



Kit Connor and Rachel Zegler Ignite Passion in Romeo + Juliet!

Description

Broadway critique by Adam Feldman

In Sam Gold's audacious Broadway production of *Romeo and Juliet*, an oft-disregarded comic interlude from Act IV finds itself recontextualized as a thematic cornerstone. As the Capulet family mourns what they perceive as Juliet's lifeless form, a servant implores the musicians, in a tongue-in-cheek manner, for a 'merry dump' to alleviate his despair, exclaiming, "O play me some merry dump to comfort me." This production not only includes this moment but invigorates it with contemporary flair, as the servant demands an encore of the 2011 melancholy anthem "We Are Young" by the band Fun, warning them of dire consequences should they refuse.

This irreverent line, albeit a deviation from the 16th-century text, encapsulates Gold's distinctly Gen Z reimagining of the tragedy that unfolds between the feuding Montagues and Capulets. The selection of "We Are Young" is not merely a modern nod; it serves as a potent emblem of the production's referential postmodernity. The show's visual aesthetics resonate with contemporary youth culture, underscoring the idea that this *Romeo and Juliet* is palpably about the exuberance of youth. The set, designed by the collective known as dots, exudes a nightclub ambiance replete with inflatable furniture and whimsical touches, while costume designer Enver Chakartash dresses the cast in casual streetwear, firmly positioning Juliet, portrayed by Rachel Zegler, as the quintessential 13-year-old grappling with nascent desires and frustrations.

Here, Verona is devoid of its adult figures; the narrative unfolds amidst a cadre of youthful, carefree characters, with the intergenerational conflict rendered almost non-existent. Romeo and Juliet themselves, exquisitely portrayed by Kit Connor and Zegler, spiral into their ill-fated romance amidst a cacophony of youthful recklessness. The adaptation, while innovative, perhaps oversimplifies the tragic dimensions of the original work, reducing its moral complexities to mere youthful folly executed against a backdrop of neglect.

***Romeo + Juliet*. Circle in the Square Theatre (Broadway). By William Shakespeare. Directed by Sam Gold. Featuring Kit Connor, Rachel Zegler, Gabby Beans, Tommy Dorfman, Sola Fadiran, and Gíán Pérez. Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes, including intermission.**

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Audacious** /ɔ:'deɪʃəs/ (adjective): Showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks.
2. **Recontextualized** /,ri:kən'tek.stʃu.ə.laɪzd/ (verb): To put something into a new context.



3. **Irreverent** /ɪˈrɛv.ə.rənt/ (adjective): Showing a lack of respect for people or things that are generally taken seriously.
4. **Exuberance** /ɪgˈzʊ:.bə.rəns/ (noun): The quality of being full of energy excitement and cheerfulness.
5. **Cacophony** /kæˈkɒf.ə.ni/ (noun): A harsh discordant mixture of sounds.
6. **Oversimplifies** /,oʊ.vərˈsɪmplɪ,faɪz/ (verb): To make something overly simple and neglect its complexities.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who is the director of the audacious Broadway production of *Romeo and Juliet* mentioned in the critique?
Option: Sam Gold
Option: Adam Feldman
Option: Kit Connor
Option: Rachel Zegler
2. Which band's song "We Are Young" is humorously demanded during the production?
Option: Fun
Option: Queen
Option: The Beatles
Option: Coldplay
3. Who is portrayed as the quintessential 13-year-old grappling with nascent desires and frustrations in the play?
Option: Juliet
Option: Romeo
Option: Kit Connor
Option: Adam Feldman
4. Which term is not used to describe the visual aesthetics of the production?
Option: Nightclub ambiance
Option: Rustic charm
Option: Inflatable furniture
Option: Whimsical touches
5. Who is one of the actors featured in the production directed by Sam Gold?



- Option: Rachel Zegler
- Option: Tom Hanks
- Option: Leonardo DiCaprio
- Option: Emma Watson

6. What is the duration of the play including intermission?

- Option: 2 hours 30 minutes
- Option: 3 hours
- Option: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Option: 4 hours

True-False

7. The Broadway production of *Romeo and Juliet* by Sam Gold includes a 16th-century text without any modern adaptations.

8. The adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* by Sam Gold incorporates youthful recklessness into the storyline.

9. Enver Chakartash is responsible for costume design in the production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

10. In the production, Juliet is portrayed as someone in her 20s rather than as a 13-year-old.

11. The narrative of the play unfolds without any adult figures present in Verona.

12. In the production, Juliet grapples with mature desires and lacks any signs of youthful frustrations.

Gap-Fill

14. In the production, Juliet is positioned as the quintessential 13-year-old grappling with nascent desires and frustrations alongside the actor _____, portraying Romeo.

15. The *duration* of the play, including intermission, is _____.

16. The *set design*, exuding a nightclub ambiance with inflatable furniture and whimsical touches, was created by the collective known as _____.

17. Enver Chakartash is responsible for designing the _____ in the production of



Romeo and Juliet.

18. The adaptation of Romeo and Juliet by Sam Gold is noted for reducing the moral complexities of the original work to mere _____ folly.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Sam Gold 2. Fun 3. Juliet 4. Rustic charm 5. Rachel Zegler 6. 2 hours 30 minutes

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 14. Kit Connor 15. 2 hours 30 minutes 16. dots 17. costumes 18. youthful

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term refers to the presence of cancerous cells?

Option: Malignancy

Option: Poignant

Option: Cherished

Option: Resilience

2. Which term means to declare or state with confidence?

Option: Asserted

Option: Speculated

Option: Articulated

Option: Inventive

3. What is the process of gradual development or advancement?

Option: Evolution

Option: Profound

Option: Tantalizingly

Option: Cinematic

4. Which term describes something surpassing ordinary limits?

Option: Transcendent

Option: Eloquent

Option: Prowess

Option: Quintessential



5. What word refers to a revival or renewal?

- Option: Resurgence
- Option: Characterize
- Option: Illustrious
- Option: Inventive

6. Which term means showing a lack of respect?

- Option: Irreverent
- Option: Exuberance
- Option: Cacophony
- Option: Oversimplifies

7. Which term describes something of great depth or intensity?

- Option: Profund
- Option: Illustrious
- Option: Tantalizingly
- Option: Cinematic

8. Which term means expressed clearly and effectively?

- Option: Articulated
- Option: Inventive
- Option: Characterize
- Option: Resurgence

9. Which term means to have a differing opinion?

- Option: Disagree
- Option: Speculated
- Option: Asserted
- Option: Candidly

10. What term means to hold dear or treasure?

- Option: Cherished
- Option: Poignant
- Option: Malignancy
- Option: Characterizations

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The novel delved into the _____ of human relationships.

12. The artist _____ traditional images in a modern context.



13. The explanation provided by the article _____ the complexity of the issue.
14. She spoke _____ about her struggles and experiences.
15. The plan was daring and _____ in its scope.
16. His performance was the _____ portrayal of a conflicted character.
17. The children played with such joy and _____ in the park.
18. The dessert was _____ sweet tempting everyone at the table.
19. The writer excelled in creating vivid and believable _____ in the novel.
20. Her athletic _____ on the field earned her numerous accolades.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The speaker's words were so moving and powerful he could be described as .
22. Many about the outcome of the competition before it began.
23. The magic show created a(n) of a disappearing act.
24. Her gesture of forgiveness touched everyone present.
25. The bright rainbow was seen as an sign for their journey ahead.
26. The new policy changes sparked heated debates and were highly .
27. The library offered a of books for every reading taste.
28. The choir's voices blended together in a melody.
29. The company prided itself on its approach to problem-solving.
30. The details of the artwork could only be appreciated up close.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Malignancy 2. Asserted 3. Evolution 4. Transcendent 5. Resurgence 6. Irreverent 7. Profund



8. Articulated 9. Disagree 10. Cherished

Gap-Fill: 11. intricacies 12. recontextualized 13. oversimplifies 14. candidly 15. audacious 16. quintessential
17. exuberance 18. tantalizingly 19. characterizations 20. prowess

Matching sentence: 1. eloquent 2. speculated 3. illusion 4. magnanimous 5. auspicious 6. controversial 7.
myriad 8. harmonious 9. innovative 10. intricate

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