



Shakespeare in Black and White

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The stage of the theater is all in black and white, from top to bottom. There are six to eight actors that appear in the beginning, also dressed in black, each one holding a purple colored velvet pouch that contains little pieces of paper. On them are written the names of the actors as well as the roles of the play.

The audience takes a pick and determines which actor plays which role: Romeo, Juliet, Mercutio, Petrucio, the Nurse, the Montagues, or the Capulets.

In the middle of the stage there is a portable wardrobe containing some white costumes that each actor uses according to the role assigned him or her, regardless of age or sex.

Juliet is a modern, charming girl with short hair who is very much in love with her Romeo—who is passionate, romantic, and sacrifices himself for her love in this completely anti-romantic 21st century.

The Aquila Company Theater of New York presented, during the Festival of the Aegean in Syros, a very modern and advanced production: very serious, sparse, and inexpensive, retaining Shakespeare's text without modifications.

The best part of the company is the actors and their theatrical education, experience, and original ideas. They do not aim to [only] impress their audience, but strive to present an alternate view of this classic work.

Kudos to them! We wish that our own theatrical actors would follow this example, especially since in recent times their goal has been to impress audiences while distorting classic texts under the labels of "arrangement" and "modern version."