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Impetuous Love, Fickle Fate, and Tragic Consequences in TAM's *Romeo and Juliet*

Monmouth, Maine – Season 45 at Theater at Monmouth continues with William Shakespeare's classic tale of star-crossed lovers, *Romeo and Juliet*, opening Friday, July 25 at 7:30 p.m. Often called the world's greatest love story, *Romeo and Juliet* is the tragic tale of the irreconcilable differences of two powerful families, the young love between their children, and the fateful consequences of acting without thinking.

"Our focus is on the central images of the play—the tension between day and night, light and dark. While we know that the daylight world is more powerful than young love of night, we are still drawn into the power of possibility," says Producing Artistic Director and director Dawn McAndrews. For McAndrews, the idea of actions having consequences is important. "Perhaps Shakespeare is warning us to speak up and accept responsibility for our actions—before it's too late."

Written in the late 1590s, *Romeo and Juliet* has been an audience favorite for more than 400 years. Thwarted by fate at every turn through missed chances, bad advice, and poor timing, they will do anything to remain true to their beloved. With the families united over the sacrifice of their children, *Romeo and Juliet* is a haunting reminder of the power of love and the tragedy of indifference. The play has inspired countless adaptations since its first production including Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story* and Baz Luhrmann's 1996 film *Romeo + Juliet* starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes.

Romeo & Juliet features Turner Frankosky as Paris; Michael Dix Thomas as Mercutio; Ryan Simpson as Peter/Balthazar; Ardarius Blakely as Prince; Erica Murphy as Benvolio; Leighton Samuels as Romeo; Will Harrell as Capulet; Lisa Woods as Lady Capulet; Janis Stevens as Nurse; Lindsay Tornquist as Juliet; Max Waszak as Tybalt; and Bill Van Horn as Friar Lawrence. Set design by Stacey Koloski, costumes by Elizabeth Rocha, lights by Cecilia Durbin, and sound by Rew Tippin.

Performance Calendar: PREVIEW 7/24 at 7:30 p.m.; OPENING 7/25 at 7:30 p.m.; additional performance dates 7/26, 8/8, 8/12, 8/16, 8/20 at 7:30 p.m.; 8/2, 8/13, 8/24 at 1:00 p.m.; 8/10 at 7:00 p.m. with post-show talk-back. Ticket prices range from \$10-\$30. Discounts available for groups of 10 or more. For calendar and reservations, please contact the TAM Box Office at 207.933.9999 or visit www.theateratmonmouth.org.

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Theater at Monmouth, founded in 1970, was named the Shakespearean Theater of Maine by the State Legislature in 1975. The theatre's mission is to present innovative approaches to Shakespeare and other classic plays through professional productions that enrich the lives of people throughout Maine. Since its founding, TAM has produced expertly crafted, engaging productions in its three-month Summer Repertory Season entertaining audiences from 36 states and through Education Tours annually reaching more than 15,000 students statewide.

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