

## A Love Story With No Walls

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A classic romantic yet tragic love story by the infamous William Shakespeare. This year Romeo and Juliet was performed in the private gardens of King's College it a visually spectacular night filled with love, tears and joy. It was the 30th Anniversary of the Cambridge Shakespeare Festival but the concept of a performance outdoors was totally fresh to me. The play may be a classic one, written 420 years ago, but this year they added new elements which made it feel fresh again. Their performance was sweet, humorous and touching, that would make you enchanted in it.

Directed perfectly by Dr. David with Michael Cummings playing the role of Romeo, Jemima Watling playing the role of Juliet and Teddy Corbett playing the role of Mercutio. The acting of Jemima Watling perfectly expressed that the character Juliet is a teenager shown by the tone of voice Juliet changed between being in love and being annoyed by the attraction of Romeo, standing under her balcony. This was also seen when the Nurse keeps calling her, showing that she is just a typical teenager. Mercutio has a good sense of humour, during the play, which Teddy Corbett presents beautifully by telling jokes, being his acrobatic antics, and being the fool of this play.

The stage effects stimulated my perception and I was satisfied by them, especially the light effect, they made contrast on the sweet and tragic scenes by using all lights on and lights off with some glowing trees respectively, seemed lovely and eye catching to me. The grass path, which was the stage setting of the play, was splendid and it impressively added colour to the play. Also the costumes of the characters were classy and magnificent, which perfectly reflected the temper of each character: Dark colours for Tybalt, who was a cruel man. Light colours for Paris, who was a romantic and smart man.

This play was presented outdoor in the evening, so it was actually better to bring a blanket with you to not hinder your enjoyment. Watching a classic and well known play in a whole new environment is very unique and the interaction between the audience and the actors and actresses that can be only happen in an outdoor play. In the scene when Juliet threw the apple down the balcony, Romeo picked it up and threw it to the audience. Also, when Mercutio jokes around and tells jokes, he sometimes faces at the audience which makes us

feel like we're taking part in the play. The interaction was so realistic and made us feel warm and familiar.

The performance was eye catching and you will probably be regretful for not watching it once in your lifetime. It is definitely no surprise that it will stay strong on stage for another 30 years.