

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

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of the
CARIBBEAN

Same time

Same story

Same words

New PLACE!



Opening November 14th
Plays through November 22nd
Tickets and Info at www.ihsdrama.com



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Why a “PIRATE” Romeo and Juliet?

Well I have to credit my kid, Moss, who came up with that one. But I loved the idea for a few reasons.

The Capulets and Montagues could have been merchant rivals which were prominent in Italy during the Renaissance period. The conflicts during the Golden Age of Piracy also had a commercial component. It might be speculation, but perhaps there were violent conflicts in the port cities of the Caribbean in addition to those at sea, for the same reasons we see conflicts between families in Italy throughout this period.

Also, although some speculate the tale of Romeo and Juliet took place much earlier, Shakespeare himself lived and wrote during the Golden Age Of Piracy (from roughly 1550 to 1650). It is likely that he actually portrayed the story on stage as contemporary with his own time, as he often did with other works. So, we are changing the place, but not necessarily the period.

In addition, there is a lot of great “swashbuckling” in the play, and how easy it is to imagine that happening between the pirates and sailors of the Caribbean. And how fun it is to play it out on stage!

Finally, there is a strong linguistic connection with - -

Shakespeare's Original Pronunciation (OP)

Fairly recent research has given us a pretty good approximation of what Shakespeare's players would have sounded like on stage. It is very close to a West Country dialect (Example: Hagrid from the Harry Potter films) which we most often think of when we think of Pirate speech. The connection originated with Robert Newton, who played Long John Silver in the 1950 film “Treasure Island,” because he actually had a thick West Country accent.

There was a full production in Shakespeare's OP at the Old Globe in the West End of London. And if you would like to hear what it sounded like check out the video promo at our website at ihsdrama.com. I think you will agree it sounds like “Pirate.” For further information there are lots of great videos about Shakespeare's OP on YouTube.

We hope you enjoy our re-imagining of this most famous of tragic romances and thank you for taking a chance on “Romeo and Juliet of the Caribbean.”

Enjoy the show!



Matthew A. Ballin

Matthew A. Ballin
Theatre Arts Director
Irvington Conservatory Theater

CAST LIST

CAPULET PIRATES

Captain Capulet Hosea Chon
Lady Capulet Aleah Haskin
Juliet Capulet Bhargavi Kumaris & Claire Stanton
Nurse Madeleine Conrad
Tybalt Caden Chatkara
Gregory Dylan Aguiar
Sampson Kiera Johnson
Peter Isabella Valdez

MONTAGUE SHIPPING

Lord Montague Alen Carlson
Lady Montague Tanvi Gokhale
Romeo Montague Ishan Mukherjee & Vihaan Ailiani
Benvolio Leo Wong
Balthazar Kaia Liu
Abram Sadie Stephen

GOVERNING PRINCE AND FAMILY

Prince Escalus Ziming (Lyndon) Li
Mercutio Levi Sampson
Paris Marissa Rosado
Prince's Guard Ishan Mukherjee & Vihaan Ailiani
Bhargavi Kumaris & Claire Stanton

PRIESTESSES

Sister Layla Aanjuli Das
Sister June Kiera Johnson

PORT ROYAL RESIDENTS

Apothecary Dylan Aguiar
Watchmen Sadie Stephen & Tanvi Gokhale

CREW

Stage Manager Kate Sison
Props MistressChloe Casis & Mira Thiagarajan
Deck Managers Aryanna Deshmukh
Deck Crew Sundus, Shahid, Sarvin Basnyat,
Ashley Kung, Lindsey Luo, Sebastian Gutierrez
Sound Board OperatorHanaa Azad
Light Board OperatorsJaden Hsu & Olav Sharma
Costume AssistantTrina Sharma
Graphic Artists Jasmine Lai

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..... Matthew Ballin
Assistant Director Daniel Sadsad
Scenic Designer/Technical DirectorStewart Lyle
Fight Choreographer Keith Brown
Production Manager Michele Hartmangruber
Lighting/Sound Coordinator Ryan Willer
Lighting Designer..... Kate Sison
Costume Designer Elizabeth Whitaker
Assistant Costumer Kathy Alvitre
Costume Assistants Kathy Alvitre, Amie Rashe Conrad,
Brenda Monlux, Smita Mukherjee,
Rashmi Nayak & Trina Sharma
Box Office Manager Nicole Marsella-Jensen
Webmaster Martha Garcia
Production Graphics Coordinator Summer Jones & Henry Fung
Marketing and Sponsorship ManagerYolanda Stanton

CAST BIOS



Dylan Aguiar - Sampson, Apothecary

Dylan is enthralled to be in her first Irvington play and debuting as Gregory and The Apothecary. She first played as the first of four Chorus Members in The Odyssey in junior high, and now wishes to pursue an acting career. Dylan would like to express her gratitude to her friends for encouraging her, family members for supporting her, and of course Irvington for bestowing this opportunity unto her.



Vihaan Ailani - Romeo, Prince's Guard

Vihaan is thrilled to return to Irvington for the 4th time after debuting in "A Midsummer Night's Dream". He loves acting and is grateful to perform with such a talented cast! Past roles include an Ancestor (Grandma understudy) in The Addams Family & Mitch Mahoney in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. On screen, Vihaan has been in the films "Bhangra Baby" and "Was I A Good Father?", and recently participated in a Disney acting workshop. He thanks his family, friends, and teachers for their constant support.



Alen Carlson - Lord Montague

Alen is excited to be playing Montague. Last year he was in the production of Cinderella in the ensemble and this is his second show. He would like to thank the cast and crew for being super nice and Mister Ballin for working hard and helping direct this play. He would also like to thank his mom.



Caden Chatkara - Tybalt

Caden is infatuated with the performing arts. As VP of the Choir Board and a Juggling Club officer, Caden sure likes to act like a clown. This will be his 5th performance with ICT, and he can't wait to play the fiery Tybalt. He likes to listen to music, and he seeks out performance like Marco Polo sought out silk. Song is his passion, and he also loves to act. If you also like music and acting, come to "Mamma Mia!" in the Spring!



Hosea Chon - Captain Capulet

Hosea is happy to be at Irvington to debut as Capulet in Romeo and Juliet. He wants to see what a career in acting is like and is grateful to Irvington for giving him a chance. Hosea would like to thank his family and his family's two pet monkeys for supporting him.



Madeleine Conrad - The Nurse

Madeleine is really excited to perform again at Irvington after performing in last year's musical Cinderella as a member of the ensemble. She really loves acting and is very thankful that Irvington allows her to perform. Madeleine would like to thank her teachers, parents, little brother, and friends for encouraging her to perform and showing up to support her.



Aanjuli Das - Sister Layla

Aanjuli Das is a senior at Irvington High School and is thrilled to play Sister Layla in her 5th ICT production. She has most recently played Mr. Green in Clue: On Stage! High School Edition, Lieutenant Rooney in Arsenic and Old Lace, and directed a one-act for the Lenaea Theatre Festival last year. Beyond theatre, she enjoys gardening, baking sweet treats, and watching horror movies. She would like to thank her parents for their continued support and Mr. Ballin for his guidance these past 4 years. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does!



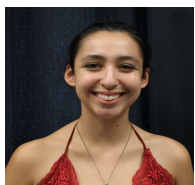
Tanvi Gokhale - Lady Montague & First Watchman

Tanvi is excited to make her IHS theatre debut! A freshman who loves storytelling, she's thrilled to join this talented cast. When she isn't rehearsing, Tanvi enjoys sketching and all forms of art, as well as spending time with other people and having fun. She hopes this will be the first of many adventures on stage and would like to thank her friends, family, and the rest of the cast for their encouragement. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she enjoys bringing it to life!



Aleah Haskin - Lady Capulet

Aleah Haskin must play a good evil mother, as Lady Capulet is the third evil mother role she's played (at this point she's pretty sure she's been type-cast). Her past roles have included Madame (understudy) in ICT's Cinderella and Mrs Wormwood in MCT's Matilda Jr. As her first ever straight play, please laugh loudly at her incredible performance so she gets a really big head and never lets anyone forget it. Until then, "I pray thee, hold thy peace!" and enjoy the show



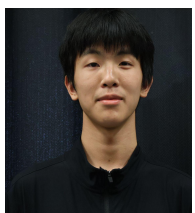
Kiera Johnson - Samspon, Sister June

Kiera Johnson is happy to be in her 2nd production at Irvington Conservatory Theatre. She loves acting and anything performing arts. She would like to thank her family, Levi, and her friends for supporting her through all of her biggest dreams. She hopes you all enjoy Pirate Romeo and Juliet!!!



Bhargavi Kumari - Juliet, Prince's Guard

Bhargavi is excited to be back for her second fall play with Irvington. She is grateful to perform again for everyone and hopes they enjoy the show.



Ziming (Lyndon) Li - Prince Escalus

Ziming Li is a junior student in Irvington High School. He loves movies and musicals, and has dreams to become an actor in the future. In school, he always tries his best to study, be friendly, and honest to everyone. He has great passion for drama, learning, and performing. For Romeo and Juliet, he's glad to be Prince Escalus and ready to bring splendid monologues to the audience.



Kaia Liu - Balthasar

Kaia Liu is so excited to be a part of ICT's production of Romeo and Juliet in the Caribbean. Notable previous roles include Young Elsa in StarStruck Theatre's Frozen Jr., Nightingale in Ohlone College's Once Upon a Mattress, and a Silly Girl in StarStruck Theatre's Beauty and the Beast. In her free time, she loves to sing, bake, and play piano—all while listening to music on repeat. She thanks Mr. Ballin and the cast and crew, for all of their effort in making this show possible.



Ishan Mukherjee - Romeo, Prince's Guard

"His third time on the stage, Under the spotlights heavy gaze, from Arsenic's graceful wine, To Cindy's magical divine. Now in Shakespeare's tragic play, Ishan shall be Romeo in display, The clashing of fatal sword, Ishan hopes to never bore. Fights, dancing, and forbidden love, Romeo and Juliet in heaven above. New faces: cast and crew, on Valhalla's stage the story comes true. Family, friends, Ishan thanks thee all, For support, to make him stand tall. On the stage where all actors glow, Come watch this magnificent show. "



Marissa Rosado - Count Paris

Ahoy ye scallywags! Glad to see ya've joined us for our swashbuckling performances! Marissa Rosado, who plays the role of the dashing and very handsome Count Paris, is delighted to make her way back to her second play and fourth overall production. With our buccaneering battles and armada of actors, our show will have you anchored to your seat. So come and sail the seven seas with us through the classic adventure of Romeo and Juliet in the Caribbean!



Levi Sampson - Mercutio

Levi Sampson is simply a boy looking to put his energy toward something that's fun and is fun for others. He found that in theater, performing in front of others was always a strong suit for Levi, never being scared to be loud. Being very extroverted Levi loves meeting new people and the plays were always a place where he met new people. And he is grateful to be a part of such an amazing production and cast.



Claire Stanton - Juliet, Prince's Guard

Claire Stanton is a freshman at Irvington and is excited to make her stage debut as Juliet in Romeo and Juliet! She first discovered her love of performance in a Film and Production class at Hopkins and built her skills through improv classes at Made Up Theater. She loves making people laugh and bringing up the energy. Claire is excited to bring that same vibe to Romeo and Juliet. Offstage, she enjoys playing video games, hanging out with friends, and spending time with her dog. Her favorite time of day is when she gets to watch shows with her family.



Sadie Stephen - Abram, Watchman

Sadie is super excited to be in her first play at Irvington. She doesn't know whether to pursue acting as a career yet, but she loves it as a serious hobby and is very thankful that Irvington allows her this honor of participating in their plays. She has participated in a few other productions including "Chorus member 2/Athena" from the "Odyssey", "Miss Parker" in "A Great Big Story", and "Tybalt" in "Drop Dead Juliet." Sadie will like to thank her parents for always supporting her and encouraging her love for the arts. She would also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Sollitt for beginning her theater journey.



Leo Wong - Benvolio

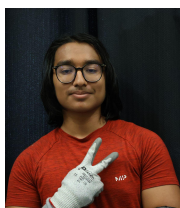
Leo is super excited to play his first major role in a theatrical production as Benvolio! I look forward to being a part of future productions! Kasane Teto is so tuff.

STAGE CREW



Hanaa Azad - Sound Board Operator

Hanaa is excited to be operating the soundboard for this production. 3rd show at Irvington Conservatory Theater, She hopes to continue with the drama department in the future and help work backstage in many more shows.



Sarvin Basnyat - Deck Crew

This is Sarvin's first time as a part of the stage crew. He is thrilled to be part of it and to help build the set. He is planning on pursuing historical architecture as a minor in college and is thrilled to get experience building at Irvington. He would like to thank his parents for supporting him throughout the process, and his instructor Stewart Lyle for teaching him the ways of the crew.



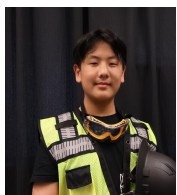
Chloe Casis - Props Mistress

Chloe is excited to join the stage crew of Romeo and Juliet in the Caribbean as her first show. She is extremely grateful for the positive energy from both the cast and crew. Her role as prop manager is a new experience as well as helping build the set for the show.



Aryanna Deshmukh - Deck Manager

This is Aryanna's second time working on a play, though she was in the last play at Irvington. She moves a bunch of stuff so if you see someone funny changing the stuff, that's probably her.



Jaden Hsu - Light Board Operator

Jaden is extremely grateful to be able to be a part of the stage crew in Romeo and Juliet in his freshman year. He really enjoyed the experience of building, bonding, and partaking in the class. He is excited to see his future in a field of performance.



Ashley Kung - Deck Crew

Ashley is excited to be part of the Irvington Conservatory Theater! She is thrilled to be a part of the tech crew for Romeo and Juliet and looks forward to helping bring the show to life behind the scenes. She handles stage left shifts during the play. Enjoy the show! Please cheer loudly for the tech crew. We are here for you if you need anything.



Lindsey Luo - Deck Crew

Lindsey joined the Stage Crew earlier this year and has really enjoyed building the Romeo and Juliet set. She originally joined for the woodworking and painting aspect, but quickly found out that the crew is a cool and friendly group to be around. Lindsey wishes she had joined Stagecraft earlier, because it has been a very fun and rewarding experience.



Trina Anne Ng - Costume Assistant

This is Trina's first time being a part of the stage crew, but she is excited to work on costumes with her amazing teacher Liz Whitaker. She enjoys walking her dog and spending money on clothes. Her dog's name is Cotten. This one's for you, Cotten!



Olav Sharma - Light Board Operator

Olav joined Stagecraft to make some niche friends and see what it's like. He's been locked in and has a lot of dedication for the game. I hope you enjoy the show and please cheer loudly for my fellow techies. We are here if you need anything.

**Kate Sison - Stage Manager**

Kate Sison is so excited to be stage managing her fifth Irvington show! Past credits include Into the Woods (StarStruck Theatre), The Music Man (Palo Alto Players), Finding Nemo Jr. (StarStruck Theatre), and Arsenic and Old Lace (Irvington Conservatory Theatre). She is beyond grateful for all the memories and friends Romeo and Juliet has brought. Enjoy the show!

**Mira Thiagarajan - Props Mistress**

Mira is excited to be a part of the backstage crew for Romeo and Juliet. She is a freshman and it is her first time being a part of any show. During Romeo and Juliet she is doing the props for the show. Her job is to manage where the props go and how they are presented on stage and given to the actors.

**Sundus Pathan - Deck**

Sundus is excited to be returning for her fourth year as a tech. She has been stage crew for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Crucible, Addams Family, Arsenic and Old Lace, and finally, Cinderella. She hopes this show will be a great experience as she has always enjoyed working on Irvington Productions.

**Mohammed Shaahid Shamiyulla - Deck Crew**

"Shaahid" is thrilled to be doing Stagecraft for the 2nd time on deck crew, the first having been in Cinderella. Though he plans to pursue a career in law, he's grateful Irvington has given him this chance to work behind the scenes. He'd especially like to thank his mother for her unwavering support in everything.

**Sebastian Gutierrez - Deck Crew**

Sebastian has worked with the Irvington Conservatory Theater for 3 years and is now going into his 4th. He has worked backstage for Midsummer Night's Dream, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Crucible, The Addams Family, Arsenic and Old Lace and Cinderella. He is proud to have helped build the incredible set for Romeo and Juliet and is excited for the plays in the future.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Matthew Ballin - Director

Matthew Ballin holds a BFA in Theater from UC Santa Barbara, an MFA from The Ohio State University, and spent a year abroad in the Tel Aviv University Overseas program. This school year will be Mr. Ballin's 25th and final year teaching Theater Arts in Fremont; the first 14 having been at Washington High. He has acted and choreographed fights throughout the Bay Area, and is an Associate Artist with the Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company (SPARC) out of Livermore. He thanks his wife and family for managing without him during the crunch, and is grateful to everyone who has supported the ICT program.



Stewart Lyle - Stagecraft/Scenic Designer/Tech Director/Master Carpenter
Stewart Lyle has 200 exhibition credits, and 300 theatrical production, design, construction, management, direction, and performance credits in the US, Asia, and Europe. This includes over 100 appearances as a performer/actor/singer in operas, musicals, and dramas, over 50 as a director, and over 70 as a Scenic Designer, plus he is an award nominee in all three areas. Working with the Students here in Fremont is a JOY! Love always to Donna, his foundation of love for 32 years.



Ryan Willer - Lighting/Sound Coordinator

Ryan Willer is a math and leadership teacher at Irvington High School. He has been teaching for fifteen years and his favorite class to teach is trigonometry. In 2012, he volunteered to help with ICT's fall play "The Hobbit". Since then he has been helping design lighting and sound for nearly all ICT productions.



Elizabeth Whitaker - Costume Designer

For two decades and more hath the fair Liz Whitaker wrought her art upon the stage of ICT, weaving garments fit for kings, queens, and fools alike. Yet though her needle be swift and her vision fair, 'tis not the thread alone that bringeth her joy, but the fellowship of souls who together conjure the magic of the playhouse. So, gentle audience, take thy seat, lend thine eyes to wonder, and revel in the show — but beware! Should thy laughter falter or thy applause fall short, mayhap a curse shall find thee...or thou mayst find thyself walking the plank! And now, the stage is thine — take joy in the magic we've so merrily stitched together.



Michele Hartmangruber - Production Manager

Michele began her theatrical career in 1973 in a new theatre named Valhalla. She started out as a pit orchestra musician, and became ensconced in all of what the theatre has to offer. Acting, directing, technician, marketing, lighting and sound, and her favorite - stage management in over 100 productions! Michele has worked professionally as a Stage Manager and House Manager for the Amador Theatre and Firehouse Arts Center. She also successfully ran the Ohlone College Theatre Festival for 10 years.



Keith Brown - Fight Choreographer

Keith Brown received degrees in Theatre from Cañada College and Humboldt State University before joining the world of education. His stage combat knowledge comes from his training in Historical Longsword, Karate, Tae Kwon Do, and catch wrestling. Roles in acting and production include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bullis Charter School), *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Santa Clara Players), *Once* (Tabard Theater), and the *Da Vinci Code* (Palo Alto Players, upcoming).



Martha Garcia - ICT Webmaster

Martha is the parent of an ICT CCA/PAC alumnus, and has enjoyed giving back to the program as our volunteer Webmaster for the past 11 years! She's a recently retired Executive Assistant as well as a professional percussionist for several Bay Area music ensembles and theater companies (including Fremont's StarStruck Theatre). When not volunteering or performing, Martha can often be found cheerfully searching for and correcting Mr. Ballin's many grammatical and spelling errors before posting information to the ICT website.



Daniel Sadsad - Assistant Director

Daniel Sadsad has been working with the Irvington Conservatory Theater since his freshman year. Daniel participated in all eight ICT theater productions throughout high school. He also loves pepperoni, sausage, bacon, olive, jalapeño, ham, bell pepper, pineapple, and red pepper flakes pizza - each represents a production! Having graduated last year, Daniel has come back to Irvington as an Assistant Director for *Romeo and Juliet*. This is Daniel's last time working with Mr. Ballin since he retires at the end of the school year. He wishes Ballin nothing but the best for the future!

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Thank you to the following businesses for their generous support of our program.



Special Thanks for the continuing support over the years from the

Gebhardt Family:
Chuck, Janice, Bryan,
Jenni & Adela

THANK YOUS

No one can go it alone in the theater and every year that gets more true. We are so lucky to have a fantastic group of staff and volunteers. We would like to extend a special thanks to our stars behind the scenes.

I am so lucky and grateful for my partners in crime, each one an incredible teaching artist. They continue to help me understand this job and keep me from making the big mistakes: Our newest member, Stewart Lyle, our Stagecraft teacher and Scenic Designer has been a fabulous addition to our team, completely cleaning and organizing our scene shop while designing and building our set with the help of his fabulous students; Our Costumer Liz Whitaker brings a whole new visual quality to the stage with each production; Ryan Willer, the ASB Program Director and our expert on all things lighting, sound, and other electrical stuff works tirelessly as the ASG Coordinator and our super tech.

A huge shout out to Henry Fung and Summer Jones who help us with the specialized printing needs for our marketing and PR.

I would like to thank Nicole Marsella-Jensen, who has run our box office for years and takes a huge weight off my shoulders, and Martha Garcia, our fabulous webmaster who keeps our online presence up to date and shiny (and corrects my spelling mistakes in this program).

Our production manager, Michele Hartmangruber, has improved our communication with cast members and parents and coordinated all our meals; taking many tasks off my plate. A theater troupe, like an army, travels on its stomach, and thanks to her we are still moving along.

A huge thanks to former student Daniel Sadsad who took on the often thankless role of Assistant Director. He was here nearly every day helping out in so many ways, jumping in whenever and however he was needed. He is another one of those folks who provides a solution even before I know there's a problem.

I was so lucky this year to find a fellow teacher with fight experience. Keith Brown came on board to choreograph the fights creating some dynamic battles that really enhanced our story telling. Welcome to the team Keith!

A big shout out to the costume shop crew who regularly show up to help Liz out and make our actors look stupendous. Thanks to Kathy Alvitre, Amie Rashe Conrad, Brenda Monlux, Smity Mukherjee, Rashmi Nayak and Trina Sharma.

Thank you to Jasmine Lai for designing our fabulous poster and T-shirt, which you can buy during intermission if there are any left.

I'd like to thank all of our parent volunteers, without whom we could not manage. They brought in meals, manned the box office, made donations, ushered for the show and so much more!

As always, we would like to thank the Theater and Dance Department at Ohlone College for their continued technical and financial support.

A very special welcome and thanks to our new Marketing and Sponsorship Manager, Yolanda Stanton, for tireless work promoting our production through press releases, production photos, developing corporate sponsorships and just getting the word out there and bringing in much needed donations. She has been a big part of the success of this production and the continued surviving and thriving of our program this year.

I'd like to thank my wife Pam, who deals with the stress of having a husband who every school year disappears for a few months to put on plays and musicals with other people's kids. She is the unsung hero of all of our productions, as are all the significant others of staff connected with the play. You make as much a contribution to our shows as anyone.

Of course I would like to thank the entire cast and crew. We have pushed them to the absolute limit and they have endured with diligence, camaraderie, and grace. A group of talented theater artists who give so much of themselves to our productions is a gift to our school and our community.

And finally, thank you, our audience and supporters who make all of this possible through your continued patronage. To all of you and anyone who has helped us in person or by donation Thank you so very much!!!

Sincerely,

*Matthew Ballin
Theatre Director
Irvington High School*

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

No theater program survives on their box office alone, and we desperately need your support, **MORE THAN EVER**, to keep providing the high level of training and quality performances the community has come to expect from ICT.

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Blacow Rd, Fremont**

**To make a monetary donation please mail to:
Irvington High School c/o Matt Ballin, 41800 Blacow Rd.,
Fremont, CA 94538, with memo "For ICT"**

THIS SPRING



PRESENTS



Auditions, Dec 1-2

Callbacks, Dec 3-5

Performances Apr 3-11, 2026

Visit us for more information about our program at:

WWW.IHSDRAMA.COM