

# SAINT LOUIS **BALLET**

## **ROMEO & JULIET**

**Synopsis** (*Read & Watch: time codes in BOLD refer to the same plot point in the video.*)

### **Prologue**

Children are playing when suddenly their parents, whose families have quarreled for generations, put an end to the children's merriment. The children are confused about why they are not allowed to play together.

### **Act I**

Day breaks in Verona. Romeo pursues Rosaline, who will not receive his affection. His friend Mercutio and cousin Benvolio console him amongst his Montague family. When the Capulets arrive, the multi-generational feud resumes in a fight led by Benvolio and Tybalt. The rising conflict is disrupted by the arrival of the Prince of Verona as he makes arrests and demands peace. Meanwhile in the Capulet's home, Juliet plays with her doll and nurse. Her parents, Lord and Lady Capulet, interrupt the frivolity to introduce her to Paris, a young man whom they have chosen to be her husband. Outside the Capulet house guests arrive for a masked ball.

**(0:00)** At the ball Paris relentlessly seeks Juliet's attention. **(0:31)** Romeo, in pursuit of Rosaline, dons masks with Mercutio and Benvolio. They sneak into the festivities and while Mercutio jests with the guests, Romeo notices Juliet. Juliet avoids Paris as she and Romeo fall in love. **(1:09)** Tybalt recognizes Romeo and demands that he leaves. **(2:05)** Unable to sleep after the ball, Juliet thinks dreamily of Romeo when he appears in the garden. They dance and declare eternal love for one another.

### **Act II**

**(2:55)** The next day in the market, Mercutio and Benvolio dance as Romeo daydreams of Juliet. Her nurse arrives with a letter for Romeo; Juliet has arranged for Friar Lawrence to secretly marry them later that same day. **(3:30)** Romeo rushes to the chapel and Friar Lawrence marries the two lovers. **(3:43)** Tybalt arrives at the marketplace, looking for Romeo. Romeo arrives soon after, refusing to engage in a duel. Mercutio takes up the challenge and is killed. Romeo avenges his friend's death, killing Tybalt. The Prince of Verona orders Romeo to be exiled as punishment for the murder. As the two families mourn the tragic deaths, Juliet is distraught at the loss of Tybalt and the thought of losing Romeo.

### **Act III**

**(5:00)** The next morning, Juliet's parents arrive to discuss hastening her marriage to Paris but, to her parents' dismay, Juliet refuses to comply. **(5:58)** As they leave, Romeo secretly enters the room to see Juliet one last time before he must leave Verona.

**(6:57)** A desperate Juliet seeks the guidance of Friar Lawrence. He presents her with a solution: she will drink a sleeping potion that will make her fall into a death-like sleep. Thinking her dead, her parents will place her in the family crypt. Romeo will be alerted by Friar Lawrence to return under and take her away from Verona. That evening Juliet agrees to marry Paris but drinks the potion, according to plan. Juliet's nurse and friends arrive for the wedding day, but when they can't rouse her, they believe her to be dead.

Failing to receive Friar Lawrence's message Romeo returns to Verona, distraught by the news of Juliet's death. He enters the Capulet family crypt where Juliet has been laid to rest and finds Paris next to Juliet's body. Romeo engages Paris in a fight and kills him. Overcome with grief at the death of Juliet, Romeo then poisons himself. Juliet wakes and, upon finding Romeo dead, stabs herself. The two families find Romeo and Juliet lying lifeless and, through their grief, finally find peace.

# SAINT LOUIS **BALLET**

**Vocabulary:** Provide a brief definition to these words from the synopsis.

1) dons: \_\_\_\_\_

2) avenges: \_\_\_\_\_

3) exiled: \_\_\_\_\_

4) crypt \_\_\_\_\_

5) Act (i.e. "Act I, Act II...") \_\_\_\_\_

6) prologue \_\_\_\_\_

**Comprehension:** After reading the synopsis, answer the following questions:

1) In what town does the story take place? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Who are the two families of the story? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

3) Who is Romeo interested in when the story begins? \_\_\_\_\_

4) Who are Romeo's two best friends? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

5) Who looks after Juliet for her parents? \_\_\_\_\_

6) Who is Juliet supposed to marry? \_\_\_\_\_

7) Who does Tybalt kill? \_\_\_\_\_