

Connecting people with place through site-integrated theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We Players announces CAST & CREW and TICKET SALES for

Romeo & Juliet
at Rancho Petaluma Adobe

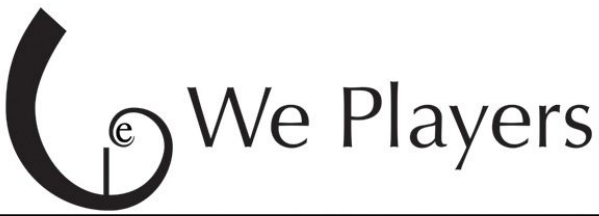
by William Shakespeare

Directed by Ava Roy

Produced by Lauren D. Chavez and Ava Roy

Original Score by Charlie Gurke





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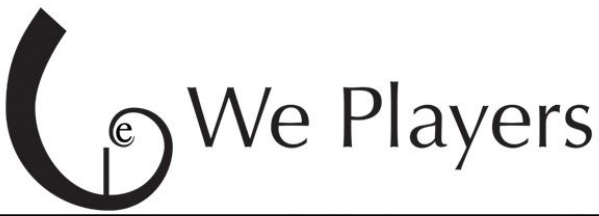
Monday, June 13: (San Francisco, CA): We Players (*Artistic Director, Ava Roy; Managing Director, Lauren D. Chavez*), will present **Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* at the historic Rancho Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park in August/ September 2016. Tickets open to general public on the summer solstice, June 20, 2016.** Continuing nearly 10 years of unprecedented partnership with the National Park Service and California State Parks - We Players will once again integrate a well-loved Shakespeare play into the environs of a national historic landmark. **Audiences will enter a 360 degree sphere of performance as We Players blurs the boundary between audience and actor and history and the present, all on the spectacular grounds of Rancho Petaluma Adobe.**

CASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

Making their We Players' debut, the company welcomes Courtney Walsh as Mercutio and Prince Escalus, Rush Rehm as Friar Laurence, Steve Thomas as Tybalt and Paris, John Steele as Benvolio, Amy Nowak as Peter, and Mohammad Shehata as Romeo. In addition to predominantly new talent, several We Players veterans complete the ensemble - Jennie Brick (*2015 TBA finalist for her performance as Eugenie in We Players' Ondine at Sutro*) will play the Nurse, and Maria Leigh (*The Odyssey on Angel Island, Macbeth at Fort Point*) will play Juliet. Director Ava Roy has merged the roles of Lord and Lady Capulet into one character, to be played by another We Players' alumna, Libby Oberlin (*Ondine at Sutro, The Odyssey on Angel Island*).

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

As with all recent We Players productions, Artistic Director Ava Roy and Managing Director Lauren Chavez will co-produce. Resident Music Director Charlie Gurke (a 2014 TBA award winner for his original score for *Macbeth at Fort Point*), will compose an original score and music direct. We Players welcomes back Brooke Jennings (TBA award winning costume designer for her work on the company's 2015 production *Ondine at Sutro*), to design the show. Becky Robinson-Leviton will choreograph the dances, including audience-participation group dances at the masquerade ball embedded in the play. Original, hand-made masks will be created by visual artist Monica Lundy. Lundy's work can be seen in many local galleries and has been featured in We Players' visual art exhibits on Alcatraz Island (2011), Angel Island (2012), Fort Point (2013), and SF Maritime Museum (2015). Megan Hillard, who has provided properties and production support in several recent productions, will serve as Properties Master. Benjamin Stowe will choreograph the fights. Further credits include Moira McGovern as Production Stage Manager, Britt Lauer as Stage Manager and Fight Captain, Albert Kong as Assistant State Manager and Lauren Matley as House Manager. *Romeo & Juliet* will be directed by Ava Roy.



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EXPERIENCING THE BAY AREA WITH WE PLAYERS

As with recent and ongoing collaborations at other National Park Sites (*Alcatraz Island 2009-2011, Fort Point 2013-2014, SF Maritime 2011-2017, Marin Headlands 2014, Sutro Baths/ Land's End 2015, Fort Mason Center 2015*) We Players entices visitors to environmentally rich, historically and culturally charged sites, and invites guests to experience these places with their senses awakened. "An essential goal of our work is to inspire in our audience personal relationships with the places in which we play," says Artistic Director Ava Roy. So far, in this season of love and intrigue, We Players has explored scenes and vignettes of *Romeo & Juliet* in many unique ways. We Players held four performance-infused parties in four unique venues, known as *The Capulet Ball*, Mask-making salons, as well as exciting staged combat events known as *Sandwiches and Swordfights*. August through September culminates with the large-scale, fully site-integrated production of *Romeo & Juliet* at historic Rancho Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park in Sonoma County.

ABOUT WE PLAYERS

We Players was recently recognized by Backstage.com as [one of seven companies](#) around the globe producing groundbreaking immersive theatre. We Players was featured in [American Theatre Magazine's cover story on immersive theatre](#) and was honored by San Francisco Magazine with the "Best of the Bay" pick for their unique site-specific performance work noting, "We Players didn't just break the fourth wall, it toppled the whole playhouse." We Players has received several "Best of Bay" awards from the SF Weekly, including this mention in their 2015 award, "**We Players actors have the ability to draw power out of their surroundings, channeling it into spectacular, immersive experiences for audience members unlike anything you'll see on Broadway.**"

We Players creates site-integrated performances that transform public spaces into realms of participatory theatre, in an effort to engage with history and the environment, build community, and activate personal relationships with place. **Our work inspires, awakens the senses, and connects people with each other and the environment.** We Players is a Bay Area arts non-profit founded in 2000 at Stanford University by Ava Roy, and managed by Ava Roy and Lauren Dietrich Chavez since 2009. For more information about We Players, please visit www.weplayers.org.

Calendar Listing Information

**In partnership with California State Parks,
We Players presents**

**Romeo & Juliet
at Rancho Petaluma Adobe
Sonoma County, CA**

Dates: Friday - Sunday, August 5 - September 25

Times: Performances are timed with the sunset. Start times listed below:

8/5-7 & 8/12-14 at 6pm; 8/19-21 at 5:45pm; 8/26-28 & 9/2-4 at 5:30pm; 9/9-11 at 5:15pm;
9/16-18 at 5pm; and 9/23-25 at 4:30pm

Location: Rancho Petaluma Adobe at 3325 Adobe Rd, Petaluma, CA 94954

Tickets: \$45-80

Tickets will be available at: www.weplayers.org

Information, group sales and educational opportunities contact:

Lauren D. Chavez, Managing Director

Phone: 415.547.0189

Website: WePlayers.org

For press reservations or more information email press@weplayers.org.