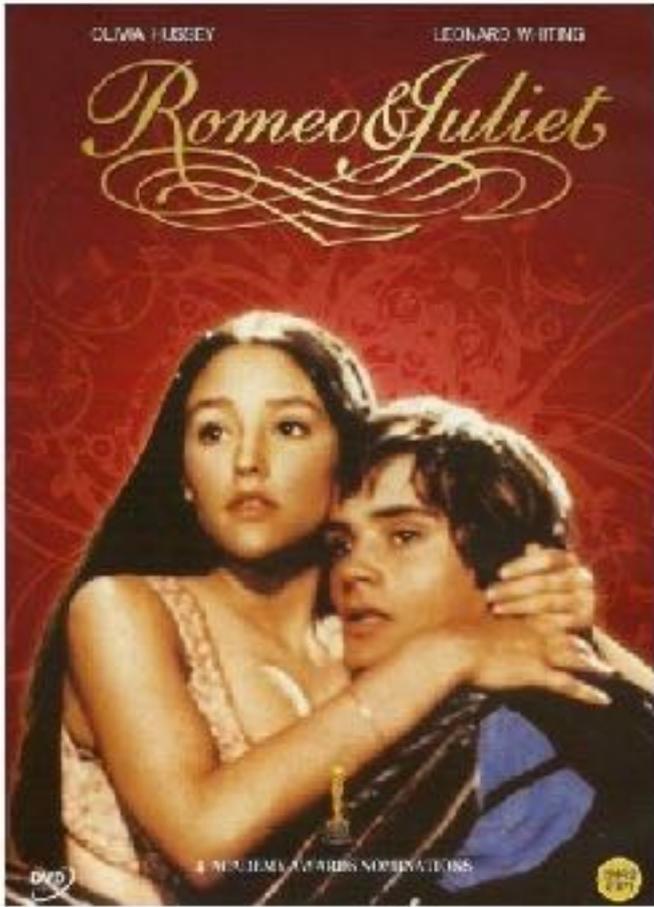




# Bardypix

**Tattingstone Village Hall**  
**8pm FRIDAY 18th November**



The fourth and final instalment of our Shakespeare Festival of Film, *Romeo and Juliet* (1968) is a classic tale of romance and tragedy.

## STORYLINE

Two families of Verona, the Montagues and the Capulets, have been feuding with each other for years. Young Romeo Montague goes out with his friends to make trouble at a party the Capulets are hosting, but while there he spies the Capulet's daughter Juliet, and falls hopelessly in love with her. She returns his affections, but they both know that their families will never allow them to follow their hearts.

Rating: PG

Directed by: Franco Zeffirelli

Runtime: 2 hr. 18 min.



**Leonard Whiting** (Romeo)



**Olivia Hussey** (Juliet)



**Michael York** (Tybalt)



**Milo O'Shea** (Friar Lawrence)

Also starring: Robert Stephens, Bruce Robinson, Natasha Parry, John McEnery

P.T.O.

# REVIEWS

## **Roger Ebert (Chicago Sun Times) -**

"Romeo and Juliet" is always said to be the first romantic tragedy ever written, but it isn't really a tragedy at all. It's a tragic misunderstanding, scarcely fitting the ancient requirement of tragedy that the mighty fall through their own flaws. Romeo and Juliet have no flaws, and aren't old enough to be blamed if they did. They die because of the pigheaded quarrel of their families, the Montagues and Capulets. By writing the play, Shakespeare began the shaping of modern drama, in which the fates of ordinary people are as crucial as those of the great. The great tragedies of his time, including his own, involved kings, emperors, generals. Here, near the dawn of his career, perhaps remembering a sweet early romance before his forced marriage to Anne Hathaway, he writes about teenagers in love.

After a well-publicised international search, Zeffirelli cast Olivia Hussey, a 16-year-old from Argentina, and Leonard Whiting, a British 17-year-old. They didn't merely look their parts, they embodied them in the freshness of their personalities, and although neither was a trained actor, they were fully equal to Shakespeare's dialogue for them. Zeffirelli was roundly criticized for his edits, but much that needs describing on the stage can simply be shown onscreen.

What is left is what people love the play for--the purity of the young lovers' passion, the earthiness of Juliet's nurse, the well-intentioned plans of Friar Laurence, the hot-blooded feud between the young men of the families, the cruel irony of the double deaths.

## **Peter Bradshaw (Guardian) -**

This is an attractive and spectacular piece of work, robustly using real outdoor locations and, groundbreakingly, casting young actors close to the characters' supposed age. (When Ian McKellen and Francesca Annis starred in the RSC's 1976 production, they were respectively 37 and 31.) This film might actually be best known for featuring the exquisite young Bruce Robinson as Benvolio, who went on to write and direct *Withnail and I* and also to reveal that during this film he endured Uncle Monty-type attentions from Zeffirelli himself. John McEnery plays Mercutio and interestingly delivers the Queen Mab speech as a kind of despairing outburst. This film version has elegance, vigour and charm.

**Bring your own refreshments - also wine for sale.  
£3.00 on the door.**