

# Romeo and Juliet to be Staged November 11-16 at SWOSU

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William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is being presented November 11-16 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. SWOSU Players from the Department of Communication and Theatre in the production are (front from left): Hannah Myers, Celina TX; Sara Molnar, Fay; Kayla Argo, Plains KS; Eryn Brooks, Woodward; Bethany Schmidt, Enid; Tanner Fisher, Calumet; and Emma Brown, Clinton. Second row from left-Daniel Serna, Oklahoma City (Southmoore); Randi Rowland, Tuttle; Matt Ebner, Grandfield; Tyler Powell, Woodward; Cody Carnahan, Sayre; Carson Elwell, Cordell; Adam Boothby, Guymon; and J.J. Witt, Guymon. Third row from left-Eric Martin, Weatherford; Steven Houdek, Sapulpa; and Riley McCallay, Hammon. Back row from left-De'Andre Moore, Midwest City; and Dakota Jones, Yukon. Not pictures are Ashley Howard, Burns Flat-Dill City; Casey McKay, Lone Wolf; and Eva Zitterkob, Weatherford.

One of the greatest - and most tragic - of all love stories will be staged November 11-16 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is being presented by the SWOSU Players of the Department of Communication and Theatre.

The staging concept has a very contemporary feel to it, according to director Steve Strickler. SWOSU Theatre has updated the visual elements into a very contemporary world that is heavily influenced through a Gothic style.

The opening lines of the play tell the audience that this is "a pair of star-crossed lovers" and that they "take their life." Thus, they are thwarted by fate. A twist that will be evident in this production is that fate will be personified through the character of the Apothecary.

"I am very excited to implement this into our production -- especially since the role is being played by my colleague Stephen Haynes, technical director/professor of design," Strickler said. "Stephen brings a great amount of insight to the role, the production and to our rehearsal process."

Haynes has carried the Gothic treatment into his scenic and costume designs as well - especially the influence of Gothic arches.

Some other exciting aspects of the production include original music and sound composed by student sound designer Eric Martin and new faculty member in the Department of Communication and Theatre - Dr. Matthew Ramsey. The fight sequences have been choreographed by Lloyd Caldwell, a professional fight choreographer.

*Romeo and Juliet* will be performed at the SWOSU Hilltop Theatre at 7:30 p.m. nightly on November 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and at 2 p.m. on November 14.

Admission is free with a valid SWOSU I.D., \$5 for adults and \$3 for non-SWOSU students.

Seating is very limited for the production; therefore, advance reservations are highly recommended. Four special morning performances for high school students have already sold out. Reservations can be made at the box office -- Monday through Friday from 4-6 p.m. or by calling 580.774.6046.