



Shakespeare returns to square

By ASHLEY GOODFELLOW
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To be or not to be? If you are asking about the fate of Shakespeare in the Square, this year's answer is a triumphant "To be!"

The Rose Theatre will resurrect the popular outdoor theatre series this after a slight interruption last summer due to funding cuts. Artistic director Scott Lale said this summer, two of the Bard's greatest works— *Twelfth Night* and *Romeo and Juliet*— will be staged in Garden Square.

Last year, the city cut funding for the program; however, seven performances of *Much Ado About Nothing* were staged after Brampton theatre supporters stepped in to donate time, materials and funds to ensure the perennial favourite continued.

This year producers are approaching the festival with a new angle.

"We are back in the square (Garden Square) with two cut-down versions of Shakespeare that are an hour each," explained Lale. "It's going to be a little different, very interactive."

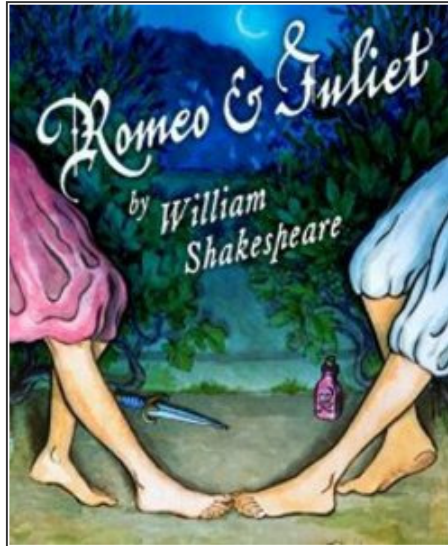
Things will be happening much faster, costume changes will take place in front of the audience, and there will be more opportunity to get acquainted with Shakespeare in a different way.

Lale admits that he at first had hesitations to altering the script of any Shakespeare piece— but the outcome is a trimmed-down, lighter version of the two classic plays which will be palatable to a wider audience.

Twelfth Night is a comedy that ponders love lost and found. A shipwreck separates twins Viola and Sebastian, but tragedy turns to comedy after they wash up in a land where illusion and fantasy confuse reality.

Romeo and Juliet is perhaps the world's greatest love story. It's the tale of two young star-crossed lovers who are caught up in a family feud but are determined to stay together.

The shows run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. through the summer, with *Twelfth Night* July 12 to 28 and *Romeo and Juliet* Aug. 2 to 27 (additional performances on the final Friday and Saturday of the month). For more, visit www.rosetheatre.ca.



Romeo and Juliet.

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