

## EIU's 'Romeo and Juliet' Work of Art

By KIM THEDE

Everyone knows the stories of star-crossed lovers. We have seen them in *West Side Story* and now, again, in *Romeo and Juliet*.

The play opened last weekend in the Eastern Illinois University Fine Arts Theatre. It is also scheduled for next weekend at 8 p.m. Saturday, Monday and Tuesday and at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The cast includes Montague (Harold Truitt), his wife (Cindy Osborn), Capulet (Clay Peterson), his wife (Anne Schluter), Mercutio (Kevin Reed),

Benvolio (Jed Russell), Tybalt (Frank Adducci), Romeo (Jeff Bennett), Juliet (Jeanne Waller) and her nurse (Lynn Lupo).

The Montagues and Capulets are two families that have been feuding for generations — for what reason we do not know. At a family fling thrown by the Capulets, some of Montague's relatives crash.

The young Montagues dance merrily with the Capulet's friends. All seems to be fine until Romeo and Juliet see each other. It is love at first

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sight. This enrages the fiery-tempered Tybalt.

Lady Capulet and her husband are strongly against any kind of relationship with the Montagues. In public they are at each other's throats. In private they ridicule each other.

And so. Romeo and

Juliet seek out a friar and are secretly married. Unaware of the match, Juliet's parents promise her hand to Paris, a young nobleman.

Juliet, desperately afraid and confused as to what to do, goes again to the friar who married her and Romeo. He suggest a plan. Juliet will take a potion that will make her appear to be dead. Romeo will find her in the Capulet family tomb when she awakens from her deathlike sleep and the two will be reunited.

A fated mix-up prevents

Romeo from finding out about the friar's plan. When he learns of Juliet's "death," Romeo is distraught. At Juliet's side, he takes a vial of poison and is dead before Juliet awakens.

The friar, in an attempt to reach Romeo before he reaches the tomb, is too late. Juliet is revived and sees her love lying dead at her feet. She takes his knife and plunges it into her own breast.

The Capultes and Montagues arrive at the tomb to confront the scene before them. In their selfish bickering, they have

torn their own families apart. In the final touching moments of the play, the families reconcile — too late to save their children.

The production is a work of art. Between brilliant swordplay (one of the highlights of this production is a sword duel between Tybalt and Mercutio), and the young men teasing the nurse, the play could be right off Broadway!

The costumes, set and acting are all superb. Don't miss *Romeo and Juliet*. It will only be here one more weekend.