



Presentation/Activity Name: *Romeo and Juliet* School Tour

Starting Date: October 19, 2020

Ending Date: For Live performances, November 20, 2020. No end date for pre-recorded 72-hour viewing rental.

Time(s): Mutually agreed upon with each school

Location: Touring to schools through the greater Memphis area and will offer a virtual option of a pre-recorded performance

Fee or Ticket Cost: *Romeo and Juliet* books for live performances for a flat fee of \$650 for an audience of up to 100 students. Travel costs are additional out of a 25-mile radius of TSC. Additional performances can be added at a discounted rate. Pre-recorded viewings of *Romeo and Juliet* with a 72-hour rental are \$40. Also available for an additional fee of \$25 is a live Zoom post-viewing 15-minute Actor-Chat with members of the creative team.

Brief Description of Activity (include length of activity in minutes):

Five young people die in a story that begins as a comedy – how can the adults and children save the next generation? The production runs 90-minutes, including post-show talkback with some of the creative team.

How does the presentation increase the students' appreciation for and knowledge of the art form?

This unique production of *Romeo and Juliet* increases the students' appreciation of the art form through its innovative incorporation of our current pandemic. Students can experience the true nature of enduring Classical Masterpieces as the story and language embrace social distancing, isolation, and the unknown perils of both physical and societal plagues. Their knowledge will increase as they learn that the plays of William Shakespeare time-travel to bring audiences essential human truths and comfort.

Why should teachers give up valuable instruction time for the presentation?

The introduction to classical text can make or break a student's attitude toward the material, and we find that by introducing Shakespeare actively, through playing, that students are more engaged than when they only read the text from a book. We believe that the re-telling and in-depth exploration of classical stories by learners of every age can revive our sense of play, discovery, and community.

What are the educational goals of the presentation?

We pursue playing Shakespeare with young people because we have experienced how these works can change and even save lives. We seek to arm children with Shakespeare's canon in the Renaissance of



their lives. By doing so, children learn better, listen more intently, care for one another, act with compassion, enjoy one another's successes, support one another's failures, and articulate how they feel. Their grades get better, they stay in school longer, and they are far less likely to become violent and poverty-stricken. These are studied and published national findings that Tennessee schools can replicate in the classrooms.