

ALBURY WODONGA THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS



There's life after Romeo...!

**AUDITION
EXCERPTS**



Audition Excerpts

Monologues

JULIET 1

You think I'm the one who needs to apologise? You killed my cousin, you killed yourself without even double-checking to make sure I was dead, you told me your heart had "never loved till now" when you and I both know--
Here's the thing... I know about the other lovers, Romeo.

JULIET 2

I... totally get that, Romeo. And it's not completely your fault for being the way you are. I mean, your family is kind of the worst. I think both of our families are kind of the worst. And I'm proud that we were brave enough to do something we knew they'd hate. I just wish we'd been brave enough to tell them we were in love. (gently) I'm with Frankie now. I chose Frankie, and this time, I'm trying to own my choices. I'll never forget what we had, but if I'm really going to start over... I can't do that with you.

ANNE You gave me your name, but not your stage. Your words, but never your voice. Well, I found it now. And guess what? It's louder than yours. Maybe it always was - you were just too busy writing endings to hear it.

MAY You think you have to figure it all out right now, but life doesn't come with a script, Jules. Not a good one, anyway. So, let's rewrite it together. Mistakes, mess and all. That's what friends do. We hold the pen when the other's hand shakes.

LANCE I raised my son to be strong! To be a man! Sword in hand, chin up, feelings down! But here he is, standing in front of me, not with a sword - but with honesty. And ... blast it, I think that's braver than anything I ever taught him. Don't tell him I said that. Actually - no, tell him. He should hear it.

ROMEO All I've ever been is a sexy young man with a tight body and a lot of feelings. And then I met you. (Juliet looks at him, affected.) Juliet, you made me want to commit myself to something. To challenge my parents and everyone's expectations, to do something brave, something I could be proud of. You made me want to become more... better.





ANNE

ANNE William, you and I know as well as anyone that a wedding doesn't always mean a happy ending. What I wanted was for Juliet to make a choice for herself. Whether it was Romeo or Francois, whether it ended in tragedy or ecstasy, I wanted her to take some control over her life, where she had none before.

I have no control, William. Every night, as I put the girls to bed, I have no way of knowing when, or if, my famous playwright husband might return. But then you start writing this play... a tale of two young lovers, rushed into marriage because of circumstance, and it feels like a sign. It feels like, maybe, this one is for me. But in art as in life, I have no real say in what happens, whether Juliet ends up alive or dead. You're in love with your work. I'm just your second-best bed.

Maybe it's not an ending. Maybe there is no double death, or rushed wedding, or anything that conclusive. Maybe it's just two people who have always loved each other trying for a new beginning. Maybe they both deserve a second chance.

ANGÉLIQUE

ANGÉLIQUE Listen to me, Lance. We fell in love many years ago. But I was working for you, and you were with someone else, and it was too much drama. So I moved 600 miles away from you, and started working for another family, and that family ended up being the most dramatic family in the history of the world. Always fighting with another family, and killing each other, and killing themselves, and coming back from the dead, and it was so much drama. So I left again, and moved 600 miles away from all of that, only to run into you. And you start chasing me around your bedroom, and putting your hands on me, and putting your lips on me, and putting your... proposals on me, and making me feel things in parts of my body I didn't even know I had anymore, and it's the most drama I've ever been through. So you'd better believe, if I marry you, I expect you to spend every day for the rest of your life loving me, and worshipping me, and making me feel like a damn queen, because I didn't go through all of that for anything less. So let me ask you, my little Frenchman... will you marry me?





Dialogue

ANNE AND WILLIAM

WILLIAM Aha, look who's here! My beautiful wife!

ANNE Hi, everyone. I'm Anne.

WILLIAM Anne spends most of her time in Stratford, raising our kids.

ANNE Yes, but not tonight! Because tonight is my night out. I got a babysitter, and I am ready to watch this play, and have a very large glass of wine, and hopefully not fall asleep before intermission.

WILLIAM Well, I don't think anyone will be falling asleep, based on the ending I've just written.

ANNE Oh, you've written an ending! Well that's good timing, since everyone's here.

WILLIAM And they're in for quite a show. So... (to the Players) You all know how it starts: Romeo and Juliet fall in love, but their families hate each other, so they marry in secret, and several people end up dead. But here's where things get interesting: to be with Romeo, Juliet obtains a sleeping potion from Friar Laurence, which will grant her the appearance of being dead.

ANNE Yes, love that.

WILLIAM Friar Laurence sends a messenger to tell Romeo, but instead--

ANNE Okay, seems like a pretty important message to leave to a messenger, but you should go on...

WILLIAM Yes, well the messenger fails to reach Romeo, so Romeo thinks Juliet really is dead and kills himself! "Oh no!" Everyone's like "Oh no!" Then -- and you're gonna love this part -- Juliet wakes up, sees Romeo dead, plunges his dagger into her heart, kills herself too, and that's the ending!

ANNE If I could give one tiny thought... and this is probably terrible, but you know, no such thing as a bad idea: What if... Juliet didn't kill herself? ... I mean, what do I know, but it seems like she's got her whole life ahead of her, she's only had one boyfriend. Maybe she doesn't kill herself just because he killed himself?

WILLIAM It's all too late. The ending hath been writ.

ANNE I understand, but dear, the ending's shit. What if you just change it?

WILLIAM You expect me to just change my whole play?

ANNE Well, it all depends, William. Are you a strong enough man to write a stronger woman?





ANGÉLIQUE & JULIET

ANGÉLIQUE Juliet! Juliet! ... Oh my lord, I'm so out of breath. So many stairs--

JULIET Nurse--

ANGÉLIQUE I can't even speak I'm so out of breath--

JULIET Nurse--

ANGÉLIQUE I can't talk, I can't even say one word--

JULIET Nurse, please!

ANGÉLIQUE What's the matter, my lamb?

JULIET "What's the matter?" My cousin's dead, my husband's dead, my parents are sending me to a nunnery tomorrow, so I might as well be dead.

ANGÉLIQUE And?

JULIET And? My life is over!

ANGÉLIQUE Now don't say that, sweet lady. Just look at it this way: Do we have love? No. Do we have freedom? No. But do we have hope? ... No.

JULIET Thank you, that's very inspirational.

ANGÉLIQUE Nothing's as bad as it seems. It's like they always say: "Being a nun is a lot of fun!"

JULIET No one ever says that. And I wouldn't even be in this position if it wasn't for Romeo. What do you call someone who's like a whore, but a man?

ANGÉLIQUE My child. There's no word for that.

JULIET He said I was his first! That his heart had "never loved till now," when it turns out--

ANGÉLIQUE Your star-crossed lover had crossed stars with every woman in Verona.

JULIET I thought I was special.

ANGÉLIQUE And you are, Juliet. (She takes Juliet in her arms, comforting her.) Thou was the prettiest babe that ever I nursed, and if I had lived to see you married, I would have died happy.

JULIET I was married.

ANGÉLIQUE I know.

JULIET I could get married again.

ANGÉLIQUE No, I don't think so.

JULIET Why should I spend the rest of my life wasting away in a nunnery, just because one relationship didn't work out? If I could just travel beyond Verona, meet interesting people, see the world! I still believe there's something hanging in the stars for me.





FRANCOIS & LANCE

LANCE There you are, Francois! So, this is quite the soirée, don't you think?

FRANCOIS Yeah, it's an alright "soirée," nothing to be
soirée about -- just call it a party, Dad.

LANCE You might be having more fun if you weren't too scared to talk to any young ladies.

FRANCOIS I'm not scared. I'm just... shy.

LANCE You're just shy, I see. Well what if I had been shy when I was serving with the army?

FRANCOIS Okay--

LANCE When I conquered the Spanish with the gendarmes?

FRANCOIS Okay--

LANCE Or on my wedding night, when I conquered the bedroom with your mother, may she rest in
peace.

FRANCOIS Yeah, I'd love for you to never say that again.

LANCE Come now, Son, I threw this ball just for you. There must be one nice young girl you could
ask to dance? Or perhaps you don't want to get married. Perhaps you'd rather join the army,
like your brothers.

FRANCOIS No, I want to get married. There's just no one here you haven't already tried to set me up
with. They're all the same.

LANCE Well you are running out of options. And I am running out of patience.





MAY & JULIET

JULIET May... are you okay?

MAY Oh, yeah, I'm good. I am... one hundred percent good, so...

JULIET Okay. It's just, the way you're saying that, and your body language, and the fact that I know you, and basically everything about this situation makes me think that you're lying.

MAY It's nothing. Just... there was this guy...

JULIET What did he do? What did he say to you?

MAY Nothing. No, it was just this really cute guy, and we kind of bumped into each other on the dance floor...

JULIET Aw, so cute.

MAY And he smiled and was nice...

JULIET And?

MAY And nothing. Which is fine. I just need to accept that some things aren't going to happen for me.

JULIET Come on, May... I don't think of you as a girl.

MAY You don't?

JULIET Or as a boy, or as anything but my friend.

MAY Your best friend...

JULIET My best friend.

MAY Who is gorgeous?

JULIET Who is so gorgeous.

MAY Thank you.

JULIET Why don't you take a minute and I'll see you on the dance floor.



ANGÉLIQUE & LANCE

LANCE Leaving so soon?

ANGÉLIQUE What the F--rancis, Saint Francis! What? No! It's just... morning, I should go. I can hear the lark singing outside.

LANCE Come back to bed, Sweet Nurse. That's not a lark, it's the nightingale.

ANGÉLIQUE (nervous) Ah, ha. I used to have a friend named Gail. She had her fun. In fact, they used to say that every man had spent a night-in-Gail. (She laughs. He smiles.)

LANCE You're funny.

ANGÉLIQUE I know. But I need to go. You go back to sleep. (Starts to leave, but his voice stops her)

LANCE Angélique. I couldn't believe it when I saw you last night. Back in this house, after so many years...

ANGÉLIQUE It wasn't my idea.

LANCE You were the best nurse we ever had. I was crushed when you left us.

ANGÉLIQUE I had to. Your wife...

LANCE She's gone now. And you're back. Don't act like you've forgotten everything.

ANGÉLIQUE (coily) I remember a little French.

LANCE (suggestively) Who are you calling "little"?

ANGÉLIQUE Lance! We're too old to start anything now.

LANCE Are we?

ANGÉLIQUE Lance, looking back is what brought me to your bed last night. If I look forward, I can only think of Juliet's future and how much she needs me.

LANCE Juliet is a big girl. She must be at least fourteen by now!

ANGÉLIQUE (firmly) She's in her twenties.

LANCE See? There you go.

ANGÉLIQUE And I'm supposed to stay here with you? When I don't even know what's going on in your heart. Juliet needs someone to look after her. And until the day that she gets married, I can't begin to think about myself.

LANCE Angélique, my wife told me on her dying bed that I should look for you, because she wanted me to be happy.

ANGÉLIQUE She did?

LANCE Yes. I mean, not explicitly, but with her eyes.

ANGÉLIQUE I'm sorry, Lance. I can't.

LANCE I'm sorry, too.





FRANCOIS & MAY

Francois, looking around, lost, runs into May.

FRANCOIS Oh, sorry.

MAY You're good. (Then, recognising Francois) Oh, hey! Hey. May...I'm Juliet's friend. I'm glad our paths have crossed. We met each other at the ball, I think.

FRANCOIS (looking around, nervous) I thought I'd find the friar. I must be lost.

MAY I know the feeling. Do you want a drink?

May takes out a flask.

FRANCOIS This early in the day? I wouldn't dare.

MAY I'm on Verona time. Here, have a shot.

FRANCOIS Oh, thanks, but isn't it the same time there?

MAY Okay, so do you want a drink or not?

Francois takes a very long drink. He's clearly nervous.

FRANCOIS I just proposed to Juliet.

MAY Oh god! ... You must be so in love. You two just met.

FRANCOIS I'd never even kissed a girl before.

MAY But still, you're moving forward--

FRANCOIS No regrets.

MAY You'd never kissed a girl before?

FRANCOIS It's true.

MAY So you've got nothing to compare it to.

They smile at each other.





ROMEO & JULIET

ROMEO Juliet! It's Romeo! Herefore art thou Romeo!

JULIET (shocked) Romeo? You're alive?

ROMEO I'm alive and I came back for my wife.

JULIET Oh shit... Romeo, it's been kind of a crazy week.

ROMEO Right? Yeah, so I just wanted to say, straight up, that I forgive you.

JULIET For?

ROMEO For not killing yourself when you thought I was dead, even though I killed myself when I thought you were dead.

JULIET You think I'm the one who needs to apologise? You killed my cousin, you killed yourself without even double-checking to make sure I was dead, you told me your heart had "never loved till now" when you and I both know--

ROMEO No, no, no, that's what I'm saying, it's all good, girl. You're not dead, I'm not dead anymore. All that matters now is that we can finally be with each other, as husband and wife, star-cross'd lovers, together for life.

JULIET Here's the thing...

ROMEO Juliet, I killed myself for you!

JULIET I know.

ROMEO We exchanged love's faithful vows!

JULIET I know about the other lovers, Romeo.

ROMEO Juliet, I can explain-- It was different with you, I swear.

JULIET (...)

ROMEO Well I'm sorry, but nothing's changed for me. I still love you, and just remember, Juliet, you called me to your balcony. You asked me to propose.





WILLIAM & ANNE

WILLIAM Well. Juliet didn't really give Romeo much of a chance to explain himself, did she?

ANNE No, she didn't.

WILLIAM I thought that was a bit harsh.

ANNE Yes, and I thought we were writing this play together, but then you made some pretty big decisions on your own, so--

WILLIAM Because there was no conflict before!

ANNE Well there's conflict now, isn't there? (then, trying) Do you really not understand why this is important to me?

WILLIAM I know you have your own ideas about this play--

ANNE But do you understand why?

WILLIAM What I understand is that I have a reputation to uphold. And if I just throw that away, then all the time that I spend apart from you and the kids isn't really worth much, is it?

ANNE That may be so. But if you care less about your own wife than you do about your art, then you, Mr. Shakespeare, will break my heart.

WILLIAM I care very much about... both.

ANNE (pained) I see.

WILLIAM Now could you give me back my quill?

ANNE Fine.

She snaps the quill in two, and hands it to him. Some of the Ensemble, in the process of changing the set, react in shock.

WILLIAM Well done. I guess Juliet's on her own. Anything could happen now.

ANNE She's better off without you. And maybe I am, too.





ROMEO & JULIET

JULIET Come, gentle night. Give me my Romeo. And when I shall die... (then, aggressively) take him and cut him out in little stars.

ROMEO (entering) You want to cut me into little stars? Like, with a knife?

JULIET It's a metaphor, Romeo.

ROMEO Oh, let me do one: Juliet, you are the sun. Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon--

JULIET No, no, we're not doing this again. If you think you can show up the night before my wedding and win me back with the same old pretty words--

ROMEO That's not why I'm here. I just wanted to say... I understand why you wouldn't trust me. It's true, I've been romantic with other people. But to be honest, I never had much else. I was never a prince, or a soldier, or an artist, or a fool...

JULIET Well...

ROMEO All I've ever been is a sexy young man with a tight body and a lot of feelings. And then I met you. (Juliet looks at him, affected.) Juliet, you made me want to commit myself to something. To challenge my parents and everyone's expectations, to do something brave, something I could be proud of. You made me want to become more... better.

Juliet winces at the bad grammar, but appreciates the sentiment.

JULIET I... totally get that, Romeo. And it's not completely your fault for being the way you are. I mean, your family is kind of the worst.

ROMEO I think your family is kind of the worst.

JULIET I think both of our families are kind of the worst. And I'm proud that we were brave enough to do something we knew they'd hate. I just wish we'd been brave enough to tell them we were in love.

ROMEO So we're not in love anymore?

JULIET (gently) I'm with Frankie now. I chose Frankie, and this time, I'm trying to own my choices. I'll never forget what we had, but if I'm really going to start over... I can't do that with you.

ROMEO Sorry, I'm getting weirdly emotional.

JULIET You are weirdly emotional. And I love that about you.

ROMEO I just wish that I could start over, too. I wish I didn't have to live with my mistakes for the rest of my life.

JULIET Romeo, you literally rose from the dead. Your life can be anything you want.

ROMEO Juliet... if you can look at me, and tell me you don't love me, then I will go, and leave you to your new lover, and be happy for you.

JULIET (with great difficulty) I... can't love you, Romeo.

He nods, heartbroken, and exits. But as soon as he's gone, we can see how torn Juliet is...





ANNE & JULIET

ANNE Juliet, where have you been? Everyone's looking for you. (Juliet just stares ahead. Anne turns to look.) Juliet?

JULIET I was with Romeo.

ANNE You were?

JULIET Why did he have to show up now?

ANNE I don't know.

JULIET And why am I still in love him?

ANNE Are you still in love with him?

JULIET Of course I am. We've been through so much together. And when I look at him, my heart still skips a beat.

ANNE What about Francois?

JULIET I don't know who that is.

ANNE Frankie.

JULIET Oh, Frankie, well Frankie is... honest. And sweet. And I don't want him to have to join the army. But I don't feel the same intensity with him that I feel with Romeo. It just seems like either way I'd be settling.

ANNE Well definitely don't settle.

JULIET I don't know what to do. I would ask my Nurse, but I'm not sure that she can be objective.

ANNE To be honest, I'm not sure I can be objective either. I got married quickly, you know.

JULIET You did?

ANNE Yes. I was 26 when I met my husband William, and he was just 18, and I was pregnant, so we knew our parents wouldn't approve and we knew things had to happen fast.

JULIET When was this?

ANNE Oh, this was a long time ago-- (catching herself) Well actually it was very recently because I'm young like you.

JULIET Yas.

ANNE Yasss. Juliet...

