

Opens July 8 in Bolton ? Humber River Shakespeare presenting Romeo and Juliet

Those planning to attend this summer's offering of the Humber River Shakespeare company are urged to make sure they borrow Cupid's wings and soar.

The troupe will be presenting the Bard's tragic tale of Romeo and Juliet.

Including passion, romance, violence, vengeance, death and love, Romeo and Juliet transcends all genres and has endured centuries because it is a tale everyone knows all too well: love and loss. With dangerous rivalries and star-crossed lovers, Shakespeare's most thrilling play is a masterpiece of poetry and emotion. In the midst of a bloody feud, fragile first-love unfolds. Defying their warring families and shocking their closest friends, two young loves risk everything to be together.

The setting for this version Romeo and Juliet is here, now and where all live because this story is everyone's story. Love, loss, hate, betrayal and loyalty are all feelings that influence the choices all face each day.

Director Kevin Hammond has explored the text to emphasize the difficulty of growing up, parental responsibility, fate versus free will and mortality.

There is no clear villain in the play, he added. There is no right side in the feud. There is no reason to keep Romeo (Kelly Penner) from his Juliet (Eunjung Nam) other than willful stubbornness and hate.

Each performance will be showcased in a unique space, with each heritage building and picturesque park visited conveying Verona in its own unequalled splendour. Several new venues have been added to this year's tour.

With breathtaking love scenes, riotous comedy, thrilling fights and the most heartbreaking sacrifice of young life, this will inspire, move and enthuse audiences of all ages.

This year's tour will open July 8 and 9 Dick's Dam Park in Bolton at 7 p.m. Other performances in the area will be July 10 at Country Day School in King City, July 11 and 12 at Aurora Town Park, July 13 at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, July 15 at Blue Mountain Village, July 16 at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto, July 17 at Fairy Lake in Newmarket, July 18 at Alton Mill Arts Centre, July 19 at Fairy Lake, July 20 at McMichael, July 22 and 23 at Thornlodge Park in Mississauga, July 24 at Fairy Lake, July 25 and 26 at Nineteen on the Park in Stouffville, July 27 at Montgomery's Inn in Etobicoke, July 29 and 30 at The Old Mill in Toronto, July 31 at Etienne Brulé Park in Toronto, and Aug. 1, 2 and 3 at Montgomery's Inn.

The performances start at 7 p.m. Admission is on a pay-what-you-can basis, but the suggested donation is \$20.

For more information, call 416-209-2026 or go to HumberRiverShakespeare.ca