

## Media Release

18 March 2007

### The Shakespeare Globe's Company of Players presents

## ROMEO AND JULIET by William Shakespeare

*The shifting moods of adolescence have never been better dramatized...*

It's summer in Verona. Stifling heat and tension in the air. Two powerful families clash in ugly street brawls, stirring up ancient animosities. Two young people meet and fall in love. The tragic story of these star-crossed lovers has been a perennial favourite for more than 400 years. This new production from the Shakespeare Globe Centre will bring all the passion and lyricism of the world's greatest love story to the stage of the **Bondi Pavilion Theatre** for a limited season from **30 May to 23 June 2007**.

*Romeo & Juliet* is a play that is by turns delicate and intense, uproariously funny, obscene, and always heartbreaking. Shakespeare expended some of his finest lyrical verse on this story of two star-crossed lovers.

Director **Matthew O'Sullivan** brings an intimate knowledge of the play to this 2007 production having first appeared in it in 1967 in a Royal Shakespeare Company production starring Ian Holm at Stratford-on-Avon. Some years later he directed it in New Zealand (and played Mercutio) in a production that one critic called "*sheer exhilaration*".

In the 1970's Matthew played the Chorus and the Prince in a Nimrod Theatre production by John Bell starring Mel Gibson and Angela Punch McGregor.

This new production will be set in the late Renaissance period (what Matthew prefers to call "modified Renaissance") but will be entirely modern in approach. "*Feuding families, old hatreds, mindless violence, the stupidity of the old, the innocence of the young – what could be more contemporary*" says Matthew O'Sullivan "*I can't wait to start work on it*".

The cast will feature several members of the Globe's core ensemble who have previously appeared in *King Lear*, *The Tempest* and *Hamlet*, including **Alan Faulkner**, **Les Asmussen**, **Anthony Hunt** and the Globe's director and founder, **Diana Denley**, returning to the stage after many years of producing and directing, to play the nurse.

**Tony Youlden** will design and light the show; Composer & Choreographer is **Guy McEwan** with new NIDA graduate **Helen Jacobs** as costume designer.

*The Shakespeare Globe Centre Australia works in affiliation with Centres around the world, to encourage the enjoyment and study of the Shakespearean arts.*

#### BONDI PAVILION THEATRE

Queen Elizabeth Drive, Bondi Beach

**Wednesday 30 May – Saturday 23 June 2007**

**Preview:** Wednesday 30 May 7.30pm; **Opens:** Thursday 31 May 7.30pm

**Evenings:** Wednesdays to Saturdays 7.30pm

**Matinees:** Friday 1, 8, 15, 22 June 2pm; Wed 6, 13, 20 pm

Tuesday 5, 12, 19 June 11am; Thursday 7, 14, 21 June 11am

**Prices:** Adult \$36; Concession \$30; MEAA & Students \$25

**Bookings:** 1300 306 776 or [www.mca-tix.com](http://www.mca-tix.com)

**Information:** [www.shakespeareglobe.org.au](http://www.shakespeareglobe.org.au)

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