

Humber River Shakespeare Company returns to Aurora in Romeo and Juliet



By Brittany Spencer

The Humber River Shakespeare Company sets off on its seventh consecutive touring season with its modern-day adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Shakespeare's iconic lovers will take the stage at Town Park on July 11 and 12 for two nights of outdoor professional theatre and romance beginning at 7 p.m.

The Company (HRSC) has been performing across York and Peel Regions since 2008, showcasing their talents and unique style dedicated to the production of theatrically engaging work with a focus on actors, not elaborate sets, to tell Shakespeare's timeless stories.

The company prides itself on its commitment to outdoor theatre, allowing productions to adapt to their performance spaces across a variety of settings as they tour along the historic Humber River.

The HRSC runs most of its performances on a donation basis, fulfilling its commitment to make professional theatre accessible and enjoyable for everyone in the communities they tour.

The Company seeks to foster artistic support from the community up, adhering to a mission to provide the opportunity for people to hear Shakespeare's works as they were originally heard outdoors in the community of family and friends.

As a director, you want to find a way into the play, said Kevin Hammond, Artistic Director for the HRSC, of his vision. For me, this was the stunning speed at which the events and world of this play progress. It comes down to people, human nature and our love affair with haste.

He explained that in order to reorient Shakespeare's traditional plot within a contemporary setting he has focused on the modern, yet timeless, idea of haste and the speed at which our society accelerates through time.

Everyone is making a mad dash through life, acting according to the first thing that comes to their mind allowing rage and hate to erupt instantaneously and overtake ideas of love, which take time. To me, it's all about slowing life down so we can smell the roses. When we control our own personal time we can control fate itself.

The play will include a collaboration of both classic and current artistic tastes. *Romeo and Juliet* will be brought to life through contemporary music, dance and setting while upholding a theatrical legacy that is centuries in the making.

The HRSC production of Romeo and Juliet will run from July 8 ? August 3 with tour performances in King, Caledon, Newmarket, Mississauga, Etobicoke and Toronto. Information concerning ticket sales and additional performance locations can be found at www.humberrivershakespeare.ca.