

REEL TO REAL TEACHERS' RESOURCE

Romeo and Juliet

Understand more about the world of the film
Key Stage 3–5: English, Drama and History

INTO FILM

V&A

Reel to Real: Romeo and Juliet

Key Stage 3–5: English, Drama and History

Introduction

This resource is intended for teachers to use with their students on site at the V&A. It was created as part of a partnership with education charity Into Film.

The resource explores the film *Romeo and Juliet*. It guides students to objects in the Museum that provide historical context for the film, and suggests activities and topics for discussion. The resource aims to immerse students in the world of the film.

We suggest that groups divide into pairs to follow the activities.

Film summary

Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet meet by chance and fall in love. Their families are bitter rivals and the two young lovers pay the ultimate price to be together. This film adaptation of Shakespeare's play was hugely successful when it was released in 1968. Its popularity was in part due to the casting of two teenagers to play Romeo and Juliet. The film won an Oscar for its traditional costume designs. However it also caused controversy because it cut large chunks of dialogue to half the length of the play.

At the Museum

Use this resource in conjunction with the V&A Map to find objects that provide a context for *Romeo and Juliet*.

Medieval & Renaissance, Level 1, Room 50a

Find the Renaissance stone **balcony** that looks down on the gallery. From the main entrance it is on the right hand side.

The 'balcony scene' in *Romeo and Juliet* is one of the most famous in theatre history. In fact, no balcony is mentioned in Shakespeare's play. It is simply indicated by the direction 'Enter Juliet above'.

What is the impact of this stage direction on our understanding of the characters? How would the play be different if Romeo appeared above, or if they stood next to each other?

Medieval & Renaissance, Level 2, Room 64

Find the display 'Marriage and Motherhood'. It is on the left hand side of the gallery, next to an entrance. In the main case, look for the **dish with a couple and an inscription** and the **panel from a marriage chest**.

What do these objects tell us about how marriage was viewed at the time? Which of these objects most closely links to Romeo and Juliet's view of their love? How do you think their parents' views would differ?

Theatre & Performance, Rooms 103–106

In these galleries you can see iconic costumes and props, scripts, set designs and posters from the history of theatre and performance. Shakespeare's plays are represented throughout. Download self-guided resources to direct your group around the galleries: <http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/t/teachers-resource-theatre-and-performance/>

Follow-up activities/find out more

The V&A's collections are rich in material linked to Shakespeare's works and his time.

For images of performers and designs from past productions, search the V&A collections by typing 'Romeo and Juliet' here: <http://collections.vam.ac.uk/>

Download the Shakespeare Trail, a tour of objects in the V&A related to the playwright and his work: <http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/s/shakespeare/>

To find out more about Elizabethan theatre, go to: <http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/e/elizabethan-theatre/>

Live recordings of *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as recordings of other Shakespeare productions, can be viewed by groups free of charge at the V&A from the National Video Archive of Performance (NVAP). Contact bookings.office@vam.ac.uk to make an appointment. A list of recordings is available here: www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/t/nvap/

Continue learning through film by setting up a free Into Film Club at your school. www.filmclub.org/register. Access a catalogue of over 4000 film titles including those in the Reel to Real programme, as well as curriculum-linked resources created in partnership with the V&A. <http://www.intofilm.org/>