



DILLARD
UNIVERSITY

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**DILLARD UNIVERSITY THEATRE PREMIERES SHAKESPEAREAN CLASSIC
*ROMEO & JULIET***

NEW ORLEANS—The Dillard University Theatre Program is set to premiere the classic and tragic love story of Romeo and Juliet for its 84th opening season debut. The famed Shakespearean piece will be modernized with the cast wearing mid-twentieth century attire and utilizing music from the same time period as its soundtrack. Director Raymond Vrazel says this rendition will stay true to the original play with the cast speaking Elizabethan English and its setting taking place in Verona, Italy.

The Romeo and Juliet production will run at the Samuel DuBois Cook theatre, located on Dillard's illustrious campus between the dates Ticket prices go as follows: Dillard students-\$5, general admission-\$15, senior citizens-\$10, faculty/staff-\$10 and high school students-\$10. of November 2 - 11, 2018. The historic play centers around the themes of fate, love, and destiny. The leading characters are two-star crossed lovers who can't seem to defy the odds that occur in their budding relationship. Between their rivaling families and miscommunication between themselves or messengers, the end of their relationship comes with death which surprisingly allows them to be together, finally and eternally.

Dillard's theatre department provides students with rigorous training and is committed to elevating the heritage of Black theatre aesthetics. Students Sterling Miller and Jocilyn Johnson will play Romeo and Juliet, respectively, along with their peers Treston Egby as Montague, Nia Garrett as Lady Montague, Edward Bradstreet as Capulet and Dominique Lee as Lady Capulet. Professor Cortheal Clark will serve as the technical director for the performances.

In the past, Dillard has received rave reviews for its theatrical work. Its play *She Danced With A Red Fish* about New Orleans' icon Marie Laveau was nationally acclaimed for showcasing the authentic history of slavery, culture, religion and women's empowerment in 19th century Louisiana.

For more information about *Romeo and Juliet*, call the Samuel DuBois Cook box office at (504) 816-4857

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Dillard University, located in New Orleans at 2601 Gentilly Blvd., is a private four-year liberal arts historically black institution with a history dating back to 1869. For more information, please visit www.dillard.edu. Also, follow us on Twitter, Facebook @DU1869 and Instagram, Dillard University.