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Chicago Shakespeare Theater
announces cast and creative team for

Romeo y Julieta

A bilingual adaptation of Shakespeare's classic is transported to 1960s Miami

Directed by Henry Godinez, January 29 – March 14 in the Jentes Family Courtyard Theater



Chicago—November 10, 2026—Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST) announces the cast and creative team for ***Romeo y Julieta***, **Karen Zacarías** and **Henry Godinez's** bilingual adaptation of Shakespeare's classic. **Victor Musoni** and **Clarisa Gomez Rodriguez** star as **Romeo** and **Julieta**, leading a talented cast that features **Charín Álvarez**, **Debo Balogun**, **Jean Claudio**, **Laura Crotte**, **John Drea**, **Lucy Godinez**, **Colin Huerta**, **Esteban Ortiz-Villacorta**, **Sandor Menendez**, **James Vincent Meredith**, **Claudia Quesada**, and **Christopher Llewyn Ramirez**. Directed by Godinez, the dynamic 90-minute production is performed in both English and Spanish with projected bilingual translation and runs **January 29–March 14** in the **Jentes Family Courtyard Theater**.

Pasión. Venganza. Tragedia. Romeo meets Julieta and their love shakes the very soul of the worlds they thought they knew. Shakespeare's classic tale of star-crossed young lovers from feuding families is transported to Miami in the early 1960s, as an influx of Cuban exiles find their dreams of returning to their homeland at odds with the reality of their new home. As conflict escalates between the Montescos and Capuletas, the young couple defy the enmity between their families and the prejudices of their community—only to discover that love is the true universal language.

Godinez shared, "My favorite old t-shirt, which I've proudly worn to tatters, is from NYC's Shakespeare in the Park with the words 'SHAKESPEARE PARA TODOS' emblazoned on the front. I'm sure at some point I wore that shirt to Chicago Shakespeare Theater 18 years ago when Karen Zacarías and I were first developing this bilingual adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*. Now, the opportunity to present this *Romeo y Julieta* at one of the great cultural institutions in the heart of our city is a tremendous source of pride and validation. It shows the universality of the greatest writer—and perhaps the greatest story ever written—in the English language. It proves, like my tattered t-shirt says, that 'SHAKESPEARE IS FOR EVERYONE!'"

"It's a joy to welcome Henry Godinez back to CST with *Romeo y Julieta*, an adaptation he and Karen Zacarías first began developing here nearly two decades ago," said Artistic Director Edward Hall. "Shakespeare belongs to every language and every audience, and *Romeo y Julieta* expresses that beautifully. It is a celebration of everything this city is, and a production that feels immediate and welcoming for audiences of every background and for the thousands of students who will experience it with us this winter."

In the role of Romeo, **Victor Musoni** returns to CST after *Rome Sweet Rome*. His Chicago credits include *Theater of the Mind* and *Toni Stone* at Goodman Theatre, *Fat Ham* at Definition Theatre and Goodman Theatre, and *Miz Martha* at Steppenwolf Theatre. **Clarisa Gomez Rodriguez** makes her CST debut as Julieta. A Northwestern University student, her credits include *Man of La Mancha* and *In the Time of the Butterflies* at the Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts.

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The company also includes **Charín Álvarez** as Lady Capuleta (CST debut, with credits at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Victory Gardens Theater, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Teatro Vista and more), **Debo Balogun** as Mercutio (*Richard III*, *Measure for Measure* at CST, with credits at Steep Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company and more), **Jean Claudio** as Peter (*Corduroy* at CST, with credits at The Goodman Theatre, Teatro Vista and more), **Laura Crotte** as the Nurse (CST debut; *Pedro Páramo*, *Esperanza Rising* at Goodman Theatre; *La Ruta* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company), **John Drea** as Friar Laurence (*Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream* at CST; *Death of a Salesman, Little Bear Ridge Road* on Broadway; *Little Bear Ridge Road* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company), **Lucy Godinez** as Balthasar (CST debut; *American Mariachi* at Goodman Theatre; *Mean Girls* at Paramount Theatre), **Colin Huerta** as Tybalt (*The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Much Ado About Nothing* at CST), **Esteban Ortiz -Villacorta** as Paris (*The Winter's Tale*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Shakespear in the Parks: The Hero Within* at CST), **Sándor Menéndez** as Capuleta (*Measure for Measure* at CST; *Pedro Páramo* at Goodman Theatre; more than ten years with Teatro Buendía in Cuba), **James Vincent Meredith** as the Prince (*Hymn*, *Othello*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Julius Caesar* at CST; *The Book of Mormon* on Broadway; ensemble member at Steppenwolf Theatre Company), **Claudia Quesada** as Lady Montesco/Apothecary (CST debut; *On Your Feet!* at Drury Lane Theatre; *¡Bernarda!* at Teatro Vista), and **Christopher Llewyn Ramirez** as Benvolio (director of *Shakes in the City: A Midsummer Night's Dream* at CST; *Inherit the Wind* and *American Mariachi* at Goodman Theatre).

A Havana native, director **Henry Godinez** is a co-founder of Teatro Vista and the Sabl Resident Director at Goodman Theatre, where he most recently directed *Inherit the Wind*, *Fannie*, and *American Mariachi*. He returns to Chicago Shakespeare, where he first appeared in 1989 in Barbara Gaines' *Cymbeline*, and went on to perform in ten productions as well as to direct 2022's highly acclaimed *Measure for Measure*.

Godinez is joined on the creative team by Scenic Designer **Sotirios Livaditis**, Costume Designer **Raquel Adorno**, Lighting Designer **María-Cristina Fusté**, Sound Designers **Rob Milburn** & **Michael Bodeen**, Fight/Intimacy Choreographer **Chels Morgan**, as well as Associate Scenic Designer **A Inn Doo**, Associate Costume Designer **Mackenzie Mitchell**, Production Stage Manager **Rolando Linanres**, and Assistant Stage Manager **Maydi Diaz Vazquez**.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater serves more students and teachers than any theater in Chicago. In addition to public performances, *Romeo y Julieta* will be the centerpiece of the Theater's student matinee series—welcoming 14,000+ students and educators to 26 dedicated school performances throughout the run.

Romeo y Julieta is a highlight of Chicago Theatre Week 2027! Presented by the League of Chicago Theatres in partnership with Choose Chicago, this highly-anticipated annual event invites visitors and locals to sample the extraordinary range of theatrical offerings throughout Chicago.

Available Chicago Theatre Week performances: Feb. 5-7, 10, 12-14 at 2:00 pm – 7 total performances

Opening is set for **2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 31**.

Chicago Shakespeare strives to make its facility and performances accessible to all patrons. Accessible seating, assistive listening devices, large-print and Braille programs, and sensory tools are available at every performance.

More information at **www.chicagoshakes.com/romeo-y-julieta** or on social media at @chicagoshakes.

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Romeo y Julieta
By **William Shakespeare**
Adapted by **Karen Zacarías** and **Henry Godinez**
Directed by **Henry Godinez**

January 29 – March 14, 2027
The Jentes Family Courtyard Theater

PUBLIC LISTING

- Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. (*no matinee February 17, February 24, and March 3)*
- Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.
- Fridays at 7:00 p.m. (*no evening March 12*)
- Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (*no evening January 30, and no matinee February 6 and February 13*)
- Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Creative Team
Henry Godinez – Director & Adaptor
Karen Zacarías – Adaptor
Sotirios Livaditis - Scenic Designer
Raquel Adorno - Costume Designer
María-Cristina Fusté - Lighting Designer
Rob Milburn - Sound Designer
Michael Bodeen - Sound Designer
Chels Morgan - Fight/Intimacy Choreographer
Bob Mason – Chicago Casting
A Inn Doo - Associate Scenic Designer
Mackenzie Mitchell - Associate Costume Designer
Rolando Linares – Production Stage Manager
Maydi Diaz Vazquez – Assistant Stage Manager

Cast
Victor Musoni – Romeo
Clarisa Gomez Rodriguez – Julieta
Charín Álvarez – Lady Capuleto
Debo Balogun – Mercutio
Jean Claudio – Peter
Laura Crotte – Nurse
John Drea – Friar Laurence
Lucy Godinez – Balthasar
Colin Huerta – Tybalt
Esteban Ortiz-Villacorta – Paris
Sandor Menendez – Capuleto
James Vincent Meredith – Prince
Claudia Quesada – Lady Montesco/Apothecary
Christopher Llewyn Ramirez – Benvolio

ABOUT CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER (CST)
CST is a leading international theater company and the nation's largest year-round theater dedicated to the works of Shakespeare. Under the visionary leadership of Artistic Director Edward Hall and Executive Director Kimberly Motes, the Regional Tony Award recipient is committed to creating vivid, entertaining theatrical experiences that invigorate and engage people of all ages and identities by illuminating the complexity, ambiguity, and wonder of our world. With Shakespeare at the heart of the artistic work, CST also produces compelling, contemporary stories from fresh voices of today. CST brings the world to Chicago and sends Chicago out into the world as Chicago's foremost presenter of international theater, and consistent producer of North American and world premieres. Serving more students and teachers than any theater in the city, CST annually welcomes more than 20,000 students to performances and programs like Chicago Shakespeare SLAM, alongside professional development opportunities for teachers. CST activates its campus with three venues: 700-seat The Yard; the 500-seat Jentes Family Courtyard Theater; and the 200-seat Carl and Marilynn Thoma Upstairs Studio. Shared humanity and unforgettable stories—now THIS is Chicago Shakespeare.
www.chicagoshakes.com

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