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SPECIAL THANKS AND RECOGNITION TO...

Aaron Quinton-Thomas Butler
Staenberg Omaha Jewish Community Center
Scottish Rite

Nebraska Shakespeare on Tour
P R E S E N T S



WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
ADAPTED BY TYRONE BEASLEY

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Shakespeare and hip hop seem to have a sort of ominous connection through subject matter (love and conflict) and arrangement of words (rhyming and meter). It was interesting to tie these two very different but somehow mirrored worlds together; by uniting the historic words of Shakespeare's renaissance English and contemporary rap and afro beats of today. I started by extracting the emotion of the scene and translating it into music that reflects it. I then took the original script and added new rhythms to compliment the music.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The power of hate, the power of love.

The power of hate.

It seems that the social and political divisions in our country are growing stronger by the day. Black vs White, Liberal vs Conservative, Republican vs Democrat. The "us vs them" is extremely strong in our society. The origins of the hate between the Montagues and Capulets is never revealed in the play, but it cuts deep and violent and drastically affects the society and community in which they live.

The power of love.

The two families squash their hate and vow to love each other when they realize the folly of their hatred for one another when they are faced with the death of their children whose love for one another was so great that they would rather die than live life without each other. With this version of "Romeo and Juliet", set to hip-hop rhythms, I want to make it a reflection of the social and political divisions within our society today. A small step in a big journey of starting the conversations about how we can disagree without being disagreeable.

How can we come to realize that we are more alike than we are different?

DRAMATURG'S NOTES

William Shakespeare was born in 1564 to John and Mary Arden Shakespeare and raised in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, in England's West Country.

Much of the information about him comes from official documents such as wills, legal documents and court records. There are also contemporary references to him and his writing. While much of the biographical information is sketchy and incomplete, for a person of his class and as the son of a town alderman, quite a lot of information is available.

Young Shakespeare would have attended the Stratford grammar school, where he would have learned to read and write not only English, but also Latin and some Greek. In 1582, at age 18, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, and the couple would have three children: Susanna in 1583 and twins Hamnet and Judith in 1585.

After an eight-year gap where Shakespeare's activity is not known, he appeared in London by 1592 and quickly began to make a name for himself as a prolific playwright. He stayed in London for about 20 years, becoming increasingly successful in his work as an actor, writer and shareholder in his acting company. Retirement took him back to Stratford to lead the life of a country gentleman. His son Hamnet died at age 11, but both daughters were married: Susanna to Dr. John Hall and Judith to Thomas Quiney.

Shakespeare died in Stratford in 1616 on April 23, which is thought to be his birthday. He is buried in the parish church, where his grave can be seen to this day. His known body of work includes at least 37 plays, two long poems and 154 sonnets.

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CAST

ROMEO.....	Connor Johnson
JULIET.....	Nadia Ra'Shaun
MERCUTIO / SAMPSON / FRIAR JOHN.....	Isabella Davis
LADY MONTAGUE / NURSE.....	Claire Metusalem
LADY CAPULET.....	TammyRa'
BENVOLIO.....	Rachel Muñoz
TYBALT / APOTHECARY.....	Katelyn Slater
LORD CAPULET.....	Silas Waugh
PRINCE / PARIS / ABRAM.....	Justin Mackey
LORD MONTAGUE / FRIAR LAWRENCE.....	André McGraw
LORD MONTAGUE / FRIAR LAWRENCE (understudy).....	Eric Lawson

Get to know the cast & crew a little more here



& follow a Spotify playlist curated by our cast & crew



PRODUCTION TEAM

ADAPTER / DIRECTOR.....	Tyrone Beasley
DRAMATURG / STUDY GUIDE.....	Lucas Pérez-Leahy
STAGE MANAGER.....	Kristen Martin
ROAD MANAGER.....	Ashley Helm
MUSIC DIRECTOR / COMPOSER.....	Darius Brandenburg
COSTUME DESIGNER.....	Denise Ervin
SET DESIGN / PROPS.....	Sophie Knauss
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR ADVISOR.....	Grant Hilgenkamp
CARPENTER / PAINTER.....	George Dixon & Alex Throop
FIGHT DIRECTOR.....	Terry Doughman
CHOREOGRAPHER.....	Nadia Ra'Shaun
SOUND ENGINEER.....	Pink Giraffe Audio
GRAPHIC ARTIST (logo).....	DeVonte Reynolds
PHOTOGRAPHY.....	Thomas Grady Photography
VIDEOGRAPHY.....	Michael Burns, Jr.

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....	Brett Bernardini
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR.....	Tyrone Beasley
DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION.....	Lara Marsh
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST.....	Naomi Bates