

Romeo and Juliet in the 90s



William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet



Erasmus+



Have you ever wondered how Romeo and Juliet would have been if it was set in a **modern world** with gunfires and all of that? If you did, here's the perfect movie for you! Its title is "*William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet*" and it was released in 1996, therefore a period quite close to ours.

Plot Summary

The scene, set in Verona Beach, USA, begins with one of the many encounters between two rival businesses, the Capulets and the Montagues. Romeo, one of the Montagues, falls in love with Juliet, one of the Capulets. So this is the story of **an impossible love**, made so because of this rivalry. Another obstacle for the two is that Juliet should have married another man chosen by her family; but, despite her father's will, she manages not to marry him and tries to pursue her forbidden love story with Romeo.

Movie **Review** and Analysis



As said initially, the movie is a modern reinterpretation of Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet" and it was surely a brave risk for the producer, Baz Luhrmann, to make such radical changes from the 16th-century masterpiece. This led to exaggerated criticisms by the more conservative literature lovers and praises, not always founded, on the other side. To be honest the movie **has both good and bad features.**

On the good side it should be mentioned the fantastic cast , with **Leonardo DiCaprio** (Romeo Montague) and Claire Danes (Juliet Capulet) among the others. The quality and melancholy of the **soundtracks**, which let the

character's feelings and emotions shine through, made for a superb and suggestive **musical accompaniment** throughout the whole movie. The photography is quite advanced for a film published in the 90s and those who took care of it made a great job on what concerns the use of lights and colors. The whole setting, scenography and costumes are perfect to make the idea of **modernity** that the producer wanted to give. All these elements combined make the movie good and enjoyable.

On the other hand the **exaggeration** of this “modern factor” led to bad choices. For instance the fact that the characters refer to their guns as swords gives a **strangely comical effect**, which is not fully appropriate to such a dramatic and romantic movie. Moreover, while it was a great idea to use quotes from the play in order to mix up the old and the new, it was not

it was not that smart to shorten the most famous moment of the original work, the **balcony scene**, and to make it little more than a flirt near the pool's edge.

All taken, it was a quite **good movie** and everybody should give it a chance. It is a **cool reinterpretation of the original**, set in another age and seen from a very different point of view!

