

**SPRING 2010**  
**The Taming of the Shrew**



Performances to be held Friday's and Saturday's  
April 30th through May 8th in 2010

Please visit [www.rudemechanicals.com](http://www.rudemechanicals.com) for  
more details on show times and ticket prices.

*The Rude Mechanicals Presents:*  
*William Shakespeares*  
*Romeo & Juliet*

A poster for the play Romeo & Juliet. The background is a textured, golden-brown map with various nautical symbols like a ship, an anchor, and a compass rose. A large, blue, 3D letter 'R' and a green, 3D letter 'J' are prominently displayed in the center. The 'J' has a small globe inside its loop. The text at the top is in a cursive font, and the text at the bottom is in a serif font.

*A rose by any other name would smell as sweet...*

*Friday's & Saturday's Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>  
29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> & Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 2010*

## Directors Notes...

Welcome one and all to this unique production of Romeo and Juliet. I understand that there are three general reactions to the theme of this play; the first the enthusiastic geek reaction, second is what are you thinking reaction, and lastly the simple blank stare. Of course the Pirates vs. Ninja's theme is not as odd as a space theme, a drug ridden rave party, or the mock-Victorian revisionist version of *Romeo and Juliet's* final scene (with a happy ending, Romeo, Juliet, Mercutio and Paris restored to life, and Benvolio revealing that he is Paris's love, Benvolia, in disguise) This is not as political as a Israeli-Palestinian conflict setting, or the [apartheid](#) era in South Africa, or the aftermath of the Pueblo Revolt. Yet with this production I hope that I can reach a whole new audience that never before has seen Romeo and Juliet, save for in school.

I have set this play on the island of Kuishiu in the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when pirates owned the high seas and the influence of Western society on Japan had begun. In the society of Japanese culture, Ninjas are the assassins for the samurai and futile lords, yet they are on a lower social standing than the samurais. In Kuishiu the social structure has been weakened by the influence of Western society. Spaniards have mixed with the Samurai, and Pirates have entered into the same social rank as the Ninjas; war ensues. However the Princes new edict of peace has begun to work its way into the mind and hearts of some of the younger generation, they are willing to work on peace and harmony. This allows a new light to break through the darkness and death, the light of a young couple fighting to love freely. Juliet, the only daughter of powerful Pirates, and Romeo, the son of a well respected and feared Ninja family.

I have focused more on the social structure and pressure that the younger generation goes through. Romeo and Juliet touch on so much more than just love concurring all. It deals with Prejudices, Segregation, Unrequited Love, Obsession, Burning Hate, Basics Instincts, Lust versus Love, all of these things are important to the general story as the ideals of True Love. I want the audience to be able to connect with some point of this show, to see yourselves reflected in one of the characters.

Some characters were changed to add a little more layering and internal character conflict. First, Mercutio is a women, this adds different aspects of unrequited love. First Mercutio is betrothed to Tyblat, the Prince figured since Mercutio and the Montagues are such close friends, she would be able to bridge the gap between the families. This of course is not the case since Mercutio is madly in love with Romeo, and Mercutio's love of Romeo is the reason for Tybalt's hatred of Romeo. Since Tybalt is not a stupid man, just impetuous and a bit violent. I made these changes not only because I wanted to add a different level of drama to the show, but also because I have always seen Mercutio more engaging as a women.

All in all I hope that this production will appeal everyone who sits in the audience. I hope this brings an appreciation for Shakespeare to those who didn't have one, and to renew a love of The Bard for those that did. I hope that everyone can take something meaningful from this production. Please enjoy the show!

## Thanks to our Donors...

- Platinum:** Covert Beach Joseph Condo Jaki  
Demarest Doug Humphrey
- Gold:** Joshua Engel Ginny and Bill Jones  
J. Calvin Smith Rachel Zirkin
- Silver:** Tom and Connie Berg Aaron and Irene  
Engel Gordon Hagen Robert and Susan  
Henry Tamon Honda Stephanie Zirkin
- Bronze:** Nell Codner Scott Farquhar Don Juran  
Robert Perkins Anita and Richard Stoll  
Michelle Trout Charisma Weaver

## Get involved in theater with attitude!

Your tax-deductable donation will help create the kind of superb, cutting-edge classical theater you won't find anywhere else. (Anything else is just Oklahoma.)

Individual:	\$15	
Family:	\$25	
Bronze:	\$50	2 Complimentary Tickets
Silver:	\$100	4 Complimentary Tickets
Gold:	\$500	8 Complimentary Tickets
Platinum:	\$1000	12 Complimentary Tickets

**Emily McKinnon** (Friar John/Capulet Servant): Would like to take the opportunity to thank the Rude Mechanicals for giving her the chance to participate in this play, for giving her lines, and putting her in a fight scene, her friends for their enthusiasm, and her family for supporting her and driving her to rehearsals. Furthermore she would like to say that ninjas be just a gaggle of cross-grained, barnacle-covered, cold-gutted, drooling, foppish, gallowsy, half-masted, ill-beseen, loathly, loutish, parasitic, pestiferous, slab-faced, fond and feckless caterpillars.

**Heather McNeal** (Nurse): Assistant Director for R&J...are you serious?! While gaining her ninja experience backstage, she has also performed in "Much A Do About Nothing" as *Watchman #2*, the Rudes original all female production. She would like to thank her loving, supportive and very understanding husband Shawn, who has many a night wondered if his wife remembered where she lived.

**Evan Ockershausen** (Benvolio): This is Evan's fourth outing with the Rudes and by far his most awesome. In his spare time he enjoys drawing against conspirators, showing empty boxes to the condemned, breaking chains with his rage and playing Boggle (preferably with a friend).

**Michael R. Sachs** (Paris): Michael is very excited to be in his first production with The Rude Mechanicals. This is the first time he has been back on stage after an unforeseen and very unfortunate sabbatical, but nonetheless it is great to be back. Some of his past credits include two seasons with the outdoor drama *Tecumseh!*, Dasher in *Letters to S.A.N.T.A.*, Shermie in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and Lord Chancellor for *Medieval Times*. Let's hope he can shake the cobwebs off and take back to the stage. Wild Card Baby! YEEE-HAAA!

**J. Calvin Smith** (Lord Capulet) has now played so many violent-tempered husbands/fathers/uncles for the Rude Mechanicals (Polonius in "Hamlet"; Richard in "Richard III"; Egeus in "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; Ford in "The Merry Wives of Windsor") that he's starting to get a bit worried about how he's cast...and about Will Shakespeare's family values! In view of this, Mr. Smith is making a donation to the Family Violence Prevention Fund, and urging others to do the same. He thanks Rin for this opportunity to play a role he'd hoped for... and thanks his real-life family for putting up with it.

**Caitlin Williams** (Lady Montague): Would like to thank Rin, Heather and Mel for giving her this opportunity to perform with the Rude Mechanicals for the first time since her HS performance "Up the Downward Staircase" both on and off stage. She would also like to thank them for fixing her "Broken Wing", letting her be in this "Love Story", and keeping her safe from the "Paparazzi".

## Cast and Crew...

Character	Player
Romeo.....	Michael J. Dombroski
Juliet.....	Emmeline Conway
Mercutio.....	Meredith Coyle Erin MacDonald
Benvolio.....	Evan Ockershausen
Tybalt/Apothecary.....	Brian Bell
Paris.....	Mike Sachs
Lord Capulet.....	Calvin Smith
Lady Capulet.....	Jeanne Louise
Nurse.....	Heather McNeal
Friar Laurence.....	Michael Galizia
Lady Montague.....	Caitlin Williams
Prince.....	Micah Chalmer
Balthazar.....	Leanne Dinverno
Friar John/Servant.....	Emily McKinnion
Ensemble.....	Jenna Hank Erin MacDonald Meredith Coyle
Prolouge.....	Meredith Coyle
<hr/>	
Director:	Erin MacDonald
Assistant Director:	Heather McNeal
Stage Manager:	Melanie Jester
Fight Choreographer:	Craig Lawrence
Fight Captain:	Erin MacDonald
Assistant Fight Captain:	Michael J. Dombroski Heather McNeal Melanie Jester
Costumes:	Gracie McNeal Emmeline Conway
Lights/Sound Design:	Erin MacDonald
Lights/Sound Crew:	Shawn McNeal
Publications:	Heather McNeal

## *Meet the Cast...*

**Brian Bell** (Tybalt/Apothecary): Makes his acting debut with the Rude Mechanicals. Past performances include "Hamlet" (Laertes) as well as several non-Shakespearean plays and musicals. "I would first like to give special thanks to Heather McNeal for getting me involved in this project. I also want to thank my family, friends and colleagues for their interest and encouragement of me. I would also like to thank the cast for their support I hope to be able to participate in additional venues with all of you in the future!"

**Micah Chalmer** (Prince): This will be his first time on stage in more than eight years, and he is ever so glad to be back. Before the long hiatus, he has played such roles as Charlie Brown in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," Jess in "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" and Frank in "Kvetch." Overall this is his third Romeo and Juliet, and his second time around as the Prince. He would like to thank the Rudes for having him in the show, and Melissa for pushing him to audition.

**Emmeline Conway** (Juliet/ Balthazar): Is very excited to be appearing in her first show with the Rudes. In the Spring of 2010, she will be finishing her AA in Theater Performance at Howard Community College and then continuing her studies at The University of MD with a minor in Graphic Design. Off stage, she is an active member of the independent film group, **Many Americans**. Current theater credits include Gwendolin (The Importance of Being Earnest), Mrs. Webb (Our Town), Elizabeth Bennet (Pride and Prejudice).

**Meredith Coyle** (Mercutio/Prologue): Had so much fun working with The Rudes. She send love to her people...you know who you are!

**Michael J. Dombroski** (Romeo): Teaches beginning, intermediate and advanced Drama at Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School, where he has directed *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. He also started the school's Improvisational Comedy Team. Michael was last seen on stage as Marc Antony in the *Rude Mechanicals'* production of *Julius Caesar*.

**Mike Galizia** (Friar Lawrence): Has had been in ?? other productions with the Rude Mechanicals. Past assignments have included, Falstaff (Merry Wives), Menenius (Coriolanus), Prospero (Tempest), Mefistofeles (Faustus) and Dr. Chausable (Earnest). He has also performed regularly in Opera and Musical Theater with other companies too numerous to mention. Michael would like to thank his Sweetheart for all the hugs, laughs and very late dinners. Michael hopes that you enjoy the show and come back for more Rude Mechanical productions.

**Jenna Hank** (Ensemble): This is her first show with the Rudes and is excited to be apart of madness that lies within her directors head. Many thanks go to her hero Xenia for giving her the courage to kick Heather Martins butt on stage. With no actual lines in the play, her publicist would like to let the record show that she has a lovely speaking voice.

**Melanie Jester** (Stage Manager): This is Melanie's fourth time as Stage Manager for The Rudes. Previous shows have been Two Gents, Coriolanious, and Much Ado About Nothing. She has run lights for Measure For Measure as well as Tempest during this past Fringe Fest and looks forward to reprising her role as Stage Manager for Two Gents during this years Fringe Festival in DC.

**Jeanne Louise** (Lady Capulet): Has played witches both good (Bell, Book and Candle) and bad (Dark of the Moon) a spider (Charlotte's Web), a horse (Equus), a flower girl (My Fair Lady), a librarian (The Music Man), the mistress (Bedfull of Foreigners) and the maid (Imaginary Invalid), the Lady-in-Waiting (Once Upon a Mattress) and the Queen (Camelot) as well as various neurotics (House of Blue Leaves), psychotics (Birdbath), murderesses and murder victims a la Agatha Christie. She played Juliet (long ago and far away) and now is pleased to be given this rudely mechanical opportunity to play Juliet's mother.

**Heather Martin** (Balthazar/Juliet u/s): Has been with the Rude Mechanicals since age 16. She would like to thank Heather McNeal graciously for dying so she can run on stage for her butt kicking. She would also like to thank her boyfriend (the pink and black fluffy kitten that he is) for sometimes driving her to and from rehearsals. She would especially like to thank the evil monkey living in her closet for leaving her alone long enough to learn her lines.

**Erin MacDonald** (Director/Mercutio/Prologue): Has been with the Rudes for the past 8 years since age 16. Her intellectual love of Shakespeare has kept her acting, and her love for this crazy, eccentric, and incredibly diverse family has kept her coming back year after year. I would like to thank everyone in my cast and crew for helping me make my 4yr dream become a reality beyond my wildest dreams. I'm very happy, honored, and thrilled that I have gotten the chance to direct with the Rudes as well as be apart of this cast. Thank you all for the support, this show has been a long time coming, but I know that this was the best cast for this production!