

FRIAR: (Annoyed.) Hey!

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Let's watch!
MONTAGUE NARRATOR: And... (*Shouts.*) ...action!

(*Juliet enters.*)

JULIET: (*To Friar.*) "Come weep with me, past hope, past
cure, past help!"

FRIAR: "O, Juliet, I already know thy grief,
I do spy a kind of hope."

JULIET: "Oh?"

FRIAR: "Take thou this vial, being then in bed,
And this distilling liquor drink thou off,
When presently through all thy veins shall run
A cold and drowsy humor; for no pulse
Shall keep this native progress, but curcease;
No warmth, no breath shall testify thou livest;
And in this borrowed likeness of shrunk death
Thou shalt continue two and forty hours,
And then awake as from a pleasant sleep.
Now when the bridegroom in the morning comes
To rouse thee from thy bed, there are thou dead.
Thou shall be borne to that ancient vault
Where all the kindred of the Capulets lie.
In the mean time, against thou shalt awake,
Shall Romeo by my letters know our drift,
And hither shall he come, an' he and I
Will watch thy waking, and that very night
Shall Romeo bear thee hence to Mantua."

JULIET: (*Indicating potion.*) Give me, give me!

FRIAR: "Be strong and prosperous
In this resolve."

JULIET: "Love give me strength! and strength shall help
afford.

Farewell, dear father!"

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To Capulet Narrator.*) That is the
dumbest plan I've ever heard of.

CAPULET NARRATOR: True, but, nevertheless, she goes along with it. (*To audience.*) So the night before Juliet and Paris's wedding, Juliet takes the potion in order to make herself appear dead for 42 hours.

(*Juliet drinks the potion and "dies." Nurse, Lord Capulet, and Lady Capulet enter and see Juliet. Note: For the following, characters react melodramatically. The more over the top, the better.*)

NURSE: (*To Lord and Lady Capulet.*) "She's dead, deceas'd, she's dead, alack the day!"

LADY CAPULET: "Alack the day, she's dead, she's dead, she's dead!"

NURSE: "O lamentable day!"

LADY CAPULET: "O woeful time!"

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*Annoyed.*) Okay! We get it!

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) They bury Juliet in the family vault.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) In the meantime, Romeo sits in Mantua, waiting for a letter from the Friar, which is never delivered.

(*Romeo enters and sits.*)

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) However, Romeo's servant, Balthasar... (*Pause, waiting for Balthasar to enter.*) Romeo's servant... (*Shouts.*) ...Balthasar!

(*Pause, waiting for Balthasar to enter.*)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*Shouts.*) Peter!

(*Peter enters.*)

PETER: Yes.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Do you know where the kid who plays Balthasar is?

PETER: Jake? Oh, he left to go play [Fortnite]. [Or insert any relevant, popular videogame.]

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Ugh! Amateur actors! Peter, do you mind playing Balthasar?

PETER: I don't really know his lines.

CAPULET NARRATOR: All you have to do is tell Romeo that you saw his wife being buried in the Capulet's tomb.

PETER: Fine. (As Balthasar.) "Hey, Romeo! Your wife is dead! Sorry."

CAPULET NARRATOR: Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Could you at least do it in Shakespearean style? Is that too much to ask?

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Romeo, can you prompt him please? And take...two.

ROMEO: (To Peter as Balthasar.) "How fares my Juliet?"

PETER: (As Balthasar, melodramatically.)

"Her body sleeps in Capel's monument,
And her immortal part with angels lives.
I saw her laid low in her kindred's vault,
And presently took post to tell it you.
O, pardon me for bringing these ill news."

(To Narrators.) Better?

CAPULET NARRATOR: Ummmm...yes. That will suffice.
Thank you.

PETER: (Lying.) I totally just made that up!

CAPULET NARRATOR: Thank you.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (To Peter.) We'll call you if we need further assistance.

CAPULET NARRATOR: Oh, and Peter...I may need a refill on my popcorn.

(Peter exits.)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (To audience.) To make a long story short...

PETER: (*Offstage, shouts.*) Too late!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Romeo decides that life is not worth living if he cannot have Juliet by his side.

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) So he buys some poison from an apothecary and gets into his Mustang convertible—

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*Clears throat.*) Eh-hem! (*To audience, correcting.*) He jumps on his horse—

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience, correcting.*) Which may or may not have been a Mustang...convertible...and hurries back to Verona to the vault, where Juliet lies dead—

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) But alive. Oooooh, twist!

(*Juliet is brought out lying on a bench. Paris enters.*)

PARIS: (*To Juliet.*) "Sweet flower, with flowers thy bridal bed I strew--"

(*Paris throws flowers on Juliet.*)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) But, suddenly, Romeo shows up. (*Pauses, waiting for Romeo to enter. Louder.*) Suddenly, Romeo shows up! (*Pauses, waiting for Romeo to enter. Shouts.*) Romeo!

(*Romeo enters, eating a donut.*)

ROMEO: My bad. Verona has this great donut shop. The cream filled are to die for!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: So is Juliet! Now go!

PARIS: (*To Romeo.*) "Stop thy unhallow'd toil, vile Montague!"

ROMEO: "Good gentle youth, tempt not a desp'rate man."

PARIS: "I do defy thy [conjunction], [*or "appeal"*] And apprehend thee for a felon here."

ROMEO: "Wilt thou provoke me? Then have at thee, boy!"

(Romeo "stabs" Paris with his dagger.)

PARIS: Uh! Cough, cough! Blood, blood! And die!

CAPULET NARRATOR: (To Romeo.) Tsk! Tsk!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (To audience.) Romeo sees Juliet
and says his last goodbyes.

ROMEO: "Here's to my love!"

(Capulet Narrator holds up a sign that reads, "Don't do it!" Romeo
drinks the poison and "dies." Juliet wakes up.)

JULIET: "O churl!"

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (To audience.) The Montagues
and Capulets are heard approaching.

(Approaching footsteps are heard.)

CAPULET NARRATOR: (To audience.) So, instead of being
discovered, Juliet takes Romeo's dagger and—

JULIET: "There never was a story of more woe, than this of
Juliet and her Romeo. And—" (Goes to stab herself.)

CAPULET NARRATOR: And... (Shouts.) ...end scene!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (To audience.) Let's hear it for
"Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare!

(Audience applauds and cheers.)

CAPULET NARRATOR: (To audience.) Now, as fantastic as
that was, we thought it'd be fun to explore some "what if"
questions with the major plot points of the story.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (To audience.) For each "what if"
question, we will show you our version of what would have
happened. Our extravaganza starts with this "what if"
question...

(A mysterious melody is heard. Note: Or a musician may enter playing a mysterious melody. Romeo and Juliet exit. Capulets and Montagues enter.)

CAPULET NARRATOR: What if...duhn, duhn...the Montagues and Capulets did not hate each other?

MONTAGUES/CAPULETS: Gasp! (Freeze in various poses.)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (Clears throat.) Eh-hem! (To audience.) "Two households, both alike in dignity"...got along just fine!

CAPULET NARRATOR: Aaaand... (Shouts.) ...action!

(Montagues and Capulets unfreeze and move about.)

CAPULET 1: (To other Capulets, excited.) "Hey, look! It's the Montagues!"

MONTAGUE 1: (Excited.) "Capulets, we haven't seen you around here for a while!"

CAPULET 1: (To Capulets and Montagues.) "Let's sing a song to celebrate our friendship!"

(Everyone gathers in a circle and sings "Kum Ba Ya." Some dance around the stage. Music fades as Benvolio and Tybalt step forward.)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (To audience.) Verona was a lovely place, full of peace and good feelings.

CAPULET NARRATOR: (To audience.) Uh-oh! Here comes Benvolio and Tybalt. Last time, they got into a big fight. I wonder what will happen now...

BENVOLIO: "Tybalt! What's up, bro?"

TYBALT: "Not much. We've just been having a little celebration up at the Capulet mansion."

BENVOLIO: "Sounds like a blast. What's the special occasion?"

TYBALT: "You know my cousin, Juliet?"

(Juliet steps forward.)

JULIET: "What about me, Cousin Tybalt, who is not mean but very, very nice?"

TYBALT: "Oh, I was just telling Benvolio, here, about your special occasion."

JULIET: "Hey, Benvolio."

BENVOLIO: "Hey, Jules. What's going on?"

JULIET: "Oh, you know, the usual...going to school, obeying my awesome parents who love me very much...and getting engaged!"

BENVOLIO/JULIET: (*Girly screams.*) "Ahhh!"

BENVOLIO: "Get it, girl!"

JULIET: So great, right?"

BENVOLIO: (*Excited.*) "I've got to tell Romeo! (*Calls.*) Romeo?! Hey, Romeo!"

(Romeo crosses downstage with Rosaline.)

ROMEO: "What is it, coz? Oh, hey, Tybalt. We still on for croquet this weekend?"

TYBALT: "Of course! It's been too long."

ROMEO: "I know. I've been busy. Hey, Jules."

JULIET: "Hi, Romeo."

BENVOLIO: "Romeo, you'll never guess what just happened to Juliet!"

ROMEO: "What?"

JULIET: "I got engaged!"

ROMEO/JULIET: (*Girly screams.*) "Ahhh!"

ROMEO: "Congrats!"

JULIET: "Thanks. You know, you're looking pretty happy these days as well."

ROMEO: "Well, we wanted to wait a little while more but...Rosaline and I also just got engaged!"

JULIET: (*To Rosaline and Romeo.*) "Hooray!"

TYBALT: (*To Rosaline and Romeo.*) "Congrats!"

BENVOLIO: (*To Rosaline and Romeo.*) "So neat!"
ROSALINE: "Thank you. Romeo is such a great guy. He loves me for what's on the inside, not just for my looks."
ROMEO: "Aw, Pookie, stop! You'll embarrass me. I just *love* love."
ROSALINE: "So, Juliet, who's the lucky guy?"
JULIET: "Paris!"
ROSALINE: "Oh, he's so great."
BENVOLIO: "Hey, everyone! Romeo and Juliet have recently gotten engaged!"
MONTAGUE 1: "To each other?"
BENVOLIO: "No! That would be ridiculous!"
TYBALT: (*To Montague 1.*) "Yeah, that would be like marrying your best friend."
BENVOLIO: "Plus, I have a feeling it wouldn't end well."
MONTAGUE 1: "Oh, right."
BENVOLIO: (*To others.*) "Let's celebrate!"

(*Happy music is heard. Everyone dances and sings along.*)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*Shouts.*) And...freeze!

(*Everyone abruptly freezes in position.*)

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) I don't know about you, but that version was pretty anti-climactic.
MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Snooze fest! Whatever happened to hatred?!
CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Villainy?!
MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Treachery?!
CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Dumb decisions?!
MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Death?!
CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) And forbidden love?!
MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Oooh! (*Holds up sign that reads, "Ooooh!"*)

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) So now we know that without a little rivalry "Romeo and Juliet" would be a pretty short and boring story.

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Then let's take a look at the next "what if" question.

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) First, let's assume that the beginning of "Romeo and Juliet" was exactly the same as Shakespeare wrote it. That is, the Montagues and Capulets hate each other.

(*Capulets and Montagues unfreeze and push and shove each other and adlib their hatred.*)

CAPULET 1: (*To Montague 1.*) "Hey, Montague, take this!"
(*Bites his thumb at a Montague 1.*)

MONTAGUE 1: "You churlish, half-faced, hugger-mugger!"

CAPULET 1: "Well, thou art a goatish, onion-eyed, giglet!"

MONTAGUE 1: "Don't you mean 'dizzy-eyed'?"

CAPULET 1: "I've heard it both ways!"

(*Capulets and Montagues push and shove some more.*)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To Capulets and Montagues.*) Okay! Quit it for a second! (*To audience.*) Sorry about that. Now, the "what if" question...

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) The Montagues and Capulets hate each other, and Rosaline dumps Romeo. But what if... (*Pause for dramatic effect.*) ...Romeo didn't go to the party?

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To cast.*) Places, people!
(*Everyone exits except Rosaline, Romeo, and Benvolio.*) Take two! And... (*Shouts.*) ...action!

ROSALINE: "Romeo, I never want to get married!"

ROMEO: "Not even to me?"

ROSALINE: "Especially not to you! Goodbye!" (*Exits.*)

BENVOLIO: (*To Romeo.*) "Hey, Cousin, you doing okay?"

ROMEO: "Not really. My true love just walked out of my life forever."

BENVOLIO: "That's a bummer."

ROMEO: "Why does love have to be so rude?"

BENVOLIO: "Well, maybe she wasn't your true love."

ROMEO: "Of course, she was!"

BENVOLIO: "How do you know?"

ROMEO: "'Cause, 'Rosaline' starts with an 'R,' and 'Romeo' starts with an 'R.' It was meant to be!"

BENVOLIO: "There're plenty of girls' names that start with 'R.'"

ROMEO: "Name one."

BENVOLIO: "Well, um...there's 'Rachel.'"

ROMEO: "Rachel"?

BENVOLIO: "Yeah, you know Rachel, the baker's daughter. I'm sure you've noticed her. She's got nice buns!"

ROMEO: "Hardy-har! No one will ever replace Rosaline."

BENVOLIO: "How about you go on a TV show like [*The Bachelor*] to find true love?" *[Or insert another suitable TV show.]*

ROMEO: "That's just stupid."

BENVOLIO: "But it would true love be, 'cause it's on TV!"

ROMEO: "I'm not doing that."

BENVOLIO: "Ugh! Fine! What do you want to do...crash the Capulet party tonight and find forbidden love?"

ROMEO: "I'm not really in the mood."

BENVOLIO: "And since you're on the rebound, you'd probably just fall in love with the first chick you see and kiss her twice...without even asking her name."

ROMEO: "So true! That's how I met Rosaline!"

BENVOLIO: "What do you want to do, then?"

ROMEO: "I think I'll just sit here and pout for a bit...maybe let love find me."

BENVOLIO: "Let love find you?! Ha! True love never comes that way."

(Dressed as the Nurse, Peter runs on.)

PETER: (As Nurse with a bad French accent.) "Capulet party!
Tonight at dusk! Las petite réception at the Capulet House!
(Bumps into Romeo.) Oh!"

ROMEO: "Ow! Watch where you're go—"

(Romeo looks up and sees the Nurse.)

PETER: (As Nurse.) "Excusez-moi? What a nice hand and leg
and body!" (Does some ridiculous flirtatious movements.)

ROMEO: "Ditto. And who are you?"

(Romeo pulls Peter as the Nurse close.)

PETER: (As Nurse.) "Je m'appelle...Juliet's nurse. And who
are you, big boy?"

ROMEO: "Your true love! For ne'er have I seen true beauty
till this night!"

(Peter as Nurse and Romeo lean in for a kiss.)

MONTAGUE/CAPULET NARRATOR: (Screams.) Ahhh!

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (Shouts.) Stop!

(Montague Narrator holds up a sign that reads, "Stop!" Romeo,
Benvolio, and Peter as Nurse freeze.)

CAPULET NARRATOR: (Rubbing eyes.) What did I just see?

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: You just witnessed what would
have been if Romeo did not go to the Capulet party that
fateful night.

CAPULET NARRATOR: When did the Nurse become
French?

PETER: (*Breaking character.*) Oh, that was a character choice. I just felt like she needed some sprucing up, ya know. Plus, what is more attractive than a French maid!

CAPULET NARRATOR: An actual girl playing a French maid!

PETER: Touché, but Stephanie got stuck looking on [Instagram], so I just went with it. [*Or insert another site.*]

CAPULET NARRATOR: Just go!

(*Romeo, Benvolio, and Peter exit.*)

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) Well, now that that happened, let's assume that Romeo goes to the Capulet party, meets Juliet, and they get married as in the original story.

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) But...what if Tybalt doesn't kill Mercutio; and, therefore, Romeo doesn't kill Tybalt?

MONTAGUE NARRATOR: Ergo, the Prince would not banish Romeo from Verona? Interesting...

CAPULET NARRATOR: (*To audience.*) We pick up the scene right after Romeo and Juliet get married.

[END OF FREEVIEW]