

Romeo & Juliet and *Twelfth Night* bring love and laughter to Sport for Jove's Summer Season

21-30 December – Bella Vista Farm
12-26 January – Leura Everglades
2 February-1 March – Old Government House

Two of Shakespeare's best-loved plays will light up Sport for Jove's Summer Season. Sport for Jove's Artistic Director **Damien Ryan** will direct a tumultuous and youthful *Romeo & Juliet* and **Christopher Stollery** will direct a side-splitting take on the riotous *Twelfth Night* filled with music and mayhem.

The existential crisis facing our world today, the product of a lack of practical leadership from our earth's elders, has triggered a deafening chorus of 'How dare you!', screamed from the heart of our planet's youth. And it's not just about climate issues. What can children teach us in their struggle to be heard?

This furiously energetic new production of *Romeo & Juliet* is characterised by a true vision of today's youth - the rarely seen innovation of actual teenagers playing the play's children –all aged 14-18, and surrounded by an extraordinary cast of experienced players, gives this production an authenticity and honest rawness, danger and the genuine awkwardness of youth.

"This production takes on the spirit of a filthy Italian opera, lead with an original acapella score," said Ryan. "You will be transported to a backcountry Verona, a profoundly insular town, staring out at the future a moral pollution at its heart. Only its children's courage to express themselves will bring change."

The twelfth night is the last day of the Christmas cycle, a night of madness where the world turns upside down, where grief and joy and laughter and tears are all one. When mere mortals have the power to choose who they are, what they believe in and who they may love.

In the chaos of this disruption, people begin to feel things they are not supposed to feel and behave in totally unexpected ways. The puritan dances in yellow stockings, the Duke falls in love with his pageboy and so does the Lady Olivia. Moral rectitude is upended as the puritanical Malvolio goes head to head with Sir Andrew and his band of permissive louts.

Desire, disguise and revelation are a heady mix as this *Twelfth Night* subverts Shakespeare's play on gender by casting women as Malvolio and Sebastian, retaining some of the original humour and confusion from the cross-casting of Shakespeare's day.

Sport for Jove's Summer Season has been a glorious festive season treat for our audience for ten years. Gathering as a community outdoors each summer to delight in the comedies and weep over the tragedies has become a beloved annual tradition. In this eleventh festival we are thrilled to present two such firm favourites of Shakespeare's repertoire in faithful but innovative ways. See you under the stars!

Creatives

Romeo & Juliet

Director **Damien Ryan**
Costume Designer **Bernadette Ryan**
Lighting Designer **Sophie Parker**
Composer **Naomi Livingston & Drew Livingston**
Fight Choreographer **Scott Witt**
Assistant Director **Claudia Ware**

Twelfth Night

Director **Christopher Stollery**
Costume Designer **Fiona Victoria Hopkins**
Lighting Designer **Sophie Parker**

Cast

Jeremi Campese
Septimus Caton
Claudia Elbourne
James Haxby
Jay James-Moody

Bron Lim
Mandela Mathia
Felicity McKay
Rebecca Montalti
Adele Querol

Damien Ryan
Max Ryan
Oliver Ryan
Lexi Sekules
Dinitha Senevirathne

David Soncin
Christopher Stalley
Wendy Strehlow

Dates & Venues

Bella Vista Farm

21-30 December 2019
Norwest Blvd & Elizabeth MacArthur Drive, Bella Vista

Romeo & Juliet

8pm Saturday 21 December – Preview
8pm Sunday 22 December – Opening Night
8pm 27 Friday December
8pm 28 Saturday December
8pm 29 Sunday December
8pm 30 Monday December

Leura Everglades

11-26 January 2020
37 Everglades Ave, Leura

Twelfth Night

7.30pm Saturday 11 January – Preview
7.30pm Sunday 12 January – Opening Night
7.30pm Saturday 18 January – Gala Day*
7.30pm Sunday 19 January
7.30pm Friday 24 January
7.30pm Sunday 26 January – Gala Day*

Romeo & Juliet

7.30pm Friday 17 January – Preview
3pm Saturday 18 January – Gala Day*
7.30pm Saturday 25 January
3pm Sunday 26 January – Gala Day*
**See both shows on one day on Gala Day*

MEDIA RELEASE
NOVEMBER 2019



Old Government House, Parramatta Park
2 February-1 March 2020
Cnr Pitt & Macquarie St, Parramatta

Twelfth Night

8pm Sunday 2 February
8pm Saturday 8 February
8pm Sunday 9 February
8pm Sunday 16 February
8pm Friday 21 February
8pm Thursday 27 February
8pm Friday 28 February
8pm Sunday 1 March

Romeo & Juliet

8pm Thursday 6 February
8pm Friday 7 February
8pm Thursday 13 February
8pm Thursday 20 February
8pm Saturday 22 February
8pm Sunday 23 February

Tickets

Adult \$42, Concession \$32, Family bundle (2 Adult + 2 Concession) \$120, Children 9 and under are free
Come once or come see both shows and get an extra 20% discount off tickets on the second show

Bookings

www.sportforjove.com.au

About Sport for Jove

Sport for Jove is Sydney's leading independent theatre company. Founded in the summer of 2009 to present the first outdoor Shakespeare season at Bella Vista Farm and Leura Everglades Gardens, the company has thrilled Sydneysiders for ten years with its energetic, playful and illuminating productions of Shakespeare and the classics, as well as vibrant new Australian works.

Led by award-winning Artistic Director Damien Ryan, Sport for Jove is committed to nurturing and challenging young artists and offering audiences a detailed, insightful, intelligent, surprising and affordable experience every time they come to the theatre. The company also provides a bold, vigorous and inventive program of syllabus-based works for NSW school students and teachers through its Education Program and The Shakespeare Carnival.