

## CAPULET AND JULIET: AN ACTOR'S PERSPECTIVE 2018

Taken from *SHAKESPEARE'S FATHERS AND DAUGHTERS* – ARDEN SHAKESPEARE

---

### A PERSPECTIVE ON FOCUS

---

Franco Zeffirelli's 1960 production at the Old Vic with Judi Dench and John Stride put an emphasis on the following:

- Youth
  - Naturalism
  - Italian heat
  - Speed of thought and delivery
- 

### A PERSPECTIVE ON CAPULET

---

He can be seen in the following ways:

- a loving father
- out of his depth with a rebellious daughter

He can also be seen as a typically overbearing patriarch

---

### ROMEO AND JULIET'S SOURCE MATERIAL

---

The story of Romeo and Juliet originates in da Porto of Vicenza, who died in 1529

- 2 novels, Italian and French were drawn from this in the 1550s
    - And in 1562 Arthur Brooke drew on Boistaeu's French narrative to form a 3,020-line poem, 14 syllables to a line
      - This last is undoubtedly Shakespeare's main source
        - And it is the changes he made to it that have the greatest significance
- 

### THE MORAL OF BROOKE'S POEM

---

Brooke moralizes that giving in to desires and ignoring parental advice is bound to end in tragedy

- On the other hand, Shakespeare is ready to celebrate the energy and commitment of young love
  - In Brooke there is no parental talk of Juliet's marrying till after Tybalt's death and Romeo's exile
    - Then Lady Capulet, thinking Juliet's tears excessive, comes up with the theory:
      - The only crop and root of all my daughter's pain, / Is grudging envy's faint disease: perhaps she doth disdain / To see in wedlock yoke the most part of her peers, / While only she unmarried doth lose

so many years. / And more perchance she thinks you mind to keep  
her so, / Wherefore despairing doth she wear herself away with woe.  
(1843 - 8)

- Capulet admits he's considered this

---

## KEY VOCABULARY

---