



CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

ESCALUS, PRINCE OF VERONA

MERCUTIO – KINSMAN TO THE PRINCE AND FRIEND TO ROMEO

COUNTY PARIS – A NOBLEMAN, KINSMAN TO THE PRINCE AND SUITOR TO JULIET

LUCENTIO – FRIEND TO PARIS

LORD MONTAGUE – HEAD OF THE FAMILY AT FEUD WITH THE CAPULETS

LADY MONTAGUE – HIS WIFE AND MOTHER OF ROMEO

ROMEO – SON OF MONTAGUE

BENVOLIO – NEPHEW OF MONTAGUE AND FRIEND TO ROMEO

BALTHASAR – SERVANT TO ROMEO

ABRAM – SERVANT TO MONTAGUE

*VALENTIO – SERVANT TO MONTAGUE

LORD CAPULET – HEAD OF THE FAMILY AT FEUD WITH THE MONTAGUES

LADY CAPULET – HIS WIFE AND MOTHER OF JULIET

JULIET – DAUGHTER OF CAPULET

TYBALT – NEPHEW OF CAPULET

COUSIN CAPULET – FEMALE RELATIVE OF CAPULET

NURSE – COMPANION TO JULIET

PETER – SERVANT TO CAPULET, ATTENDANT TO NURSE

SAMPSON – SERVANT TO CAPULET

GREGORY – SERVANT TO CAPULET

*MARTINO – SERVANT TO CAPULET

FRIAR LAURENCE – CONFESSOR TO ROMEO AND JULIET

*PROLOGUE

*FRIAR JOHN

*APOTHECARY

*WATCH 1, 2, 3

CITIZENS AND GUESTS AT CAPULET BALL - ROSALINE, LIVIA, HELENA, VIOLA, BIANCA, KATHERINA

*Characters may be doubled



CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Ages given are a rough guideline only and should not deter anyone from auditioning for a role. They are the suggested age for the character NOT the actor.

NB For insurance purposes anyone involved in a BOAT production must be aged 16 or over. If you have any questions about this (or any other aspect of auditioning for us) please contact the Production Manager (0774 933 3897).

Any actor whose role includes a sword/dagger fight must be fit and prepared to attend special rehearsals. These roles are identified by F. Other fights will be with a variety of 'weapons' but actors will also need to be fit and attend some extra rehearsals.

Roles with D mean the character will be taking part in the dance sequence at the Capulet Ball. This will be relatively simple but will require some extra rehearsals.

*Characters could be doubled

ESCALUS, PRINCE OF VERONA

Age – 40 +

A powerful man. At the beginning of the play he is angrily determined to prevent the Montagues and Capulets from ruining his city with their long-running feud. He is bitterly upset after the deaths of Mercutio and Paris. He blames himself for his leniency which, he believes, has resulted in the loss of two of his own relatives.

MERCUTIO – KINSMAN TO THE PRINCE AND FRIEND TO ROMEO (F) (D)

Age – 25 +

A charismatic character whose name implies his mercurial nature. He believes his relationship to the Prince gives him freedom to act as he chooses without fearing the consequences. Although he is neither a Montague nor a Capulet, he is a good friend to Romeo. Unaware of the situation, he is impatient when Romeo tries to ignore Tybalt's taunts and has no hesitation in taking on Tybalt's challenge himself. Even when he is dying, he puts on a brave face and makes a joke of it. His quick wit and bold manner make him an exciting character to play. He must come over as 'larger than life.' He will need to work hard at the major fight sequence.

COUNTY PARIS – NOBLEMAN, KINSMAN TO THE PRINCE & SUITOR TO JULIET (F) (D)

Age – 25 +

Paris is a nobleman and his relationship to the prince makes him someone Capulet would be very keen to have as a son in law. Although he is described as 'young' by Lady Capulet and the Nurse, he is certainly older than Romeo. He can be played in a variety of ways and there is scope for several interpretations of this role.

LUCENTIO – FRIEND TO PARIS (D)

Age – 20 +

Lucentio is usually described as a servant to Paris but I intend to expand the role slightly without adding to the number of lines he speaks. He comes from a good family but he is of lower status and sometimes acts as a personal servant to Paris. He is unwilling to go against the orders Paris gives him in the final scene.

LORD MONTAGUE – HEAD OF THE FAMILY AT FEUD WITH THE CAPULETS

Age – 50+

Montague is a strong character, still vigorous enough to challenge Capulet in the opening scene. He is concerned for his son's welfare but has no idea of his infatuation with Rosaline and leaves it to his nephew, Benvolio, to discover the problem. I have deliberately taken lines from Montague and given them to Lady



ROMEO & JULIET

Montague so that the two characters are more evenly balanced. By the end of the play, although devastated by the death of his wife and son, he responds with quiet dignity to Capulet's offer of reconciliation.

LADY MONTAGUE – HIS WIFE AND MOTHER OF ROMEO

Age – 30 +

She is obviously trying to prevent her husband from getting involved in the fighting in the opening scene. Very fond of her son and concerned for his happiness.

ROMEO – SON OF MONTAGUE (F)

Age 16 +

At the beginning of the play he is a young man in love with the idea of love. His feelings for Rosaline are clearly not reciprocated and it is tempting to feel impatient with this love-sick youth. However, it is vital that we see the dramatic change once he meets Juliet and realises what true love is. We must be convinced that, this time, it's the real thing. The actor must show the gradual change from a young boy to a man who is determined to follow his destiny and who faces terrible situations with courage. He will have fight scenes

BENVOLIO – NEPHEW OF MONTAGUE AND FRIEND TO ROMEO (F) (D)

Age – 25 +

Calmer, wiser and much less impetuous than either Romeo or Mercutio, his name implies 'goodness'. He is the voice of wisdom and reason. His role is very important because, on several occasions, he acts as the narrator. Not only other characters, but the audience too, recognise that he speaks the truth and is wholly believable. He will have short fight sequences.

BALTHASAR – SERVANT TO ROMEO (D)

Age – 20 +

Although, in this production, he is older than Romeo, Balthasar is still a young man who is concerned for his master and is very reluctant to tell him the news of Juliet's (apparent) death. In the final scene he defies Romeo's threats and stays near the tomb, hoping he can help his master.

ABRAM – SERVANT TO MONTAGUE (D)

Age 20 +

Abram has few lines, although I have taken some from another character to expand the part. He is part of the Montague household and keen to defend the family honour. He has no sword fights but uses other weapons energetically.

***VALENTIO – SERVANT TO MONTAGUE (D)**

Age 20 +

As for Abram but without lines. He too fights for the Montague honour with weapons other than a sword.


LORD CAPULET – HEAD OF THE FAMILY AT FEUD WITH THE MONTAGUES

Age – 50 +

Head of the Capulet family, he is a volatile man who, despite his age, still sees himself as capable of defending his family's honour in a fight. He is a doting father and originally intends to keep his only child, Juliet, at home for a few more years before he agrees to let her be married. However, he is keenly aware of the benefits of Paris as a suitor and, probably, feels that being father in law to one of the Prince's relatives is a prize worth having. His rash promises and quick temper are frightening to witness. This role is one that demands powerful physical and vocal strength.

LADY CAPULET – HIS WIFE AND MOTHER OF JULIET (D)

Age – 30+



ROMEO & JULIET

She is a woman who seems to have handed over the care of her daughter from an early age to the Nurse. As long as Juliet is obedient and polite, she is happy. However, as soon as Juliet shows signs of going against her father's wishes, Lady Capulet wants to have nothing more to do with her. A cold-hearted woman, she is a very interesting character to play.

JULIET – DAUGHTER OF CAPULET (D)

Age – 13/14

At the beginning of the play, Juliet is a young, dutiful daughter who appears to have no thoughts of love or marriage. However, her character develops into a woman with courage and fierce determination once she meets and falls in love with Romeo. The actor playing her needs to demonstrate this major change through both her voice and movements. It is a very challenging role which will need commitment and hard work. Careful preparation for the audition does not necessarily mean the passages are learned by heart beforehand, but I would expect to find auditionees are familiar with the text and meaning of the play as a whole.

TYBALT – NEPHEW OF CAPULET (F) (D?)

Age – 25 +

This is another exciting role which requires an active and powerful performance. Tybalt has a fiery temper and seems to have one aim in life, to pursue and kill as many Montagues as possible. Strong vocally and physically.

COUSIN CAPULET – FEMALE RELATIVE OF CAPULET

Age – 50 +

A small but interesting role. This character has one speech in the Ball scene but will be on stage in several other scenes.

NURSE – COMPANION TO JULIET

Age – 45 +

The main source of comedy in the play, she is another 'larger than life' character. Her relationship with Juliet is warm, close and in marked contrast to the way Lady Capulet treats Juliet. However, her actions and advice after Tybalt's death show she fails to understand Juliet's real feelings. Down to earth and bawdy at times.

PETER – SERVANT TO CAPULET, ATTENDANT TO NURSE

Age – 60 +

Peter is another comic character and his relationship with the Nurse provides light relief. He will be involved in additional scenes where he has no lines.

SAMPSON – SERVANT TO CAPULET

20 +

Sampson is a boastful, swaggering servant although, at heart, a coward. In the opening scene he and Gregory set the bawdy, belligerent mood of the feud between the two families – including their servants.

GREGORY – SERVANT TO CAPULET

Age – 20 +

Slightly taken in by Sampson's overpowering personality, he provides a foil for his companion's boasting.

***MARTINO – SERVANT TO CAPULET**

Age 20 +

As Gregory but has no lines. Also fights for Capulet honour but with weapons other than a sword.

FRIAR LAURENCE – CONFESSOR TO ROMEO AND JULIET

Age 40 +

He is a source of wise advice to both Romeo and Juliet in the early part of the play. However, like the Nurse, he fails the young people in the later scenes. His desire to see himself as the peacemaker between the families



ROMEEO ✚ JULIET

blinds him to the danger of their actions. He has some long speeches which help the narrative but challenge the actor.

***PROLOGUE**

Age and gender not relevant

Has the opening speech which needs to be delivered with clarity and a feel for language and rhythm.

***FRIAR JOHN**

Age 40 +

He is in only one scene but it is important to the development of the play so the audience must be able to follow his explanation. This needs careful, clear delivery.

***APOTHECARY**

Age – any

Only one scene – would be very suitable for an accent of some sort.

***WATCH 1, 2, 3**

Age – any

These are relatively minor but are in several scenes and have lines to deliver. Could have accents.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS AT CAPULET BALL - ROSALINE, LIVIA, HELENA, VIOLA, BIANCA, KATHERINA

Age – any (D)

These are primarily non-speaking roles but they may have some ‘crowd lines’ and will need to dance at the Capulet Ball. I am happy for actors and members of the backstage teams to apply for these parts but they will be required to audition in the usual way.