

# Cast

## Ruling House of Escalus

Prince Escalus, Prince of Verona  
Mercutio, kinsman of Escalus, friend of Romeo  
Paris, kinsman of Escalus, who wishes to marry Juliet  
Page, servant to Paris  
Officers to Prince

## House of Montague

Montague, patriarch of the House of Montague  
Lady Montague, matriarch of the House of Montague  
Romeo, son of the Montagues  
Benvolio, cousin and friend of Romeo  
Balthasar, servant of the Montague household  
Abraham, servant of the Montague household

## House of Capulet

Capulet, patriarch of the House of Capulet  
Lady Capulet, matriarch of the House of Capulet  
Juliet, daughter of the Capulets  
Tybalt, cousin of Juliet, nephew of Lady Capulet  
Nurse, Juliet's personal attendant and confidante  
Peter, servant of the Capulet Household  
Mopsa, servant of the Capulet Household  
Sampson, servant of the Capulet Household  
Gregory, servant of the Capulet Household

Friar Lawrence, Franciscan friar, Romeo's confidante  
Chorus  
Friar John, Constable, Citizen  
Apothecary, Citizen  
Citizens, Dancers

Richard Stowe  
Gareth Murphy  
Sean Ahern  
Aoibhinn Finnegan  
Fintan Murphy,  
Michael Carty

Pat O' Grady  
Mary Ryan  
Robert Hudson  
Sean Murphy  
Kevin O' Flynn  
Darren McBride or  
Richard Doyle

Brendan Dunne  
Joanne Keane  
Eilis O' Brien  
Mark Phelan  
Hilary Madigan  
Tony McGettigan  
Fiona Walsh  
Jamie McLoughlin  
Francis Cahill

Michael Sharp  
Muriel Caslin O'Hagan  
Sean T Daly  
Deirdre Mullen  
Orla Cooney,  
Claire O' Donovan,  
Teresa Dempsey

# Chairperson's Note



**Romeo and Juliet** is the final production of our current drama year, September 2009 to June 2010. The highlights of this season included representing our country at the World Amateur Theatre Festival at Monaco, 'Many Young Men of Twenty' at the Mill Theatre, A Festival of Short Plays for nine companies at Dundrum, 'Christmas at Airfield', 'Old Saybrook' at the Mermaid in Bray and our festival production of 'The Plough & The Stars'.

We thank you, our audience for your warm support over the year; it is really appreciated - especially in these difficult times. We hope you enjoy our play and look forward to performing for you again in our next season. As Shakespeare said -

"True is it that we have seen better days,  
And therefore sit you down in gentleness,  
And take upon command what help we have  
That to your wanting may be minst'red,"

**Joanne Keane**  
Chairperson

# Creative Team

Director  
Production Manager  
Costume Design  
Stage Manager  
ASM  
Scenic Artist  
Lighting Design  
Lighting Operation  
Sound Operation  
Properties

Set Construction  
Make Up  
Programme Design  
Programme Content  
Photography  
PR  
Crew & Front of House

Karen Carleton  
Aoife Braiden  
Dympna Murray  
Dave Walsh  
Doris Cullen, Lisa Walsh  
John Canning  
Paul Macken  
Peter Carey  
Andrew Gibbons  
Jean Monahan,  
Eithne Branigan  
Brian Dempsey, Pat Hand  
Teresa Dempsey  
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Fiona Buckley  
Declan Brennan  
Judy McKeever  
Members of the company

Balally Players wish to thank Emma Colohan, Paul Burke, Geoffrey O' Keeffe, Cathal Quinn and Claire Reilly for their inspiration and support to the director and cast of Romeo & Juliet.



## Director's Note

Arguably Shakespeare's most famous play begins with a Prologue which establishes that this play will be a tragedy and that the children of two feuding families, Romeo of the Montague family and Juliet of the Capulet family, will both love and die in the course of the action. The play is set in Verona, Italy, where an old feud between the families of the Montagues and the Capulets breaks out into a civil war.

The hatred between these two extended families is intense and uncompromising. Young Romeo Montague goes out with his friends to make trouble at a party the Capulets are hosting, but while there he spies the Capulet's daughter Juliet, and falls hopelessly in love with her. She returns his affections, but they both know that their families will never allow them to meet.

The lovers find ways to get together and marry secretly, but Romeo is forced to kill one of her cousins and is banished. The story ends in double tragedy as the two loving youths commit suicide in the belief their feuding families will never accept their love.

As always, Shakespeare was conscious of his public and being the consummate playwright, interlaced comedy and heartbreak, music and dance in this classic tale of romance and tragedy.

We would particularly like to mention Dympna who designed and made the costumes you see here tonight, Paul who choreographed the fight scenes and Emma for her work on the dances. A collaborative process, this was a happy company undertaking and although many hours in rehearsal, we enjoyed the process. We hope you enjoy the evening.

**Karen Carleton**  
Director

# Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

Presented by  
Balally Players

16th-21st June 2010

**Robert Hudson - Romeo, son of the Montagues**

Roles include Don in Boys' Life by Howard Korder with the Attic Studio, directed by Graham Cantwell, Oscar shortlist best director for short film 2006. Other roles include Bassanio in The Merchant of Venice with Dublin Shakespeare. Robert also reached the final 50 from 2,700 applicants for RADA in London.

**Eilis O'Brien - Juliet, Daughter of the Capulets**

Eilis is the winner of the Shakespeare Cup, the premier award in Speech & Drama, and a Gold Medal winner at Feis Maitiu. She makes her stage debut with the company, playing the role of Juliet.

**Michael Sharp - Friar Lawrence, Romeo's confidante**

Michael makes his first appearance with the company having played in drama, variety and pantomime with various Dublin groups. Dramatic roles have included Birdboot in The Real Inspector Hound, Eilert Lovborg in Hedda Gabler, Mitch in A Streetcar named Desire, The Old Man in Fool for Love and Théramène in Phèdre.

**Gareth Murphy - Mercutio, Kinsman of Escalus, friend of Romeo**

Gareth is featuring in his second production back on home soil having wowed audiences in New York City playing Jack Worthing in an off-off-off-Broadway production of Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest. Gareth is well suited to the role of Mercutio; his own words - "if I was chocolate, I'd eat myself".

**Hilary Madigan - Nurse, Juliet's personal attendant and confidante**

Hilary is a long time member of the company. In 2006, she was awarded Best Actress in the first of our All Ireland winning productions Melody by Deirdre Kinahan and she appeared in the second All Ireland winning play - Synge's Riders to the Sea. Her most recent appearance has been as Barbara in Happy Birthday Dear Alice at The Mill Theatre.

**Mark Phelan - Tybalt, Cousin of Juliet, nephew of Lady Capulet**

Mark is relatively new to the acting scene but in his short time he has been incredibly active. He recently appeared in a short movie The Purest Flower of Valdarill as Hessiodos, a wine-addled forest dweller and he is also involved with Rubberhead Productions - a small production company that deals with short movies/music videos.

**Brendan Dunne - Capulet, patriarch of the House of Capulet**

Brendan has appeared as Liam in Conversations on a Homecoming, Claudius in Hamlet, De Reca in Virtual Reality. He is a multi award winning actor on the circuit and made his debut for the company in 2004 with Much Ado about Nothing. More recently Brendan starred in the company's production of The Plough and the Stars.

**Joanne Keane - Lady Capulet, matriarch of the House of Capulet**

Roles with the company include Seelie Hannigan in Many Young Men of Twenty, Ellen in Vinegar Tom, Phoebe in As You Like It, the Courtesan in The Comedy of Errors and Connie Cooper in Rumours. Joanne has appeared in the TV Drama Proof and in the TV Soap Fair City. She has featured in Ros na Rún and Aifric. Her credits include a number of short films and radio plays.

**Pat O Grady - Montague, patriarch of the House of Montague**

Pat has been involved in drama for a long number of years with various Dublin based groups. This is his stage debut with the company and he is looking forward to his first role in a Shakespearean production.

**Mary Ryan - Lady Montague, matriarch of the House of Montague**

Mary Ryan has acted in many of the company's award winning productions. Her most recent appearance for Balally Players has been as Maynan in Many Young Men of Twenty. Lead roles include Mistress Page in The Merry Wives of Windsor and as Kate in the Cripple of Inishmaan. She has won best actress awards for Popova in Anton Chekov's The Bear and Baroness Sophie in Peter Shaffer's White Liars.

**Muriel Caslin O'Hagan - Chorus**

Muriel has a collection of acting awards from the Festival Circuit, including All-Ireland Best Actress for her role as Catherine Rostak in When the Wine is Cold. After a long absence from the "boards", she joined Balally Players in 2005 for their production of Enchanted April, followed by Our Town, By the Bog of Cats, As You Like It and Many Young Men of Twenty.

**Séan Murphy - Benvolio, cousin and friend of Romeo**

Previous Shakespearian roles with Balally Players include Dromio of Syracuse in The Comedy Of Errors in 2003 and Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing in 2004. An award winning actor on the Festival circuit, Séan is delighted to be back playing the bard after a gap of six years. He was most recently seen as William Featherstone in How the Other Half Loves in The Mill in 2009.

**Séan Ahern - Paris, kinsman of Escalus, who wishes to marry Juliet**

Séan was introduced to the amateur circuit in 2003 with Theatre Workshop Ireland, where he joined the cast of Port Authority. Over the next 2 years he performed in 2 more circuit productions with the Dundalk based players. He made his debut with the company in the one act production of Old Saybrook.

**Richard Stowe - Prince Escalus, Prince of Verona**

This is Richard's second outing with the company. He has performed previously in Balally's production of the Woody Allen comedy - Old Saybrook. Richard has also appeared in several productions by the Arthur Cox Players including as Lord Windermere in the Oscar Wilde play, Lady Windermere's Fan.

**Deirdre Mullen - Apothecary, Citizen**

This is Deirdre's first outing with the company. Having performed in productions at Andrew's Lane and the Olympia as a teenager, she is enjoying her return to acting with Balally.

**Kevin O'Flynn - Balthasar, servant of the Montague Household**

This is Kevin's second production with the company, having previously played the role of Mikey in John B. Keane's Many Young Men of Twenty. After numerous radio and television credits, he is delighted to be returning to the stage.

**Tony McGettigan - Peter, servant of the Capulet Household**

Tony has appeared regularly in the company's very popular, annual revue, Christmas at Airfield. His most recent roles have been Captain Mummer in the Group's 25th Anniversary production, At the Black Pigs Dyke and the TD, J.J. Houlihan, in John B Keane's, Many Young Men of Twenty.

**Fiona Walsh - Mopsa, servant of the Capulet Household**

Fiona was formerly a member of the drama society in NUI Galway, where she acted and directed in a variety of shows including Medea, And Then There were None and The Life of Galileo. Her roles with the company include Susan in Vinegar Tom and Mary Din in Many Young Men of Twenty.

**Jamie McLoughlin - Sampson, servant of the Capulet Household**

Jamie has been acting for camera with the Irish Film Academy for the last seven months and is performing for the first time with the company.

**Francis Cahill - Gregory, servant of the Capulet Household**

Hailing from Laois, Francis joined the company in 2005 and has appeared in Summer Shakespeare, Christmas at Airfield, The Cripple of Inishmaan and At the Black Pigs Dyke. He played the role of George Pigden in the hit, Out of Order Minister. He also recently had great success with the lead role of Danger Mulally in the John B Keane classic, Many Young Men of Twenty.

**Darren McBride - Abraham, servant of the Montague Household**

Darren joined the company in January this year. Having worked behind the scenes on another production, this is his first attempt on stage and he is enjoying the experience.

**Richard Doyle - Abraham, servant of the Montague Household**

This is Richard's first outing with the company. He recently played Professor Zoltan Kaprathy in GMDS' production of "My Fair Lady". He has also appeared in stage productions of Robin Hood, Jonah and the Whale and The Pirates of Penzance.

**Séan T Daly - Friar John, Constable, Citizen**

This is Séan's second involvement in any production. Séan has many things in common with his character, mainly that he looks quite similar to him. Séan enjoys long walks in the park, M&S and nights in and out.

**Aoibhinn Finnegan - Page, Servant to Paris**

Aoibhinn is no stranger to the stage. Recent roles include: Mollser in The Plough and the Stars, Dot in Many Young Men of Twenty, Betty in Vinegar Tom, Puck in Midsummer Nights Dream, Cecily in The Importance of being Ernest and Deirdre in Yeats' Deirdre. She will be representing Ireland at the World Championships of Performing Arts this summer in Hollywood.

**Michael Carty - Officer to the Prince**

Michael hails from Co Roscommon and works as a research scientist at Trinity College. When he's not looking after the Prince on the set of Romeo and Juliet, he plays Gaelic football for Robert Emmets football club in Perrystown.

**Fintan Murphy - Officer to the Prince**

Fintan is making his debut on stage tonight but is already causing a stir among Dublin's acting circles. He has been likened to Eddie Murphy in that he shares the same surname. Fintan will most likely be acting on Broadway in the near future ... watch this space!

**Claire O'Donovan - Citizen, Dancer**

Claire's previous roles with the company include Fiona Foster in How the Other Half Loves and Jinnie Gogan in The Plough & the Stars which toured the drama circuit this year. An experienced vocalist, having performed with the Bunratty Singers and live bands, Claire has appeared in singing roles in Balally's productions of Many Young Men of Twenty and Christmas at Airfield.

**Teresa Dempsey - Citizen, Dancer**

Teresa is a long term member of the company and during that time has acted, stage managed, directed for the Bray Festival, produced the very successful Christmas at Airfield and designed the make up for many of the company's award winning shows.

**Orla Cooney - Citizen, Dancer**

Orla's favourite appearances have been in The Mai by Marian Carr and The Norman Conquests by Alan Ayckbourn. In 2005, she played in the company production of Top Girls by Caryl Churchill. She also appeared in Balally Players' 25th anniversary show, At the Black Pigs Dyke.