


Romeo  Juliet

# Remix



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A COLLECTION OF  
SHAKESPEARE'S GREATEST HITS  
AND NEW CLASSICS

PREMIERES JUNE 18, 2021  
[ABLEENSEMBLE.COM](http://ABLEENSEMBLE.COM)

FILMED ENTIRELY ON ZOOM \* DEVISED AND PERFORMED BY A.B.L.E. -ARTISTS BREAKING LIMITS & EXPECTATIONS \* CHICAGO IL

# Romeo & Juliet Remix

## Creative Team

### TEACHING ARTISTS

Kieran Hartnett  
Kaylie Honkala

Lawrence Kern  
Emma MacLean  
Arin Mulvaney

Sean Okerberg  
Katie Yohe

### FACILITATORS

*\*indicates first production with A.B.L.E.*

Nette Angelini  
Amy Bahr\*  
Chloe Belongilot\*  
Maryann Carlson\*  
Braden Cleary  
Sedona Coleman\*  
Kara Davidson

Shannon Diegel  
Mary Feigenbutz  
Megan Gray  
Chelsea Hosler  
Perry Hunt\*  
Peyton Leonard\*

Lauren Lynch  
Samantha Malone\*  
Kate McDuffie  
Ben Raanan  
Jenna Rapisarda  
Maddie Rostami

Shaina Schrooten\*  
Margaret Sheils  
Beth Sherwood  
Susan Sjodin  
Lindsay Stock  
Polly Yukevich

### AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) CONSULTANT

K. Crom Saunders

### VIDEO EDITING, SOUND EDITING, AND SPECIAL EFFECTS

Brock Alter  
Alex Sokol

### VIDEO AND AUDIO ELEMENTS LICENSED BY

Adobe Elements & Envato Elements

### A.B.L.E.'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Buchanan  
Greg Desmond

Jenny Fisher  
Joe Marren

Dennis Rossow

Marcela Sarmiento  
Kendra Van Kempen

### SPECIAL THANKS

Anchorfish Printing, Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier,  
Abaigeal O'Donnell, Alison Perrone, and  
The Families of the A.B.L.E. Ensemble

### ROMEO & JULIET REMIX WAS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED BY

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# The Ensemble (in order of appearance)



**Mila Medina**  
Prince (Scene 1)



**Emmett Fox**  
Romeo (Scene 2)



**Jake Solworth**  
Benvolio (Scene 3)



**Fletcher Jones**  
Romeo (Scene 3)



**Martin Conway**  
Paris (Scene 4)



**Quincy Bane**  
Juliet (Scene 5)



**Rachel Buchanan**  
Mercutio (Scene 6)



**Matthew Marren**  
Romeo (Scene 6)



**Alena Counter Brown**  
Benvolio (Scene 6)



**Eli Alvarez**  
Lord Capulet (Scene 7)



**Maria Meyer**  
Juliet (Scene 7)



**Christian Kroski**  
Romeo (Scene 7)



**Benjamin Collins**  
Romeo (Scene 8)



**Colleen Altman**  
Juliet (Scene 8)



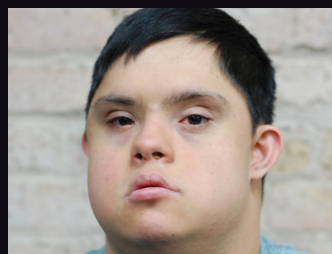
**Anna Luzadder**  
Juliet (Scene 9)



**Maggie Marren**  
Nurse (Scene 9)



**Lucas Miezal**  
Friar Laurence (Scene 10)



**Peter Grzeslo**  
Romeo (Scene 10)



**Maddi Perez**  
Juliet (Scene 10)



**Andrew Kosnik**  
Benvolio (Scene 11)



**Matthew Danaher**  
Mercutio (Scene 11)



**Jack Butler**  
Tybalt (Scene 11)



**Sam Radinsky**  
Romeo (Scene 11)



**Claire O'Leary**  
Juliet (Scene 12)



**Ryan Foley**  
Nurse (Scene 13)



**Natalia Janik**  
Juliet (Scene 13)



**Christian Boyd**  
Romeo (Scene 14)



**Marissa Bloodgood**  
Romeo (Scene 15)



**Sandia Coleman**  
Juliet (Scene 15)



**Justice Peters-Farrell**  
Juliet (Scene 16)



**Lucy Walsh**  
Lady Capulet (Scene 16)



**Emily Lavin**  
Juliet (Scene 17)



**Matthew LaChapelle**  
Juliet (Scene 18)



**Sam Petri**  
Paris (Scene 20)



**Colin Baar**  
Romeo (Scene 20)



**Samuel Floersheimer**  
Romeo (Scene 21)



**Emily Kwidzinski**  
Juliet (Scene 21)



**Sophie Earvolino**  
Prince (Scene 22)

# Director's Note

## Welcome to *Romeo & Juliet Remix*!

It's been ten years since I first adapted and directed *Romeo & Juliet* for GiGi's Playhouse Chicago featuring 7 teenagers with Down syndrome. We performed in a small studio, with 60 friends and family members seated on metal folding chairs cheering us on.

### **So much has changed since then, and so much has stayed the same...**

GiGi's Teen Drama Troupe has morphed into A.B.L.E.- Artists Breaking Limits & Expectations - a thriving nonprofit organization that serves individuals with Down syndrome and a range of other intellectual and developmental disabilities. There are more people onscreen in *Romeo & Juliet Remix* than we had sitting in the audience for that first show. But those original 7 actors are still part of our programs. We've graduated to bigger theatres, including a longstanding partnership with Chicago Shakespeare Theater. But that studio at The Menomonee Club remains one of our favorite spaces for rehearsal.

A little over a year ago, we went through our biggest change to date when we reimagined our programs for a virtual format. Individuals with disabilities have been some of the hardest hit by the pandemic. Our primary goal at A.B.L.E. has been to keep our community together, and provide a sense of normalcy and routine. We've learned new technology, designed new curriculum, and expanded our reach far outside Chicago as we've created our digital projects. **Still our goal remains the same - to prove everyone is A.B.L.E. to connect, to contribute, and to create.**

It felt right to revisit this story now, and to celebrate all the ways that we have learned and grown over the years. **Clashes in the streets, people yearning for connection but being kept apart, a citywide plague...Shakespeare's 400 year old tale feels as timely as ever, and even more so when told through the eyes of A.B.L.E.'s ensembles. *Romeo & Juliet*** is a story you probably know, but, as you'll see, it can still be full of surprises!

Thank you for traveling to Verona with us, and for helping us to continue to do all we are A.B.L.E. to do.

**-Katie Yohe, A.B.L.E. Founder & Executive Artistic Director**

**Audience Advisory: *Romeo & Juliet Remix* includes violence, murder, suicide, and sexual situations.**

**Run Time: *Romeo & Juliet Remix* is one hour and twenty one minutes.**

# Land Acknowledgement

This semester, A.B.L.E.'s actors, volunteers, and staff have connected from all across Turtle Island, the Indigenous term for the North American continent. A.B.L.E. is based in Chicago, on the ancestral homeland of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. Many other tribes such as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox also called this area home and nurtured a culture of creativity and storytelling long before Shakespeare penned *Romeo & Juliet*. A.B.L.E. champions the right to agency and self-determination - rights that have been denied to Indigenous People. In the spirit of inclusion, we encourage you to take a moment and find out whose Native Land you are watching from. Let us know what you learn:

<https://native-land.ca/>

## Romeo & Juliet Remix Cast of Characters

<b>Capulets</b>	<b>JULIET</b>	A naive, young Capulet who falls in love with Romeo. She is intelligent and brave.
	<b>LORD CAPULET</b>	Juliet's father. He is stern and controlling.
	<b>LADY CAPULET</b>	Juliet's mother. She is distant and unforgiving.
	<b>NURSE</b>	Juliet's caretaker and confidante. She is protective and funny.
	<b>TYBALT</b>	Juliet's cousin. He is loyal to his family, but has a fiery temper.
<b>Montagues</b>	<b>ROMEO</b>	A moody and poetic Montague who falls in love with Juliet. He is romantic and impulsive.
	<b>BENVOLIO</b>	Romeo's cousin and trusted friend. He is loyal and peaceful.
<b>Citizens of Verona</b>	<b>MERCUTIO</b>	Romeo's confident friend with a quick wit and a quicker temper.
	<b>PRINCE</b>	The firm but fair ruler of Verona.
	<b>PARIS</b>	A wealthy and handsome suitor who wants to marry Juliet.
	<b>FRIAR LAURENCE</b>	Romeo's wise and helpful confidante.

# Synopsis

- Scene 1:** Our story opens on the streets of Verona; the Capulets and Montagues are at it again! The Prince calls for order...or else!
- Scene 2:** But it's not all fights; the lovesick Romeo has a girl on his mind. He writes a love song for the beautiful Rosaline.
- Scene 3:** Romeo's friend Benvolio hatches a plan to help Romeo forget Rosaline: they will crash the Capulet Ball to examine other beauties.
- Scene 4:** Romeo isn't the only one focused on love. Paris - the wealthy show off - is hoping to woo Juliet Capulet with an epic first date.
- Scene 5:** But Juliet isn't ready for love; she wants to visit Paris, not marry Paris!
- Scene 6:** Romeo and his friends, Benvolio and Mercutio, gather outside the Capulet's house ready to bust into the party, even if they have visions of dread.
- Scene 7:** M.C. Lord Capulet welcomes one and all to crush a cup of wine. Even Tybalt's sour attitude can't ruin this great time. Romeo and Juliet lock eyes across the dance floor and it is pure poetry.
- Scene 8:** Romeo leaps the wall of the Capulet orchard to exchange tender words with Juliet.
- Scene 9:** Juliet recruits her trusted Nurse to arrange a secret wedding!
- Scene 10:** The lovers sneak to Friar Laurence for a private ceremony with music, dancing, and chocolatey champagne cake.
- Scene 11:** But the good feelings can't last. When Benvolio, Mercutio, and Romeo meet Tybalt in the streets, their heated fighting leads to two deaths.
- Scene 12:** Juliet knows nothing of what has happened and eagerly waits to celebrate her wedding night with Romeo.
- Scene 13:** Only the Nurse returns with terrible news instead: Tybalt is dead and Romeo is banished.
- Scene 14:** The tortured Romeo laments his banishment in song.
- Scene 15:** The lovers spend one last night together. But the morning comes and Romeo must reluctantly depart for Mantua.
- Scene 16:** Juliet is lamenting her lost love when her mother brings worse news - Juliet is to marry Paris Thursday morning. What now?
- Scene 17:** Out of ideas, Juliet begs Friar Laurence for help. They concoct a plan: he gives Juliet a potion that will make her appear dead, and then Romeo can come steal her away.
- Scene 18:** Juliet brings the potion home but worries it might do: will she die? will she live and be forced to marry Paris? There's only one way to find out...
- Scene 19:** The Capulets find their daughter dead (or so they think) on her wedding morning, and bury her in the Capulet family tomb. News of her death reaches Romeo, but he doesn't know it's all a ruse, so he purchases a potion of his own.
- Scene 20:** Romeo races to Juliet's tomb and finds a mourning Paris. A battle ensues between the two lovesick men, adding another number to the body count.
- Scene 21:** Romeo and Juliet are finally united in death.
- Scene 22:** The Prince urges the Capulets and Montagues to finally put their hatred to rest. For never was a story of more woe than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

## Our Process

Whether onstage or online, there are a few core beliefs that shape how we work:

### WE BELIEVE EVERYONE IS A.B.L.E.

There are no "stars" in an A.B.L.E. production. After several weeks exploring the world of the play through various games and activities, actors met with teaching artists to share their personal preferences. Did they want to do a scene or a monologue? Did they want to work on Shakespearean text or devise something new? What characters were they drawn to? What special skills did they want to show off? Each actor was assigned a specific moment in the story to make their own. Through the course of *Romeo & Juliet Remix*, you'll meet 9 different Romeos and 11 different Juliets, as well as several other citizens of Verona. You'll hear classic Shakespearean poetry, but will also be treated to original monologues, movement pieces, and songs created by the ensemble. Don't worry, our narrators will help you keep track of who is who!

### WE BELIEVE PERFORMING SHOULD BE FUN

Rather than pressuring actors to memorize lines, each actor paired with a facilitator to drop them in during their filming session. Our facilitators ensure actors can focus on connecting with the emotions of their scene, without stressing about what to say next.

### WE BELIEVE IN TEAMWORK

At the beginning of every rehearsal, we emphasize our responsibilities as an ensemble (listen, focus, be respectful, try your best, and have fun!), and remember that we have to work together and support each other to create a project. In addition to sharing screen time, we also worked behind the scenes to create costumes from objects in our own homes and write letters to penpals in our ensemble. Using the breakout room feature on Zoom, actors met with their facilitator coach to dig into the world of their scene by creating vision boards, playing different games, and deciding on framing and other design elements.

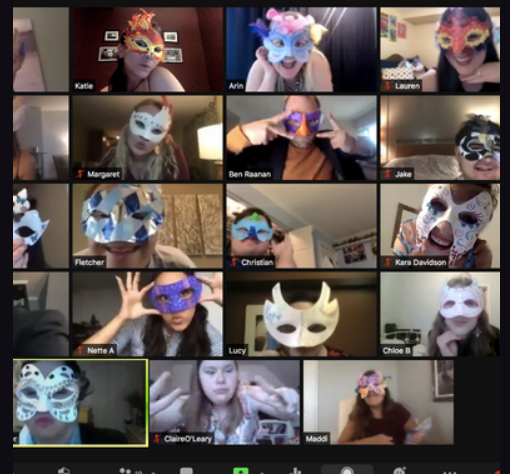
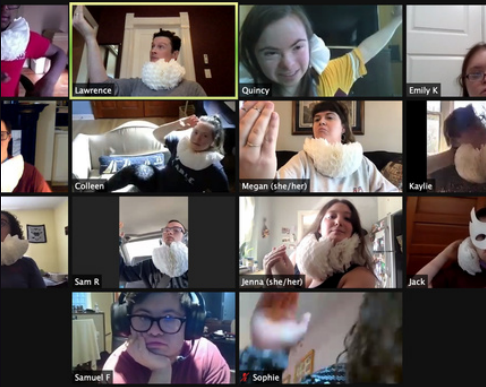
**Thank you for tuning in!**

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[bit.ly/giveABLE](https://bit.ly/giveABLE) or text "REMIX" to 44-321







We believe everyone is A.B.L.E. to connect, to contribute, and to create. We are A.B.L.E. - Artists Breaking Limits and Expectations. Our mission is to provide performing arts opportunities through which individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can share who they are and all they are A.B.L.E. to do. Through our core ensembles, specialized workshops, and outreach programming, A.B.L.E.'s actors strengthen lifelong skills including communication, focus, creativity, and teamwork. A.B.L.E.'s ensembles have staged plays ranging from original works to Shakespearean classics, and award-winning feature films. By placing participants with disabilities in the spotlight, and giving them ownership over their experiences, A.B.L.E.'s work strives to shift societal preconceptions, and build more inclusive, empathetic communities.

## Connect with A.B.L.E.



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*A.B.L.E. is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit EIN 81-2667531*