

Star-crossed and Starstruck by University High's production of Romeo and Juliet!
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Parting is such sweet sorrow...especially when the curtain falls on the fate of two young hearts bound by passion and undone by fate: Romeo and Juliet. This timeless performance encapsulates their fleeting love in tender light, leaving the question of how a mere name could bring tragedy upon them all.

Emerging from the grove of sycamores, Aydean Eskandari sulks across the stage as the lovesick Romeo. Eskandari moves with both the naive recklessness of youth and the raw, fervent urgency to love, his yearning voice turning every monologue into a vulnerable confession. Moreover, his talent shines brightest alongside the lovely Juliet.

Opposite him, Jojo Quarry's Juliet emits a delicate radiance on the stage. Her use of stillness during soft, romantic exchanges leaves an intimate silence that speaks louder than any line. Her unbridled chemistry with Eskandari makes hearts ache to believe in their love, even knowing that they are ultimately destined for doom. However, Quarry channels Juliet's duality, as her desperate sobs at Romeo's banishment washes away her innocence and gives way to her fierce rebellion in the final act.

Clashing with a fiery hatred, enter the female princes: Maely Cernicky as Benvolio and Isabella Dym as Tybalt. Stark opposites, Cernicky embodies Benvolio's levelheaded nature through her controlled poise, while Dym's fervid Tybalt radiates the desire to fight with her aggressive physicality. Their dynamic frenzy poses as a reminder of the long-standing Capulet and Montague feud and keeps the stage charged with energy.

The ensemble of the Montague mob, led by the Grisha Naganov's playful Mercutio, bursts onto the stage with vibrant energy. The bond between Benvolio (Cernicky), Romeo (Eskandari), and Mercutio (Naganov) radiates the warmth of an authentic brotherhood, bound together with chaos.

Not to be overlooked, Sayiid Martinez in the role of Abraham adds life and undeniable charm to the group through his animated physicality and expressive facial reactions. This comical camaraderie ensures that the darker undertone of tragedy never overshadows the play's comedic spark.

Despite the limited number of members, the running crew executed scene changes with impressive speed, each set change seamless and swift. Keeping the momentum alive, Kat Fu's exceptional work on sound complemented these transitions and set the mood of the atmosphere for upcoming scenes.

Step into Verona to witness University's talented cast and crew bring to life this timeless tale once more.