

# ***Romeo and Juliet*: A classic with a twist**

*A reimagining of Shakespeare's romantic tragedy*

July 7, 2015

“ Two households, both alike in dignity, in this fair London, where we lay our scene. ”

The introduction to William Shakespeare's play is well-known to many. And it's the first thing that gets turned on its head in Troubadour Theatre Collective's ***Romeo and Juliet***.

Not Verona, but “fair London”; *this* London. Troubadour founder Francesca Ranalli has pared down the original script, preserving Shakespeare's language and story while molding it into a relevant statement on contemporary culture.

Not a plush modern theatre, but a 19th-century wood, iron, and concrete train building. This reimagined production will be performed in the round, with audience members literally following the action through the newly-refurbished London Roundhouse.

Not the dry period piece from high school English, but a complex and human story of love, acrimony, and the choices we make. Troubadour's diverse acting company brings a modern perspective to the bitter rivalries, close friendships, and dysfunctional family dynamics that feed and frustrate our desire for love.

With a highly unconventional take on a classic work, Troubadour Theatre Collective's immersive ***Romeo and Juliet*** is a striking statement of purpose.

## Performance Details

- Performances run July 23, 24, 25, and 26, 2015, at the London Roundhouse, 240 Waterloo Street. Doors open at 8pm, curtain time is 8:15pm sharp.
- Attendance is limited to 25 for each performance. Advance tickets are available at [tickets.londonfringe.ca](http://tickets.londonfringe.ca); only cash will be accepted at the door.
- The performance requires that audiences follow the action, including up and down flights of stairs.
- A cash bar will be available for refreshments.

## Quick Facts

- ***Romeo and Juliet*** is the first production by Troubadour Theatre Collective. It is presented in association with Ellipsis Digital and the London Fringe Festival.

## Francesca Ranalli

- Founder, Troubadour Theatre Collective.
- Professor of Voice and Acting, Fanshawe College's Theatre Arts.
- Actor, singer, director; has performed in North America and Europe.

## Troubadour Theatre Collective

- A non-profit theatre and opera company founded in 2014.
- Explores theatre and opera in intimate and varied site-specific venues.
- Composed of theatre and music artists dedicated to their art and to the process of collaborative creation.

## Quotes

“Harold Bloom posits 'It is Shakespeare who gives us the map of the mind. It is Shakespeare who invents Freudian Psychology.' And indeed, for these many hundreds of years, Shakespeare's canon remains relevant and thought provoking, particularly with respect to the psychology of what it is to be human. What drives hatred? What gives rise to love? And what influences and determines the choices that we make? So it is, that this story, which everyone knows so well, retains immediacy and truth.”

—Francesca Ranalli, founder, Troubadour Theatre Collective

“It is my belief that Shakespeare would wish his work to be as relevant and accessible today as it was in his day. So we have brought this story, with all the beauty of Shakespeare's rich language, into our environment and time, London, Ontario, 2015. What we discover is that much as specifics of social, political, and cultural influences change, the basis of what it is to be human does not.”

—Francesca Ranalli, founder, Troubadour Theatre Collective

“Any creative work for the theatre is a collaborative process between director, artist, creative team, and audience. All must be implicated for there to be truth and immediacy. The material must be relevant, stimulating and honest, the environment immersive and engaging. The spectator should be engaged in a direct and personal way. Intimate site-specific venues encourage new perspectives and meaningful blurring of boundaries.”

—Francesca Ranalli, founder, Troubadour Theatre Collective

## Media Contacts

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