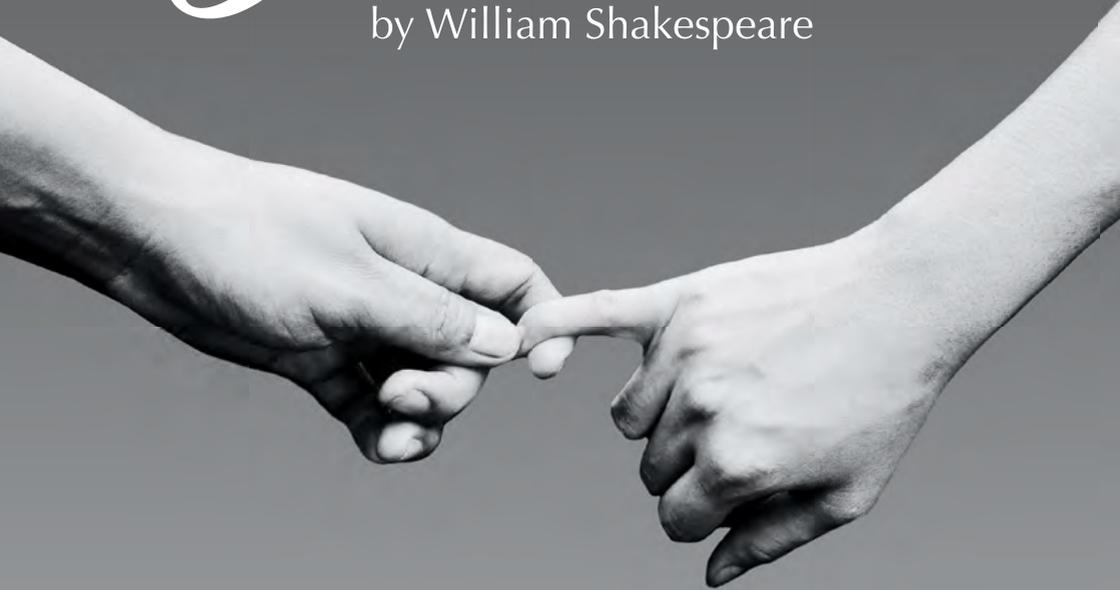


# Romeo + Juliet

by William Shakespeare



# Essential Theatre Welcome

## 2021 Let's do this!

We don't think words do justice when we try to express our gratitude for being back performing and touring.

Oh 2020, a year none of us will ever forget. Each of us having to bare challenges of varying degrees (homeschooling to name but one). But no one can deny the arts and entertainment industry was first hit and last to resurface. The industry took a massive blow, was left without support and struggled across the board. There were times when the future of Essential Theatre was precarious and uncertain. We are so happy to report we dug deep, found ways to stay creative and with determination and tenacity got through. And here we are, back on the road, thank the theatrical heavens!!

We need to acknowledge our presenting partners for their willingness to not only be flexible with dates and logistics, but most importantly continue to have faith in this event. And in this post Covid world each of our venues have helped us find a new normal in presenting theatre with confidence. Thank you.

Secondly we want to thank our amazing cast and creative team who willingly accepted the challenge of creating theatre once again. Thank you for your bravery and talents.

And lastly thank you, our audience. How good is it to have a real interaction outside the zoom room?! Nothing beats the exchange from audience to actor, sharing the same experience, breathing the same air. Thank you for returning, and your constant support and loyalty.

Looking forward, 2022 is an incredibly exciting year for us as we approach our 20th anniversary! We have some very ambitious and amazing projects planned for the next 18 months including our 20th anniversary of Shakespeare in the Vines. If you want to get involved and support the revival of the Australian arts sector please contact us on [info@essentialtheatre.com.au](mailto:info@essentialtheatre.com.au)

Make sure you follow us to keep up to date with the planning.

Stay well, and enjoy!

 [@essentialtheatreaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/essentialtheatreaustralia)

 [@essential.theatre](https://www.facebook.com/essential.theatre)

 [@essentialtheatre](https://twitter.com/essentialtheatre)

With heartfelt thanks,  
**Amanda & Sophie**

[www.essentialtheatre.com.au](http://www.essentialtheatre.com.au)

**[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST](#)**

*Essential Theatre*  
*19 years of independent*  
*theatre making.*

We hope you enjoy our online program.

If you would like to contribute please follow the link below.

**\$2**

as a gold **coin**  
**donation** toward  
program costs

**\$20**

if you're **feeling**  
**generous**

**\$50**

if you'd like to be a  
**solid supporter** of  
independent theatre

**SUPPORT US**



# Prologue

Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.



# *Creative Team*

**Director & Designer**

Alister Smith

**Fight Coordinator**

Myles Tankle

**Costume Coordinator**

Zoe Rouse

**Producing Company**

Essential Theatre

**Production Managers**

Sophie Lampel & Amanda LaBonte

**Tour Managers**

Helen Hopkins & Mia Landgren

**Promotional Photography**

Sarah Clarke

**Production Photography**

Theresa Harrison

# *Cast*

**Alexandra Aldrich**

Capulet

**Rashidi Edward**

Tybalt/Apothecary

**Helen Hopkins**

Friar/Montague

**Mia Landgren**

Juliet

**Lachlan Martin**

Nurse/Prince

**Joshua Monaghan**

Benvolio/Paris

**Madelaine Nunn**

Mercutio/Friar Joan

**Eddie Orton**

Romeo

## Alex Aldrich —



This is Alex's 4th collaboration with the glorious women of Essential Theatre, after touring OZ most recently with 'Macbeth' in 2020, and travelling their all-female 'Julius Caesar' from Melb Fringe 2016 to Adelaide Fringe and Edinburgh Fringe 2017! Other recent works include 'The Maids' at Belvoir 25A, 'Bambert's Book of Lost Stories' for Barking Gekko at the Sydney Opera House, and her own cabaret 'Electric Loneliness' at The Butterfly Club. Other works include 'Dracula', 'Dangerous Liaisons' and 'Salome' with Little Ones Theatre, and 'The Moors' & 'Eurydice' with Red Stitch.

## Rashidi Edward —



Rashidi Edward is a Congolese born actor based in Melbourne. After graduating from Adelaide College of the Arts in 2016 he made his professional theatre debut in 2017 with The State Theatre Company of South Australia as a member of their Ensemble. He appeared in 4 of the company's productions including A Doll's House and Macbeth in 2017, Sense & Sensibility and In The Club in 2018. Other theatre credits include Lines (Theatre Republic), Allope (Adelaide festival), Season at Sarsaparilla, Mother Courage & Her Children, Richard II and Earthquake In London. Physical theatre credits include Hamlet Machine and Best To Go Unseen (Ac Arts). He has also appeared in several films and on television including RABBIT (film/Netflix), ABC iview series F\*\*king Adelaide, Akoni, Displaced, Speed, Run Away Moon, My Life is Murder and Stan's PREACHER and the film 2067.

## *Helen Hopkins* —



Helen has previously performed with Essential Theatre as Feste in Twelfth Night, the title role in Julius Caesar and Tybalt in Romeo and Juliet. Co-founder of The Shift Theatre with Carolyn Bock, together they wrote, produced and performed in The Girls in Grey, about Australian army nurses during World War 1, which toured Victoria, N.S.W. and W.A. It is published by Currency Press. Their play Hallowed Ground - Women Doctors in War had a premiere season at La Mama and toured Victoria, Adelaide Fringe and Edinburgh Fringe where it received a Summerhall Lustrum Award. #No Exemptions is their current project to be performed at La Mama later this year.

## *Mia Landgren* —



Mia completed her acting degree at the New York Film Academy. She has since enjoyed a varied and exciting career performing Shakespeare in both Australia and New Zealand. Mia is proud to have performed regularly with Pop-up Globe, Australian Shakespeare Company, Theatre iNQ and Essential Theatre. Other stage credits include, the acclaimed Australian premiere of Margaret Atwood's The Penelopiad and Virginia And Some Of Her Friends at La Mama. Mia is thrilled to join Essential Theatre's 2021 production of Romeo and Juliet.

# Lachlan Martin



He/Him. Originally from Adelaide, Lachlan is now a Melbourne based actor & proud member of the LGBTIQ+ community. He joined the Complete Works Theatre Company ensemble which has seen him as an actor in *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Macbeth* (playing the titular role) & as the Assistant Director for *Extinction*. In 2020, Lachlan was lucky enough to be part of multiple developments including *Flat-Earthers: The Musical*, *They Will Know Us By Trails Of Light*, *Revolution Bar* & *That Was Friday*. Lachlan originated the role of 'Queen' in *Party Snake*, which toured Australia to critical acclaim and awarded him 'Best Actor' at the 2019 Sydney Fringe. He has performed in the Australian national tours of *The Bodyguard*, *Georgie Girl* and *Strictly Ballroom*. This is Lachlan's third tour with Essential Theatre (*A Midsummer's Night's Dream* & *Much Ado About Nothing*) and he is thrilled to be back enjoying the fruits of some of Australia's most beautiful wineries. Instagram - @lachilove

# Joshua Monaghan



Joshua Monaghan is an actor and theatre maker who graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Theatre Practice) in 2015. His training in singing and dance, combined with a passion for comedy, has led to roles in several stage productions, most recently as Thurston Howell III in Humdrum Comedy's "*Gilligan's Island: The Musical*". Joshua has also appeared on some of Australia's most iconic TV series, including "*Neighbours*" and "*Halifax: Retribution*". Joshua has recently completed a state-wide tour with Complete Works Theatre Company playing *Macbeth*.

## Madeline Nunn —



Madeline Nunn is an award-winning writer/theatre-maker/actor working across Australia. Since graduating from the VCA in 2015 Madeline has co-founded the ensemble company Three Birds Theatre, been nominated for two Green Room Awards and has toured her work throughout Victoria, NSW and the US. In 2018/19 Madeline received the highly coveted ATYP Rebel Wilson Theatremaker Scholarship to write her play *Cactus* which was then shortlisted for the Rodney Seaborn Playwrights Award. Most recently, Madeline's play *Kinder Surprise* was presented in *Cybec Electric* with the MTC and has since been turned into a radio play for ABC Radio National's Fictions Program.

## Eddie Orton —



Eddie is a graduate of the National Theatre Drama School. Recent credits include *If We Got Some More Cocaine I Could Show You How I Love You* (KXT/ Green Door Theatre), *Extinction of the Learned Response* (Belvoir/ Glitterbomb), *Our Blood Runs In The Street* (Red Line), *Jurassica* (Red Stitch Actors Theatre), *The Players* (Bell Shakespeare) and the feature film *About An Age*, which won Best Ensemble at the 2018 Orlando Film Festival.

# Alister Smith —



Alister is a Multi-Green Room nominated Theatre Director and a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (Theatre Directing) and The Arts Academy Ballarat (Company 2004 - Music Theatre Performance). Alister is the founder and Artistic Director of The Smith Company & The Actor Workshop. He works extensively with performing arts students within the University sector working with the Victorian College of the Arts, Federation University (formally The Arts Academy) the National Theatre Drama School and The Queensland Conservatorium. His creative highlights include: Bring It On: The Musical (Australian Première - David Venn); Heathers! (Federation University); The Drowsy Chaperone (VCA Music Theatre); The Boys (VCA); Much Ado About Nothing (VCA); Chicago (Federation University); Les Miserables (The QLD Conservatory); The Mystery Of Edwin Drood (Federation University); Wicked (Footlight Productions); Project: Hysteria (TBC Theatre Company); Femme Fatale (Melbourne Fringe 2015); URINETOWN! The Musical (VCA Music Theatre); Slavs! (the National Theatre Drama School); Pacific Overtures (Watch This Theatre Company & Manila Street Productions); Penelope (Red Stitch Actors Theatre); Himmelweg (The Smith Co); Behind Closed Doors (Red Stitch Actors Theatre); Tribes (The Melbourne Theatre Company); Hose (MKA Theatre of New Writing); John Patrick Shanley's Doubt (VCA); The Threepenny Opera (The Smith Co). For more info on Alister's work visit [www.thealistersmithcompany.com](http://www.thealistersmithcompany.com)



## Myles Tankle —

Myles Tankle is an actor, theatre maker and motion capture performer who has been studying stage combat and theatrical violence since 2014. Studying under Lyndall Grant and Felicity Steel, Myles' choreographic style is informed by his training in Capoeira Angola, Filipino Martial Arts and combative self defence, kick boxing and boxing. Prior to undertaking work on 'Romeo and Juliet', Myles has coordinated and created action sequences for Essential Theatre on 'Twelfth Night' (2017) and 'Macbeth' (2019). He has also created sequences for TBC Theatre productions of 'Made in China' (2015), 'Tender Napalm' (2015), 'Mr Naismith's Secret' (2016), 'Rust' (2020). Myles is thrilled to have been a part of this wonderful production of a timeless classic.



## Zoë Rouse —

Zoë Rouse is a freelance set and costume designer, maker and stylist. Based in Melbourne, she is a graduate of the VCA Production School and has recently finished studying Textile Design and Development at RMIT. Zoë has worked backstage for companies like The Australian Ballet, Opera Australia and Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, as well as on main stage musicals like Matilda, Aladdin, The Lion King and Wicked. Some of her theatre design credits include The Sky is Well Designed (Fabricated Rooms), Ground Control (Next Wave Festival), Company by Stephen Sondheim (Watch This), normal.suburban.planetary.meltdown (Malthouse Theatre), Motion of Light in Water (Elbow Room), Limbo (Strut and Fret), Menagerie (The Daniel Schlusser Ensemble) and many more.

# Romeo & Juliet tour dates

## VICTORIA

### *Preview - Saturday 30th January*

Williamstown Botanic Gardens

### *Sunday 31st January*

Crittenden Estate, Mornington Peninsula

### *Thursday 11th February*

Portland Botanic Gardens, Portland

### *Friday 12th & Saturday 13th February*

Leura Park Estate, Bellarine Peninsula

### *Sunday 14th February*

Brighton Library Gardens, Brighton

### *Saturday 20th February*

Delatite Wines, Mansfield

### *Saturday 27th February*

Fowles Wines, Avenel

### *Sunday 28th February*

Byramine Homestead, Moira Arts & Culture

### *Saturday 13th March*

Greenstone Vineyards, Yarra Valley

### *Sunday 14th March*

Civic Park, Warragul

### *Saturday 24th April*

Gapsted Wines, Myrtleford

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### *Friday 5th & Saturday 6th February*

Sevenhill Cellars, Clare Valley

### *Saturday 6th March*

Deviation Road, Adelaide Hills

### *Sunday 7th March*

Seppeltsfield Wines, Barossa Valley

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### *Saturday 27th March*

Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens, Batemans Bay

### *Saturday 10th April*

Winehouse, Hunter Valley

## For bookings visit

[www.essentialtheatre.com.au/whats-on](http://www.essentialtheatre.com.au/whats-on)

*2022 will be a particularly exciting year for us as we celebrate our 20th year of producing Shakespeare in the Vines.*

In 2002 we never imagined we would reach this milestone as independent theatre practitioners.

We approach the season with much anticipation and will announce the production mid year. Be assured it will be big, and we can not wait to share this with you.



Thank you to the Hobsons Bay City Council for supporting our Preview Performance