HARLEQUIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Release Date: 03/27/2025 End Date: 05/18/2025

Harlequin brings Shakespeare back to the State Theater with a fresh adaptation of *Romeo & Juliet*

Olympia, WA – March 27, 2025 – Harlequin Productions presents <u>Romeo & Juliet</u>, a new adaptation of William Shakespeare's classic romantic tragedy, April 25 – May 18, 2025. Adapted and directed by Producing Artistic Director Aaron Lamb.

When two young lovers lock eyes across a crowded dance floor, their hearts are forever bound. But can their love survive the brutal blood feud that has torn apart their rival families, the Capulets and Montagues? The greatest love story of all time, Shakespeare's classic Romeo and Juliet has captivated audiences and artists for centuries.

Now, in a nation divided like no other time in recent history, the question posed by these two young people rings loud and long: can true love survive in a divided community? This fresh new adaptation by Artistic Director Aaron Lamb seeks to find modern parallels and star-crossed relevance with the young lovers.

Through design and directorial choices that set the production in the here and now, Lamb hopes to bring Romeo and Juliet's doomed love story into the present day to ask the question, "Can love survive in a divided society?"

Says Lamb, "The play serves as a reminder that the truth of the world does not lie in absolutes, but somewhere in the messy middle. When you can't see both sides of an idea, that messy middle that you can't control may feel a lot like fate, but the deaths of the lovers are far from predestined. In fact, the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet is that their deaths could have been avoided at countless steps along the way if any of these characters weren't blinded by their own absolutism."

Lamb considers *Romeo* & *Juliet* to be Shakespeare's most beautiful play, and the stage design will support this thesis with moments of striking visual impact.

Click here for publicity photos for the production, which include photographer and actor credits.

Click here for a link to the Romeo & Juliet show page.

Production Information

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents <u>Romeo & Juliet</u>, a new adaptation of William Shakespeare's classic romantic tragedy, adapted and directed by Artistic Director Aaron Lamb.

WHEN: April 25 – May 18, 2025

WHERE: State Theater, 202 4th Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at harlequinproductions.org, by phone at 360-786-0151, or in person 12-5:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday at the State Theater Box Office, 202 4th Ave E.

General admission tickets \$48 Senior 60+/Military \$45 Student/Youths Under 25 \$33 Rush Tickets (2 hours prior to showtime) General \$24: Teens/Under 20 \$5

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Opening Night: Friday, April 25 at 7:30 pm **Pay-What-You-Can:** TBA prior to Opening **Closing:** Sunday, May 18 at 2:00pm

CATEGORY: Shakespearean Drama

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 13 and older with guidance for mature situations

CAST:

Rachel Mills Juliet
Marcus Wolf Romeo

Chelsey Sheppard Mercutio/Ensemble
Mykahla George Benvolio/Ensemble
Araquin Boome Tybalt/Ensemble
Ejay Amor Balthazar/Ensemble
Henry Talbot Dorset Nurse/Ensemble

Jason Marr* Friar Lawrence/Ensemble
Caitlin Macy-Beckwith Lady Capulet/Ensemble
Capulet/Ensemble

Teri Lee Thomas Chorus/Prince/Ensemble
Jacqueline Edwards Montague/Ensemble

Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.

PR: Helen Harvester, Marketing and Communications Director helen@harlequinproductions.org

^{*} Indicates membership in the Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.