

## NOTES

Written as a satiric tribute to William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet in Hollywood* is a unique short play that pays homage to the world's most popular love story. The juxtaposition of using period-sounding dialogue integrated with contemporary movie titles from Hollywood makes for a unique challenge for the two performers looking for a play that stands out among other literary genres. This short play works beautifully as a duo for a male and female performer; however, its quirkiness allows a male or female performer to also consider using this selection for Humorous Interpretation. The physical demands found within the stage directions should inspire the performers to really push the boundaries with creative blocking. Be faithful to the original intent of the play by making the dialogue *sound* Shakespearean. The use of contrasting contemporary movie titles within the period language will only add to the overall humor of the lines being spoken; after all, part of the fun for the audience will be listening for and identifying the movie titles found within the pseudo-Shakespearean dialogue. So act well your part, there all glory lies!

### Scene One: A party in the courtyard at Juliet's parents' home.

**Romeo:** (*Speaking to his unseen cousin, Benvolio*) Benvolio, tonight we are THE STRANGERS. We are THE OUTSIDERS. WE ARE MARSHALL. We, two Montagues, are still UNFORGIVEN by the Capulets, thus the reason I feeleth like a REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE as we becometh THE WEDDING CRASHERS at this TOMBSTONE of a party in the TWILIGHT of a NEW MOON. THE HOURS pass under this PAPER MOON and thy still hast not found THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION, JUNO? (*As in "You know?"*) 'Tis THE AGE OF INNOCENCE, and tonight, AGAINST ALL ODDS, I seeketh an AFFAIR TO REMEMBER. (*Suddenly, Romeo notices the most beautiful girl at the festivities giggling with a group of girls*) Wait, do mine eyes deceiveth me, or is that diamond of a damsel shining brightly across the courtyard not THE JEWEL OF THE NILE worthy of ROMANCING THE STONE? (*Romeo leaves Benvolio and approaches Juliet and the other young ladies; however, he still does not know Juliet's name or how to introduce himself.*) So, is it trueth what they say. GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN? (*The young girls still do not acknowledge Romeo, so he taps Juliet on the shoulder and clears his throat*) GIRL?—

**Juliet:** (*Irritated, as she was engaged in conversation with the other young ladies*) INTERRUPTED! (*Suddenly, all of Juliet's friends leave her*

# Romeo and Juliet in Hollywood

By Gregory T. Burns

*and rejoin the other party guests. Acknowledging their departure)* Fine timing thou hast. Look...AND THEN THERE WERE NONE!

**Romeo:** Sorry. Wast thou sharing DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD?

**Juliet:** No, merely CRIMES OF THE HEART. *(Noticing Romeo's cousin, Benvolio, is now courting her friends)* I doth see your friend is entertaining THE WOMEN with DIRTY DANCING and CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND.

**Romeo:** MY FAIR LADY, I doth assure thee thy cousin is AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN. There is no need for concern. Benvolio will indeed only DO THE RIGHT THING.

**Juliet:** I hopest so. CARRIE, CINDERELLA, JULIA, MARY POPPINS, HEIDI, THELMA AND LOUISE, THE LITTLE GIRL WHO LIVES DOWN THE LANE...

**Romeo:** Who? ANNIE?

**Juliet:** ANNIE HALL and HANNAH AND HER SISTERS. Thou art all DREAMGIRLS.

**Romeo:** One of the LITTLE WOMEN looketh to be quite THE TEMPEST.

**Juliet:** *(Acknowledging which friend to whom Romeo is referring)* Sophie...

**Romeo:** Sophie?

**Juliet:** *(Sarcastically)* MISS CONGENIALITY... *(Yelling to Sophie)* HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU!

**Romeo:** As thine WITNESS, Sophie looketh to be in love.

**Juliet:** WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

**Romeo:** I doth believe she is leaving the party with Benvolio.

**Juliet:** Thou art not MY SISTER'S KEEPER. If she leaveth the party with a SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE or THE CAT IN THE HAT, 'tis no concern of mine.

**Romeo:** True. 'Tis SOPHIE'S CHOICE... *(Noticing Juliet's shoes)* Ah, I doth see THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA... *(Finally introducing himself)* ROMEO...

**Juliet:** *(Gesturing to herself)* AND JULIET...

**Romeo:** *(Reaching out, taking her hand and kissing it)* ENCHANTED... *(Pointing to her hair and complimenting her)* GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES.

**Juliet:** *(Quickly pulling out a can and spraying her head)* HAIRSPRAY...

**Romeo:** *(Referring to her gown)* Thy gown is beautiful. BLUE VELVET? *(Juliet shakes her head yes)* I doth believe thou would looketh just as PRETTY IN PINK. *(Motioning to Juliet's mask, as if asking her to take it off)* Wouldst thou mind removing THE MASK?

**Juliet:** *(Juliet removes the mask from her face)* FOR YOUR EYES ONLY...