

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## *Julian and Romeo and Juliet and Romea*: New imaginings of Shakespeare classic

William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, one of the world's most famous plays, is a tragic story about the love of two young people forbidden to be together because of their feuding families.

The UTAS Tasmanian College of the Arts second year theatre students will take this story of forbidden love to a new level. Under the direction of Dr Robert Lewis, a split cast version will give the classic tale a twist.

"The twist is that the protagonists of the show, Romeo and Juliet, depending on the performance, are played by two males or two females: a split cast," said Dr Lewis.

Under the context of same sex marriage, the dual performances of R&J+J&R delve deep into the theme of forbidden love between Romeo and Juliet.

Audiences will follow the story of the two young lovers who find themselves undeniably attracted to one another when they meet at a ball thrown by the Capulet household. Unfortunately both of their families have been feuding for generations. Confused, but unable to overcome the intense feelings that they have for each other, they have to decide whether it is possible to pursue their love without consequences.

The story will be controversial, thought-provoking and above all, entertaining. Audiences are invited to alternative performances in order to view both gender roles.

### **Performances**

#### **When: May 7th – 10th**

Wednesday 7th: Female - Main Show: 7pm

**Thursday 8th:** Male- Main Show: 7pm

#### **Friday 9th:**

Male - Matinee: 1pm

Female - Main show: 7pm

**Saturday 10th:**

Female - Matinee: 1pm

Male - Main show: 7pm

**Where:** Annexe Theatre, Tasmanian College of the Arts, Inveresk

**Tickets:** Adult: \$15

Students: \$10

Concession: \$10

**Ticket Booking Details:** Cultural Activities Office, Tasmanian College of the Arts, Inveresk, 9am – 4pm, Monday to Thursday, (03) 6324 4450, or email [Deborah.Sciulli@utas.edu.au](mailto:Deborah.Sciulli@utas.edu.au) Door sales available one hour prior to any performance.

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